



THE DISPATCHER

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ILWU members celebrate Labor Day page 4



Holding the line: ILWU members have been walking the picket lines in Vancouver, WA and Portland since being unlawfully locked earlier this year. Pictured here at the Vancouver line are Local 4 members Mark Bolton, Steve Hauff, Daniel Coello, Local 21 member Louis McGill and Local 4 member Alex Nelson.

ILWU's Pacific Northwest grain struggle continues

ILWU Locals 4, 8, 19, 21, and 23 are entering the 14th month of a protracted struggle to get a contract with the Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers' Association (PNGHA).

The companies that make up the PNGHA include Japanese-owned Mitsui/United Grain Corporation (UGC), Japanese-owned Marubeni/Columbia Grain (CGI), French-owned and Netherlands-based Louis Dreyfus Commodities (LDC), and United States-based grain company TEMCO, a joint venture of Cargill and CHS.

The ILWU and TEMCO reached an interim agreement (subject to the outcome of the negotiations with the larger multi-employer association) in February, and work at TEMCO grain elevators in Tacoma, Portland, and Kalama is proceeding without incident.

The three holdout companies, UGC, CGI, and LDC, continue to demand concessions – despite their healthy profits and near monopoly control over a large portion of the global grain market.

Recent legal developments

The ILWU got a boost recently when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) indicated that it had found merit

in the union's March 4, 2013 unfair labor practice (ULP) charge that UGC unlawfully locked out the workforce at its Vancouver, Washington facility on February 27, 2013 and was preparing to issue a complaint against UGC. The NLRB also indicated that it is considering filing a petition for an injunction against UGC pending the outcome of the ULP complaint. Before the complaint was issued, however, the government shut down and the NLRB employees handling the complaint were furloughed.

"This could be an important step toward holding Mitsui-United Grain accountable for breaking U.S. labor laws and violating the rights of American workers," said ILWU President Bob McEllrath. "We will see if the NLRB takes the additional step of returning people to work by enjoining Mitsui-United Grain while they process our ULP charge to trial. The Board has this power under Section 10(j) of the NLRA, and we think the conduct of Mitsui-United Grain warrants the Board's use of this power."

This is the first potential breakthrough that the ILWU has had in the NLRB legal process in a long while. Typically, the ILWU is the target of NLRB intervention – especially on behalf of rogue PMA member companies (ICTSI and Kinder Morgan,

for example). In fact, though the government is shut down and the NLRB complaint against UGC is being held in abeyance in the interim, the NLRB (Region 19) has "authorized" two staff members to continue processing an injunction against the ILWU with the intent of prohibiting the union from picketing CGI and UGC controlled assets.

Strong picket lines

ILWU members have maintained strong, round-the-clock picket lines for months since UGC locked out members of ILWU Local 4 in Vancouver in February and CGI locked out ILWU Local 8 members in Portland in May.

LDC, which owns elevators in Seattle and Portland, kept its Seattle and Portland facilities closed until last week when the company opened its Seattle facility and ordered longshoremen to work under the multi-employer "last and final" offer.

Large inflatable rats are visible at picket lines in Vancouver, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. The rats remind UGC, CGI, and LDC of their low standing in the community because of the lockout. These rats also serve to remind International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) representing electricians and the Columbia River pilots that

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

Back in the 1980s, when I was president of Local 6, plants were closing right and left. Reaganomics. Longshore members often said, "At least they can't move the waterfront." Well, it turns out they can.

The Mexican port of Guaymas is expanding with the intention of becoming a major container and bulk deep water facility. They are doing it with the encouragement and support of U.S. corporate interests and a bipartisan majority of politicians. Those same interests are actively promoting a "Canamex Highway" to facilitate movement of goods from Mexico into and throughout the U.S.

It may not make the Bay Area news, but here in Southern Arizona, where I retired to in 2001, the Interstate 11 "trade corridor" is front page news. My interest is selfish: Chuck Huckelberry, our Pima County Administrator, wants to put the Tucson-Sonora link through the Avra Valley west of Tucson, where I live. This is bad news for the many thousands of families out here in the desert, for the wildlife, for the peace and quiet that people have enjoyed here for many thousands of years, and for the workers whose jobs service Interstate 10 traffic – just as it is bad news for longshore workers whose jobs will be at risk.

That kind of long-term threat would be a good reason to rethink disaffiliation with the AFL-CIO. We are all going to need all the help we can get.

Albert Lannon
Local 6, Retired

Dear Editor,

It is with deep sadness that our San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners Club announces the passing of brother Osborne Hills, who was a dedicated member of our Club and had been a Longshore union member since 1959

Osborne was a strong advocate for equal justice for all union members and was a hard nose about "An injury to one is an injury to all."

He was a savvy union man which made him a powerful force in his community of Richmond, CA. He lobbied hard and was successful in getting the Port of Richmond to purchase container cranes so they could be competitive with other ports in the area and create jobs for his community.

Our Club is grateful to Osborne Hills for the many fine contributions that he made as a member, brother and friend. He is survived by his wife Eva, his sons Donald and Mark, and four grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,

George Cobbs, President of San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners
Oakland, CA

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

CORRECTION:

The TRANSITIONS section of the July/August 2013 issue misspelled the name of Local 10 deceased Pensioner Va'a George Logo Jr. (Jeanine).

Also in that issue, deceased pensioner, Donald E. Mesloh, was listed as a member of Local 13. He was a member of Local 14. We apologize for the error.



Golfing for a good cause



Pictured above are: (L-R) International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, seven year-old cancer survivor Sydney Waldrop, International President Bob McEllrath, Local 63 President Mike Podue, and Local 23 Pensioner President Mike Jagielski.

ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94 joined forces once again to sponsor the 9th Annual ILWU Tri Party Golf Challenge on September 6-8. Generous contributions from individuals, combined with financial support from the ILWU International and Coast Committee, made it possible to donate \$50,000 to the Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach, plus an additional \$7,000 donation to the "Arnie's Army" project of the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

"This is a great example of how our contributions can have a big impact in communities where ILWU members live and work," said International President Bob McEllrath who participated in the benefit tournament along with International Vice-President (Mainland) Ray Familathe and International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams.

This year's ILWU Tri-Party Committee was led by Mark and Virginia Grgas, along with John and Linda Dadich, Red and Celine McGovern, Eddie and Jenny Ceja, Mando and Maria Porras, Gil Garcia, Mark J. Grgas, Frankie Grgas, and longtime ILWU supporter Michele Aragon.

The Tournament Committee hosted the family of seven year-old cancer survivor Sydney Waldrop, who has been receiving treatment at Miller Children's Hospital for a rare cancer. Sydney's mother, father and brother were invited to stay with her in a complimentary Palm Springs condo near the Indian Canyon Golf Resort.

"We do this event each year to help the children at Miller's Hospital who otherwise could not afford treatment," said Mark Grgas. "These kids spend most of their young lives just fighting to survive." Grgas expressed his sincere thanks to the many supporters who come from great distances to join the event, including participants from the Pacific Northwest - and one supporter who comes each year from New Orleans.

Happy 90th Birthday to Leroy King: Over 100 well-wishers turned out to celebrate Leroy King's 90th birthday on September 21st at the Local 34 hall. Local 34 President Sean Farley read a letter from ILWU International President Robert McEllrath who was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. "I recall when I was a newly elected officer and you always shared your invaluable experience and advice as a fellow union member," McEllrath said.

San Francisco Supervisor for the Fifth District, London Breed, announced that the Children's Creativity Museum Carousel at Yerba Buena Gardens will be named in honor of King. In the photo from left to right are: Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante, Leroy King, Local 34 President Sean Farley and Local 34 Vice President Dave Hill.

DISPATCHER

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ILWU's Pacific Northwest grain struggle continues

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they have abandoned union solidarity by crossing the picket lines.

In addition to land pickets at UGC and CGI facilities in Vancouver and Portland, ILWU Local 4 and ILWU Local 8 are picketing primary targets on the Columbia and Snake Rivers and doing so despite robust Coast Guard vigilance.

The cargo moved by the towboat workforce on the Columbia and Snake Rivers is 100 percent union and is represented by either the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) or the Masters, Mates, & Pilots (MM&P). Both unions, where tow boaters are represented, are aggressively respecting ILWU picket lines on the entire river system.

To circumvent the strong support of IBU and MM&P represented tow boaters, the grain companies have pooled their resources and bareboat leased two vessel assist tugs and one specialized tug to push grain barges. The companies are manning the tugs with scabs. The Columbia River pilots, which are union, are crossing ILWU primary picket lines and the ships are being docked and loaded at UGC and CGI facilities on a regular basis. CGI and UGC even formed a new boat operator called Kadoke Marine, which uses scab labor, to circumvent Jones Act requirements that would otherwise restrict foreign companies from moving cargo from one U.S. port to another.

Tidewater Barge (whose boats are operated by IBU) then organized a scam to circumvent the effectiveness of the IBU's support for ILWU pickets. Tidewater Barge and Kadoke/CGI/UGC signed a commercial deal whereby Kadoke's scab tugs would move grain in and out of picketed facilities. The way the deal works is that at the point that the scab tug touches the Tidewater barge, the barge is leased to Kadoke/CGI/UGC. The barge does not come off lease until a Tidewater tug picks it up after its discharge.

This scam has backfired. At the point that the barge assets are leased to and under the control of Kadoke/CGI/UGC, they become a primary target and the legal object of ILWU pickets. Thus, Tidewater Barge cannot pick the empty barges up as planned because its IBU workforce refuses to cross ILWU picket lines.

During harvest, 50 percent of the wheat is transported by barge to down river export facilities. The total fleet operated by Tidewater Barge (IBU) and Shaver Transportation Company (MM&P) is approximately 88 barges. As of the publication of this article, approximately one-third of the total fleet leased to Kadoke/CGI/UGC is stuck behind ILWU picket lines because IBU-represented tow boaters employed by Tidewater and MM&P-represented tow boaters employed by Shaver refuse to cross ILWU pickets.

In response, Tidewater Barge filed ULP charges with the NLRB, claiming that the ILWU picketing is secondary and therefore unlawful. The NLRB (Region 19) issued a complaint on Tidewater's charges. The NLRB immediately sought 10(l) injunctive relief to prohibit picketing that in any manner impacts Tidewater Barge pending the processing of Tidewater's charges, which could take years. The hearing on the NLRB's request for an injunction is scheduled for October 10, 2013 and will be reported on in the next issue of the *Dispatcher*.

Coast Guard Collusion

Coast Committeeman Sundet describes a "war on many fronts" that includes government agencies and public officials who collude with the foreign-owned grain corporations. From the beginning of the recent struggle with grain companies – starting with the 2011 battle at EGT's new terminal in Longview – the U.S. Coast Guard has consistently favored employers, says Sundet, who points to the agency's preoccupation with "protecting property and promoting commerce" during a major labor struggle.

"The Coast Guard isn't a neutral player in this fight," says Sundet. "They consistently use public tax dollars to protect corporations who are screwing American workers." Sundet points to the Coast Guard's created "safety zones" that restrict union members from approaching company vessels and organizing pickets on the water. "It's yet another way to shift the balance of power in favor of capital and curtail the already limited free speech rights of workers," adds Sundet.

One Coast Guard official responsible for the lower Columbia River was recently caught favoring grain companies against the union. In early September, Coast Guard Captain Bruce Jones sent an email message to a reporter at the Oregonian who has a history of anti-ILWU bias. The Captain's email message contained false and misleading information about a grain barge drifting and suggested that the union was responsible. He stated that the barge was originally destined for one of the locked out facilities. In fact, the barge in question was not "waiting its turn to transfer the grain at one of the terminals involved in the current dispute..." At the conclusion of his message, Jones encouraged the reporter to contact an employer involved in the dispute in order to provide additional comment about his erroneous report.

Mr. Read,

Forwarding in case you missed it. This barge had brought grain down from upriver and was waiting its turn to transfer the grain at one of the terminals involved in the current dispute about which you have written. I have nothing to add to what's in the press release, but the Tidewater staff may be willing to talk to you about it.

Regards,

CAPT Bruce C Jones, USCG
Commander, Sector Columbia River/Air Station Astoria
Captain of the Port

Besides providing armed escort services at taxpayer expense to the grain merchants and preventing American union members and community supporters from exercising their constitutional right to protest on the water, the Coast Guard has also turned a blind eye to alleged maritime violations committed by the companies' non-union vessel operators.

Ignoring company violations

Unqualified, non-union workers hired to operate tow boats for UGC crashed into dock pilings at the company's Vancouver, Washington facility.

Although Coast Guard rules require vessel operators to immediately report such incidents, neither the company nor their non-union operators filed a timely report with the Coast Guard. Following the incident, the IBU notified the Coast Guard. Coast Guard officials do not appear to have conducted an investigation nor did they take any enforcement action against the company or crew.

On September 9, 2013, IBU President Alan Cote and MM&P President Don Marcus issued a joint press release to warn the public and Coast Guard that CGI and UGC "have called in a fly-by-night tug and towboat operator using questionable equipment and unqualified tugboat personnel with no prior experience on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers." Cote and Marcus warned that these unqualified personnel could cause "an environmental catastrophe at any time."

Their prediction came true less than two weeks later when a scab tug working for the locked out companies ran aground in the river, damaging the vessel and releasing oil into the river. As *The Dispatcher* was going to press, it was unclear whether the Coast Guard had properly investigated the incident, tested the non-union and poorly-trained vessel operators for alcohol or drug use, or reacted quickly to protect the environment from the spill.

Harassment by courts and police

The Coast Guard is not the only law-enforcement agency taking sides against workers in the grain struggle, says Sundet. He points to a decision by the Vancouver, Washington Police Department that has been providing security services at public taxpayer expense to CGI to ensure that State Grain Inspectors cross the ILWU lockout picket line at their facility in Vancouver. The State Grain Inspectors, represented by the American Federation

had even been received – bench warrants were issued for "failing to appear" which subjected members to the possibility of immediate arrest and detention. To date, 30 ILWU Local 4 and 8 members have been charged with misdemeanors for picket line associated incidents.

"It feels like the local police and government are running a kangaroo court system against union members," said Brad Clark. "Foreign companies refuse to negotiate and take aggressive action to eliminate the union and are supported by the NLRB, the Coast Guard, the Port Authorities, and the local police."

Corporate law-breaking called out

CGI in Portland was successfully challenged after they attempted to illegally restrict picketing at their Port of Portland facility with the full cooperation and collusion by the Port. The union was successful in reestablishing a public right-of-way in late September. City of Portland officials told the company to end their illegal obstruction.

Criminal charges dropped

A push by UGC to have criminal charges filed against an ILWU member accused of sabotage fell flat in September when Clark County's Prosecuting Attorney declined to prosecute the case. The company had accused a Local 4 member of sabotaging operations last December under orders from the ILWU. UGC used the alleged incident as a pretext for the lockout. A lengthy investigation concluded that there was insufficient evidence to file criminal charges. Nonetheless, the company continues to litigate its civil charges against the Local 4 member.

Reaching out along the supply chain

In an effort to spread the ILWU's message about a fair contract, Grain Negotiating Committee Co-Chair Rich Austin, Jr. and ILWU Local 23 President Scott Mason have traveled hundreds of miles upriver along the Columbia and Snake Rivers and into Montana and North Dakota with teams of longshoremen from various Pacific Northwest locals. "Our goal has been to meet with farmers and community leaders upriver, where the grain is grown and shipped," explained Austin, Jr. "We followed the grain supply chain, talked with locals, and came back with some interesting information about operations at both Mitsui-United and Columbia-Marubeni."

ILWU outreach materials have also been prepared, explaining why members are locked out by CGI and UGC and how the union is taking steps to reach a fair contract. The materials were distributed at local stores, coffee shops, community bulletin boards and other places where locals gather and get their news.

Congressional support

Six members of Washington State's Congressional delegation have expressed their concern with the conduct of CGI and UGC in a September 30, 2013 letter to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman. They urged Froman to raise concerns about the lockout while he meets with Japan and other nations to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement in early October.

The letter from Congress members Jim McDermott, Adam Smith, Rick Larsen, Suzan DelBene, Denny Heck and

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Solidarity rules the day in Wilmington Labor Day parade and picnic

Hundreds of Southern California ILWU members joined with thousands Southern California workers and their families to celebrate Labor Day at the 34th annual Labor Solidarity March and Picnic in the working class city of Wilmington, CA. Over three dozen unions from all over Los Angeles County were represented.



ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe said that despite the stories about its demise, the Labor Movement is alive and well and fighting for the rights of all workers.

Labor Day Breakfast

The celebration began at the Local 13 Dispatch Hall where a team of ILWU volunteers served up a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and breakfast burritos. This harbor-area Labor Day tradition began 13 years ago as a way to encourage participation in the march and served approximately 30 people a breakfast of tamales and bagels. Now the breakfast serves over 1,500 people and is as much a part of Labor Day as the parade and picnic.

The people's parade

The parade started at 10 a.m. at Broad and E Streets. Workers walked proudly behind union banners and flags with their families, accompanied by area high school marching bands, motorcycle clubs, and classic cars. They were led by a flatbed trailer of ILWU pensioners as the march made its way up Avalon Blvd towards Banning Park for a noon rally and picnic. Workers and their families were treated to hot dogs, hamburgers and plenty of cold water to help beat the heat that approached double digits.



The Local 13 Labor Day breakfast served a hot meal to over 2,500 people to get the ready to honor the workers who keep the country moving.

'The labor movement is alive and well'

ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe was one of the featured speakers at the rally. He said that the labor movement was alive and well and would continue the fight for all working people.

"A strong labor movement means strong communities," Familathe said. "Joining a union shouldn't continue to be as difficult as it is—the Port Truck drivers are fighting this week, fast food workers across the country work hard

and only make minimum wage. Look at the balance sheets of corporations. They are making record profits but all they do is cry poverty as they push wages down on workers who are struggling to make ends meet. The ILWU is going to continue to work with unions everywhere to make sure that workers get a better deal."

Local 10 celebrates Labor Day

The Bay Area's Labor Day celebration was held at Local 10 in San Francisco with help from the Bay Area Longshoremen's Association (BALMA) and the Port of San Francisco who participated as part of the Port's 150th Anniversary.

Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante said turnout was down a bit compared to previous years, because of a five-day closure of the Oakland Bay Bridge that made it extremely difficult to reach San Francisco during the Labor Day weekend. But Local 10 and BALMA volunteers went ahead put on a great show for the many families who were able to attend.

"As usual, volunteers are the ones who made this event a success," said Villeggiante, who thanked a team of

hard workers who included Local 10's Beth Susim, Ada Chilton, Carlos Villanueva and Ed Ferris; President Frank Cresci of BALMA, Pensioners George Cobbs, Lawrence Thibeaux and George Romero; Local 34 members Allen Fung and Dave Hill; Local 75's Pat Kim, Sala Naha and Kenneth Martin; the Local 10 Drill Team, and author/historian Harvey Schwartz.

VIP's and special guests included a delegation from Shanghai's Municipal Trade Union Council representing 6 million workers. The Chinese delegates were introduced by Kent Wong, Director of UCLA's Labor Center and Tim Paulson who directs the SF labor Council. Actor Ian Ruskin of the *Harry Bridges Project* performed a selection from his one-man show about the life of ILWU co-founder Harry Bridges. An exhibit of the ILWU's "Legacy of 1934" and 1948 longshore strike were



There was plenty of food on-hand thanks to the efforts of Local 10 volunteers like Doniphan Mackay, Carlos Villanueva and Lynn Beamon.

displayed in the hall while a labor film festival was hosted upstairs by historian Harvey Schwartz. A display of waterfront artwork included exceptional photos taken by Local 10 member Kelley Kane. Pensioners George Romero and Lawrence Thibeaux gathered peti-

tion signatures to support single-payer health care.

Entertainment included three live bands clowns, magicians, and artists entertained children who enjoyed hot dogs, burgers, cotton candy, churros and ice cream.

Longshore leader attacked for organizing ICTSI workers at Honduran port

The death threats against longshore union leader Victor Crespo started soon after he began organizing workers at Puerto Cortez in Honduras where International Container Terminal Services Incorporated (ICTSI) was awarded a lucrative 30-year contract last February to operate in Central America's only deepwater port.

The death threats were honored during the early morning hours of September 14 when armed thugs broke into Crespo's home to attack him, but

left when neighbors awakened, saw what was happening, and caused the attackers to flee. As the thugs departed, they warned him to stop organizing dockworkers - and vowed to return in a few hours if he was still there to carry out their death threats.

Crespo, who serves as General Secretary of the Sindicato Gremial de Trabajadores del Muelle (SGTM), is being temporarily sheltered in another country until the Honduran Government guarantees his safety and honors the union's application to represent dockworkers at ICTSI's new operation. Crespo and his union are being assisted by the International Transport Workers

Federation (ITF), a global federation of unions including the ILWU.

"Maritime unions around the world are learning about the threat that privatization and corporate greed pose to human rights," said ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe who also serves as Second Vice Chair of the ITF Dockers Section. "Victor Crespo is one of many courageous union leaders on the front lines who deserve our support."

ICTSI won a controversial "public-private partnership" with the Honduran government and a wealthy private bank (Ficohsa). The deal anticipates ICTSI will spend \$624 million over the next



Victor Crespo, Honduran longshore leader

ten years for new terminal facilities, including 12 cranes that are expected to move 600,000 containers a year - each generating a royalty of \$20. ICTSI operates internationally at 27 ports, including the Port of Portland where it has blatantly violated terms of the ILWU-PMA contract and has been the target of legal action by both the ILWU and Pacific Maritime Association.



Unity and an eye towards 2014 contract fight at the 46th PCPA convention

The slogan of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) is “Retired from the job, not from the struggle.” And based on the enthusiasm and energy on display at the 46th PCPA convention, those are more than just words on a banner. Over 200 PCPA members and guests attended this year’s convention which was held in Portland, from Sept. 16-18. The topics debated and discussed by PCPA members included the upcoming 2014 Longshore contract negotiations, the fight to protect ILWU medical benefits and the recent disaffiliation of the ILWU from the national AFL-CIO.

Linda Kuhn, retired Executive Assistant to the President at the ILWU attended the convention. She was honored with a lifetime membership to the PCPA by the delegates.

The convention was dedicated to the memory of James Trevor Tannock, retired Deputy National Secretary of

the Maritime Union of Australia, who passed away on September 13, and Southern California pensioner Jack Dillon a former member of Locals 13 and 63, who passed away on September 17.

PCPA President’s report

In his report, PCPA President Rich Austin outlined the past year of activism by ILWU pensioners. PCPA members picketed at terminal’s up and down the coast and the offices of the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) in Oakland and San Francisco to protest PMA attacks on ILWU health benefits, Austin said. Pensioners also supported locked out ILWU grain handlers in the Pacific Northwest, and participated in the ILWU International/Longshore Division Joint Legislative Conference. They have also been participating on the ILWU Education Committee and Benefits Committee. “Pensioners can play important and necessary roles, and the ILWU recognizes that,” Austin said.

He also said PCPA members are getting ready for 2014. “Next year, the Longshore Division will enter bargaining with the PMA. When, however, we adjourn on Wednesday we’ll do so with a resolve and a pledge to the active workforce and the entire ILWU family that we’ll do all we can to help win a good contract,” said Austin. “And leading up to 2014, we can remind the active workforce that it would be wise to prepare for any eventualities. Tell them to hold on to their vacation checks and income tax refunds until the contract is settled. Tell them to salt a few bucks away. The better prepared we are for a struggle, the less likely one will occur.”

United union

The convention was well attended by ILWU officers. International President Bob McEllrath, Vice President Wesley Furtado, (Hawaii), Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, Coast Committeemen Leal Sundet and Ray Ortiz, Jr., were all in attendance and spoke at the convention. Vice President Ray Familathe was ill and was not able to attend. Also in attendance were Local 13 President Chris Viramontes, Local 63 President Mike Podue and Local 8 President Jeff Smith.

President McEllrath addressed the convention on the first day. He spoke about the attacks on the health care benefits of active members and pensioners by the employers and explained the decision to leave the

national AFL-CIO. President McEllrath cited the attacks by AFL-CIO affiliates and frustrations with the AFL-CIO’s conservative position on immigration and health care reform. “At a certain point you have to start asking yourself, what is the benefit of being in the AFL-CIO,” McEllrath said. “We are getting attacked on our health care and we are getting attacked on our jurisdiction. But we are going to fight. You are the ones who taught me how to fight as a union man since I got on the docks in 1969,” McEllrath said, thanking the pensioners for their leadership.

Unanimous support for disaffiliation

On the second day of the convention the PCPA by passing a resolution to support the decision by the ILWU to disaffiliate from the national AFL-CIO. (See sidebar for the full text of the resolution.)

Report from Canada

Len Meneghello from the Vancouver Pensioners Club gave the report from Canada. He gave an update on the political situation in British Columbia and said that environmental concerns need to be balanced with the need to maintain a strong industrial base that can provide good paying jobs. Meneghello also outlined the charitable activities of the Vancouver pensioners including support for students in underprivileged schools.

Benefits plan

ILWU Coast Benefits Specialist John Castanho along with the Area Directors for the benefits plan, coordinators for the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program, and representatives of the Benefits Plans Office also spoke at the convention and were available to answer questions. They discussed the efforts to resolve the payment delays caused by PMA’s handpicked claims processing company, Zenith America and other issues related to the health and pension plans.

Featured speaker

Progressive economist and author Dean Baker spoke at the convention again this year. Baker criticized the administration’s inadequate response to the 2008 financial crisis. He said the priorities in Washington, D.C. were backwards. The government gave a massive handout to the financial industry that caused the crisis but the stimulus to provide jobs to the millions of Americans who lost their jobs

Solidarity with Our Officers

Whereas: The ILWU has always been a leader of labor and labor unions and is recognized around the world as being a leader, and

Whereas: The ILWU Convention in San Diego gave our President Bob McEllrath overwhelming support to withdraw from the AFL-CIO if he established that our participation was not beneficial to the ILWU and did not follow our Guiding Principles, therefore

Be It Resolved: The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association in solidarity support International President Robert McEllrath in his principled stand by withdrawing the ILWU from the AFL-CIO, and

Be It Further Resolved: We the pensioners of the ILWU will continue to be staunch supporters of all workers and organizations that uphold the principles of labor and labor unions.

*Passed by delegates to the 46th Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association
Portland, OR
September 17, 2013*

was far too small to be effective. “Don’t be fooled by the deficit hawks on Wall Street,” he said. They are not opposed to the government handing out money, they are only opposed to it when they aren’t the recipients.”

Labor archives

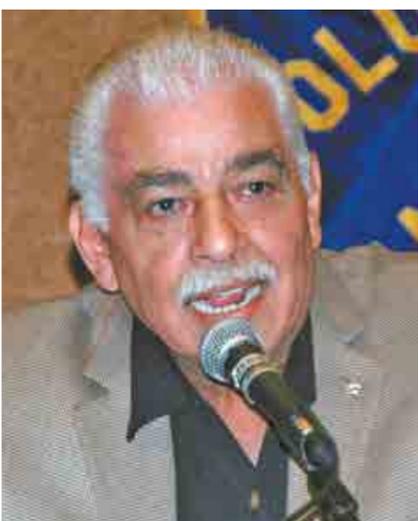
Also speaking at the event was Conor Casey from the Labor Archives of the University of Washington. Casey gave an update on the ongoing project that plays a vital role in preserving the history of working people in the Pacific Northwest. Joining Conor was Ross Rieder, President of the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, who also spoke about the importance of preserving the history of working class heroes and heroines.

Jesse and Lois Stranahan Award

Verna Porter of the Columbia Rivers Pensioners received this year’s Jesse and Lois Stranahan Award. The award is given every year to honor an outstanding labor activist. It was another successful PCPA convention and planning is already underway for next year’s convention which will be held from September 15-17 in Vancouver, Canada.

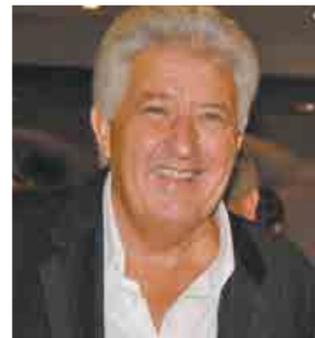


Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet



Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr.

James Tannock, retired Deputy National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, passes away



James Tannock (1945-2013)

James Tannock, retired Deputy National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), passed away on September 13th at his home from complications with his battle with cancer. Jim was a dedicated union man. He was well regarded and won the respect and admiration of MUA members, pensioners, staff and officers, and trade unionists around the world.

ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams and ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko attended the memorial service in Melbourne, Australia on behalf of the ILWU. Adams remembered Tannock

as a great friend and a tireless advocate for workers. “Jim was a fighter. He was born working class and stayed true to his roots. He was a great friend of the ILWU,” Adams said, adding that the ILWU officers visited Tannock at his home in May when they were in town for the conference on automation. Adams read a letter of condolence from ILWU International President Robert McEllrath. The ILWU made a \$1,000 contribution in Jim’s name to his favorite charity.

He is survived by his wife Vicki, his children, Nikki, Brett and Lance, his first wife, Jenny, his brother, Larry and his sister, Marce, and his grandchildren, Jaiden, Shanae, Bradley and Matthew and his niece, Chantelle.



Celebrating a life: (Left to right): MUA Deputy National Secretary Mick Doleman, ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, and MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin gather to celebrate the life and work of Jim Tannock who passed away on September 13th.

Portland honors the 1963 March on Washington

Members of local 8, 4, and the Inland Boatman’s Union (IBU) were proud to join the 50th anniversary celebration of the 1963 March on Washington that was held in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday, August 24. This event was sponsored by the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, and it marked a reaffirmation of the dream that Dr. Martin Luther King spoke of in his historic speech fifty years ago. The original march in 1963 was considered by many to be a highpoint of the Civil Rights Movement and helped to usher

in the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

Before Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination, he was working with union sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, who were members of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). These men were striking for equality and respect that included better wages and an end to dangerous health and safety conditions. Before the strike, two workers had been killed while taking a lunch break during a rainstorm. They were in the back of their garbage truck, along with the trash. Because they were African Americans, they were forbidden from seeking shelter elsewhere from the rain. A “mechanical malfunction” resulted in both men being crushed to death. These deaths and ongoing discrimination had triggered the strike that began with little preparation and without the support of their national union. The sanitation workers’ courage eventually won the backing of AFSCME officials and support from Dr. Martin Luther King, who joined the struggle in Memphis despite opposition from several of his colleagues. King believed the struggle by sanitation workers for economic rights was an important part of the Civil Rights Movement. On April 3, 1968, the day before he was assassinated, Dr. King delivered his famous “Mountain top” speech to activists in Memphis, where he foretold his demise and explained that he no longer feared death or any man because he’d been to the mountain top and seen the promised land of a future with justice and equality. When he was shot on the balcony outside his Memphis motel room the next day, he was only thirty-seven years old.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down section four of the Voting Rights Act. This provision required the Justice Department’s

Office of Civil Rights to review and approve any changes to voting laws in states with deep histories of racial discrimination. Before the court nullified these protections, many states had already attempted to pass laws aimed at making it more difficult for non-white and poor voters to participate in elections. One example of such a law is the requirement that voters must present certain identification cards in order to vote. Since the Supreme Court ruling, seven Southern states have moved to restrict voting rights in ways that disproportionately impact non-white voters. In another effort to avoid facing the history of racism in our country, the Texas Board of Education has moved to rename the “Slave Trade” with an evasive description they call the “Atlantic Triangular Trade.”

These policies haven’t just been implemented in the South. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was supporting a “stop and frisk” policy that allowed police to disproportionately target Latinos and Blacks. Abuse of the “stop and frisk” policy was dramatically documented in a 2011 audio recording made by a Latino teenager from Harlem named Alvin Cruz who had been stopped by three plainclothes officers who refused to explain their actions. When Cruz asked why he was being stopped, one officer replied, “For being a f-----g mutt! You know that?” The officers later threatened: “I’m gonna break your f-----g arm, then I’m gonna punch you in the f-----g face.” Fortunately, this program was recently found to be unconstitutional and racially discriminatory by a federal judge. Yet, across the nation, similar policies continue without official sanction.

The original 1963 mobilization was called the “March on Washington for jobs and equality.” That theme is just as relevant today because equal rights are under attack – along with the

ability of Americans to earn a decent living. Our gathering in Portland to honor the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington also addressed the topic of union busting and declining union membership, trends that threaten all unions today.

From the beginning, Harry Bridges and other ILWU leaders called for the inclusion of people from different races and political beliefs. Putting those goals into practice has caused some conflict over the years when the union’s ideals didn’t always square with reality, including past racial conflicts that surfaced in Portland and other northwest locals. Our tolerance for political views has also been tested – especially during the McCarthy era of the 1950’s. Many members from the ILWU and other unions were “red-baited” – accused of being radicals, Socialists, Communists or just “un-American.” These accusations were made against Harry Bridges during the three deportation hearings that he endured – and eventually won. At these hearings, many witnesses came forward to testify against the ILWU President. Many perjured themselves and proved unreliable. Similar accusations were made against Dr. Martin Luther King, who faced an especially vicious attack by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who tried to smear King’s reputation and blackmail the Civil Rights leader. Like Bridges did before him, King resisted the threats from Hoover and others, explaining: “Some will be called Reds and Communists merely because they believe in economic justice and the brotherhood of man. But we shall overcome.”

The 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington should be a wake-up call for everyone that the fight against racial injustice has not ended. The attack on unions is growing while many unorganized workers are desperately in need of a strong union like the ILWU.

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Remembering MLK’s legacy: ILWU members in Portland celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. The recent assaults on the Voting Rights Act by the right-wing shows that we must continue to fight for the Civil Rights of all Americans.

Portland honors the 1963 March

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In “Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU,” ILWU veteran Henry Hansen of Coos Bay, Oregon, recalled what he and other members did in the early days to build our union.

“After ’34 a few of us went out on committees to organize. We got the woodworkers started. We talked to them, visited them, went out to their

camps. We recognized the importance of surrounding ourselves with friendly people, people we could depend on, people who would recognize an obligation. If you don’t better that guy’s condition and bring it up to your level, he’ll tear yours down, you can bet your bottom dollar on that.”

Henry Hansen’s insights almost 80 years ago are just as relevant today.

If we don’t make it possible for more workers to join the ILWU and other unions, we can expect to be attacked – and not just from employers – but from these poorly compensated workers who will attempt to tear us down.

The enthusiasm of the March participants on August 24th was inspiring. We looked around and saw people who seemed up to the challenge of

ensuring that we go forward to reach out and organize – instead of slipping back to the time before unions, before Civil Rights, and into the conditions that so many people fought and sacrificed to change. ILWU members have a responsibility to keep the dream alive and to live by our creed: An injury to one is an injury to all!

– Matt Theisen, Local 8, Portland, OR

Portland conmemora la Marcha a Washington de 1963

Los miembros del Local 8, 4 y el Sindicato de Barqueros de Aguas Internas (IBU) se unieron con orgullo a la celebración realizada en Portland, Oregon el sábado, 24 de agosto a propósito del 50vo. aniversario de la Marcha a Washington de 1963. Este evento fue auspiciado por la Coalición de la Alianza Ministerial de Albina por la Justicia y Reforma Policial, y marcó una reafirmación del sueño del que habló el Dr. Martin Luther King en su discurso histórico pronunciado hace cincuenta años. La marcha original en 1963 fue considerada por muchos como el punto culminante del movimiento por los derechos civiles e impulsó la aprobación de la Ley de Derechos Civiles y la Ley de Derecho al Voto.

Antes de ser asesinado, el Dr. Martin Luther King estaba apoyando a los recolectores de basura en Memphis, Tennessee que eran afiliados de la Federación Americana de Empleados de Gobierno (AFSCME). Los trabajadores estaban haciendo la huelga para conseguir la igualdad y el respeto, lo cual incluía mejores salarios y la eliminación de las condiciones que ponían en peligro su salud y seguridad. Antes de la huelga, dos trabajadores habían muerto mientras almorzaban en la parte trasera del camión de basura ya que se estaban resguardando de un tormenta. Debido a que eran afroamericanos, no podían resguardarse en otro lado más que allí, junto a la basura. Una “falla mecánica” causó el aplastamiento de ambos hombres. Estas muertes y la constante discriminación provocaron la huelga, la cual se inició sin mucha preparación y sin el apoyo del sindicato nacional. Con su coraje los recolectores de basura finalmente se ganaron el apoyo de los líderes de AFSCME y del Dr. Martin Luther King, que se unió a la lucha en Memphis a pesar de que varios de sus colegas se oponían. Para King la lucha de los recolectores de basura por sus derechos económicos era una parte importante de la lucha por los derechos civiles. El 3 de abril de 1968, el día antes de ser asesinado, el Dr. King pronunció el famoso discurso referente a la “cima de la montaña” ante los activistas en Memphis, en el que presagió su fallecimiento y explicó que ya no le temía a la muerte ni a ningún hombre puesto que había llegado a la cima de la montaña y había visto la tierra prometida: un futuro en

que habría justicia e igualdad. Cuando fue balaceado en el balcón de su habitación en el hotel de Memphis al día siguiente sólo tenía treinta y siete años.

A principios de este año, la Corte Suprema de E.U. anuló la sección cuatro de la Ley de Derecho al Voto. Esa disposición requiere que la Oficina de Derechos Civiles del Departamento de Justicia revise y aprueba todas las reformas de las leyes de votación en aquellos estados con abundantes antecedentes de discriminación racial. Antes de que la Corte nulificara estas protecciones, muchos estados ya habían tratado de promulgar leyes que dificultaban la votación de las personas no blancas y pobres. Por ejemplo, una de tales leyes requería que los votantes presentaran ciertos documentos de identidad para poder votar. Desde que la Corte Superior emitió su fallo, siete estados del sur han tomado medidas para restringir el derecho de voto de tal manera que afecta más que nada a los votantes de color. En otro intento por negar la historia del racismo en nuestro país, la Junta de Educación de Texas ha tomado medidas para que la “Trata de Esclavos” se le conozca como el “Comercio Triangular del Atlántico,” para describirlo con evasivas.

Estas políticas se aplican en otras partes del país, no sólo en el sur. El alcalde de New York, Michael Bloomberg, apoyó la norma de “detener y registrar” que practica la policía sobre todo contra latinos y negros. El abuso de esta norma fue documentada de manera impresionante en una grabación de audio hecha por un adolescente latino de Harlem llamado Alvin Cruz, que había sido detenido por dos policías vestidos de civil que se negaron a explicar sus acciones. Cuando Cruz les preguntó por qué lo habían detenido, un agente de policía contestó que “¡Por ser roñoso hijo de puta! ¿Sabías eso?” Los policías después lo amenazaron, diciéndole “Te voy a romper el puto brazo, y luego te voy a romper la puta cara.” Por suerte, un juez federal halló recientemente que este programa es anticonstitucional y discrimina a las personas de razas minoritarias. No obstante, normas similares siguen aplicándose en otras partes del país sin autorización oficial.

La movilización original de 1963 fue llamada la “Marcha a Washington por los Empleos y la Igualdad.” Ese tema sigue tan candente hoy como entonces debido a que se está atacando el derecho a la igualdad – y también la posibilidad de que los trabajadores de este país puedan ganarse dignamente la vida. En nuestra reunión en Portland para conmemorar el 50vo. aniversario



de dicha Marcha también se trató el tema de los ataques antisindicales y la pérdida de afiliados, tendencias que ponen en peligro a todos los sindicatos hoy en día.

Desde el principio, Harry Bridges y otros líderes del ILWU propusieron la inclusión de diferentes razas y opiniones políticas. El cumplimiento de estas metas han causado algunos conflictos a lo largo de los años cuando los ideales del sindicato no siempre cuadraban con la realidad, incluso conflictos raciales que surgieron en el pasado en Portland y otros locales del noroeste del país. Nuestra tolerancia política también ha sido puesto a prueba, especialmente durante la era del macartismo en los años 50. Muchos afiliados de ILWU y de otros sindicatos fueron acosados por ser “rojos” o radicales, socialistas, comunistas o simplemente antiamericanos. El mismo Harry Bridges fue acusado de esto durante las tres audiencias de deportación a que fue sometido y de las que finalmente se liberó. En esas audiencias, muchos testigos se presentaron para declarar en contra del Presidente del ILWU. Muchos cometieron perjurio y resultaron ser poco creíbles. Se hicieron acusaciones similares contra el Dr. Martin Luther King, que enfrentó ataques especialmente feroces del director del FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, quien trató de desprestigiar y extorsionar a dicho líder de los derechos civiles. Al igual que Bridges antes que él, King se resistió a las amenazas de Hoover y otros, explicando que “Algunos serán acusados de ser “rojos” y “comunistas” simplemente porque creen en la justicia económica y la hermandad de los seres humanos. Pero venceremos.”

El 50vo. aniversario de la Marcha a Washington de 1963 debe ser un llamado de atención para todos, puesto que la lucha contra la injusticia racial no ha terminado. Los ataques contra los sindicatos van en aumento mientras

que muchos trabajadores no organizados necesitan desesperadamente un sindicato fuerte como el ILWU.

En “Historia de Solidaridad: Una Historia Oral del ILWU,” el veterano del ILWU, Henry Hansen, de Coos Bay, Oregon relata lo que él y otros afiliados hicieron en los primeros años para formar nuestro sindicato.

“Después del 34, unos cuantos formamos comités para organizar a los trabajadores. Empezamos con los leñeros. Hablamos con ellos, los visitamos, fuimos hasta sus campamentos. Reconocimos la importancia de rodearnos de amigos, personas con las que podíamos contar, personas que reconocieran la necesidad de cumplir una obligación. Si no mejoramos las condiciones del vecino para sean iguales a las nuestras, él tratará de arrancarnos nuestros logros. Eso se lo garantizo.”

La perspicacia de Henry Hansen es tan pertinente ahora, casi 80 años después, como entonces. Si no facilitamos la afiliación de un mayor número de trabajadores en el ILWU y otros sindicatos, es probable que seamos atacados – y no sólo por los empleadores – sino por esos mismos trabajadores mal remunerados que van a tratar de hundirnos.

El entusiasmo manifestado el 24 de agosto por los participantes de la Marcha fue algo inspirador. Vimos a nuestro alrededor personas que parecen estar a la altura del reto que tenemos por delante, que es el de captar y organizar a la gente, en lugar de echar marcha atrás a la época en que no existían los sindicatos, antes de los derechos civiles, y vivir en condiciones que muchas personas lucharon y sacrificaron por cambiar. Los afiliados de ILWU tienen la responsabilidad de mantener vivo el sueño y ser consecuentes con nuestro credo: ¡un ataque contra uno es un ataque contra todos!

– Matt Theisen, Local 8, Portland, OR

Resolution of Contempt Fines in EGT

In the April 2012 issue of the *Dispatcher*, we reported that the ILWU filed an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit challenging over \$300,000 in contempt fines ordered by the United States District Court during the EGT dispute.

The District Court had awarded compensatory contempt fines to the NLRB, EGT, and BNSF and various law enforcement agencies. The ILWU appealed the amount of the fines, arguing that EGT, BNSF, and the various law enforcement agencies were not legally entitled to recover money damages for the Union's contempt of the injunction, and that the District Court did not properly consider the ILWU's arguments challenging the evidence submitted by the NLRB in support of its request for compensatory fines.

On July 5, 2013, the Ninth Circuit issued a decision agreeing with the ILWU that BNSF and various law enforcement agencies, as third parties to the litigation, were not entitled to damages from the Union, but the Court held that EGT and the NLRB, as proper parties, were entitled to all damages awarded to them by the District Court. The ILWU immediately requested a rehearing concerning the award of contempt damages to EGT. On September 16, 2013, the Ninth Circuit denied the ILWU's request for a rehearing.

The ILWU will not appeal the Ninth Circuit's decision as to the award of contempt damages to EGT as it would risk reversal by the Supreme Court of the legal victory relative to BNSF and the various law enforcement agencies. This means that a reduced contempt award of approximately \$200,000 is now owed to EGT and the NLRB. Once this money is paid by the ILWU, the matter of contempt fines will be resolved.

ILWU's Pacific Northwest grain struggle continues

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Derek Kilmer stated, "The continued intransigence by Marubeni and Mitsui is placing great stress on workers dependent on these facilities for their livelihoods. The lockout is negatively affecting wheat and grain farmers in the Pacific Northwest and other states that depend on grain export terminals."

The letter continued: "Mitsui and Marubeni forced workers to work under a concessionary contract that had been rejected by a 94% union membership vote, and locked out hundreds of American workers beginning in February and May at their two U.S. facilities. Cargill/CHS continued to negotiate with the ILWU and reached a fair contract with the union that was ratified in February that protects good American jobs."

Injustice sparks resistance

As *The Dispatcher* was going to press, ILWU members were participating in more trips to rural wheat-growing communi-

ties in Washington, Montana, Oregon, and North Dakota to explain the contract struggle to farmers and establish picket lines in front of grain elevators owned by Marubeni-Columbia Grain, Mitsui-United Grain and Louis Dreyfus.

Defending the union's right to picket resulted in ILWU Local 23 President Scott Mason being cited for criminal trespass at a facility in Harlem, Montana on September 18. Mason said he and other ILWU members will continue fighting for their right to establish "primary pickets" at those sites. Mason is pleading "not guilty" and is seeking a jury trial to contest the trespass charges.

"We don't plan on giving up this fight," he said. "We have the right to use legal, economic pressure on these big companies so we can get both sides back to the table and reach a fair settlement."

Picketing continues on and off the river system as far east as Montana.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: William B. Potts;
Local 10: Felicísimo M. Limon;
Local 13: John J. Di Leva;
 Ramona J. Pack; Alberto Barreras;
 Robert B. Mc Neil; Anthony G. Osuniga; Norma L. Dominguez;
 Victoria A. Guy; Mark S. Heckethorn; Pedro R. Magana;
 Holly J. Lindroth; **Local 19:**
 Dennis M. Bulis; Christopher J. Lincoln; **Local 23:** Joseph W. Guntle; Lynn E. Sconyers;
Local 34: George A. Marble;

Robert M. Gradek; Robert J. Colla;
Local 63: Edward R. Medina;
 Roxanne A. Frazier; **Local 91:**
 Erska L. Barnett;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Frank Hidalgo; James R. Palmer, Jr.; **Local 10:** William Christmas (Katherine); Bernardo B. Bagasol; **Local 13:** Elizardo Flores; Malven Walker (Errecca); Samuel J. Armstrong Jr.; **Local 21:** Clarence I. Parvi; **Local 23:** John E. Beck; Gary E. Brumfield; **Local 24:** Robert C. Nix (Nancy); **Local 32:** Clifford

Daniels; **Local 63:** Kenneth D. Bradford (Marcella); Jeffrey B. Perich; Michael W. Legaspi; Julia E. Carranza; Harvey R. Meyer; Robert G. Wilderman (Elizabeth); **Local 75:** Charles W. Tucker; John F. Le Vine; **Local 94:**
 Edward A. Hutchinson;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Gisela Probsdorfer;
Local 10: Canzada R. Mollart;
 Grace E. Burke; Maria A. Santos;
Local 12: L. Marquetta Kerns;
 Charlotta S. Shindler; **Local 13:**

Isabel G. Ramos; Nellie Crew; Irene Montano; Rose Marie Solnic; Ruby Conwell; **Local 19:**
 Barbara J. Morris; **Local 21:**
 Thelma Ojalehto; **Local 23:** Ruth Ferris; Tae-Jik Harrison; Evelyn J. Angelus; **Local 34:** Josephine Perio; **Local 47:** Kathleen Clauson; **Local 91:** Clara A. Whelihan; **Local 94:** Verna V. Crumby;

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