**LETTERS TO DISPATCHER**  2  
Golfing for a good cause  2  
Honduran longshore leader attacked for organizing ICTSI workers  4  
46th PCPA convention  5  
TRANSITIONS  8

---

**ILWU’s Pacific Northwest grain struggle continues**

The 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 Handlingers’ 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 McElrath. “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.

LDX, 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...
LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

Back in the 1980s, when I was president of Local 6, plants were closing right and left. Reaganesque. 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 "Canaries 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 ednote@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. Melioh, was listed as a member of Local 13. He was a member of Local 14. We apologize for the error.

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 $5,000 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 Cesa, 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 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 came 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 Vileggianse, Leroy King, Local 34 President Sean Farley and Local 34 Vice President Dave Hill.

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.

The Dispatcher (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined September issue, for $5.00 a year and $10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. The Dispatcher welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.

DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees
Communications Director and Managing Editor
Roy San Filippo
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Robert McEllrath, President
Ray A. Familathe, Vice President, Mainland
Wesley Furtado, Vice President, Hawaii
William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

Wesley Furtado, Vice President, Hawaii
Ray A. Familathe, Vice President, Mainland
William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

The ILWU TITLED OFFICERS

The ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Coast Guard Collusion

Coast Commissioner Sundet describes a “war on many fronts” that includes govern-
ment agencies and public officials who collide with the foreign-owned grain
Corporations. From the beginning of the
tree struggle with grain companies —
starting with the 2011 battle at EGTV’s new
terminal in Longview — the U.S. Coast
Guard has consistently favored employers.
Anders, who points to the agency’s pro-
secution with “protecting property and
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 pro-
tect corporations who are screwing Amer-
ican 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.
And 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 saying that the
history of anti-ILWU bias. The Captains’
email contained false and misleading
information about a grain barge dumping and suggested that the union was respons-
able. He stated that the barge was originally destined for one of the locked out facilities.
In fact, the barge in question was not “wait-
ing” to transfer the grain at one of the terminals involved in the current dis-
pute... 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
food down from upriver and was waiting it transport the
to the grain terminal inside the current dispute about which you have written. I
have nothing to add to what’s in the press release, but the
Towboat staff may be willing to talk about you about it.

Regards,

CAPT Bruce C Jones, USCG
Commander, Sector Columbia River/Alaska Inspection
Captain of the Port.

Besides providing armed escort
services at taxpayer expense to the grain
merchants and preventing American
union members and community sup-
porters from discussing their constitui-
tional 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 were
hired to operate tow boats for UGC
charged into dock pilings at the com-
pany’s Vancouver, Washington facility.

Although Coast Guard rules require ves-
sel 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 noticed 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 Presi-
dent Alan Cole and MM&P President Don
Marcus issued a joint press release to warn
the public and Coast Guard that CGI and
UGC, and ship owners that were involved.

DISPACher • October 2013 3

ILWU’s Pacific Northwest grain struggle continues

continued from page 1
they have abandoned union solidarity by
crossing the picket lines.

In addition to land, pickets at UGC and
gulf facilities in Vancouver and Port-
land, ILWU Local 4 and ILWU Local 8
are picketing primary targets on the Colum-
bia and Snake Rivers and doing so because of
large amounts of grain.

The cargo moved by the towboat
workforce on the Columbia and Snake
Rivers is 100 percent union and is rep-
resented by either the ILWU/IBU or the
Pacific Pilots (MM&P). Both unions, where
tower boats are represented, are aggressively
resisting ILWU picket lines on the entire
range.

To circumvent the strong support of
IBU and MM&P represented tow boats, the
grain companies have pooled their resources and barge leased to and
run by foreign companies from moving cargo from
the terminals involved in the current dis-
pute… 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
food down from upriver and was waiting it transport the
to the grain terminal inside the current dispute about which you have written. I
have nothing to add to what’s in the press release, but the
Towboat staff may be willing to talk about you about it.

Regards,

CAPT Bruce C Jones, USCG
Commander, Sector Columbia River/Alaska Inspection
Captain of the Port.

Besides providing armed escort
services at taxpayer expense to the grain
merchants and preventing American
union members and community sup-
porters from discussing their constitui-
tional 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 were
hired to operate tow boats for UGC
charged into dock pilings at the com-
pany’s Vancouver, Washington facility.
Solidarity rules the day in Wilmington Labor Day parade and picnic

Hundreds of Southern California ILWU members joined with thousands of 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.

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 Villeggante 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 Villeggante, who thanked a team of hard workers who included Local 10’s Beth Susim, Ada Chilores, 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 ILWU’s “Legacy of ILWU co-founder Harry Bridges. An exhibit of the ILWU’s “Legacy of 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 Banana 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 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 work, 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.”

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. The threats against Crespo are serious. He was shot last year and was on life support for several hours. After he was released from the hospital, he was told to stop organizing dockworkers - and vowed to return in a few days if he was still there to carry on 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 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 47 ports, including the Port of Portland where it has blisteringly violated terms of the ILWU-PMA contract and has been the target of legal action by both the ILWU and Pacific Maritime Association.

Victor Crespo, Honduran longshore leader
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 sal 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 Rob McEllrath, Vice President Wesley Furtado, (Hawaii), Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, Coast Committeeeman 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 Podre 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. We are not 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, for the full text of the resolution.

Report from Canada

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

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 Gordanenko 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 McE1rath. 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, Channelle.

In Memorium

James Tannock [1945-2013]

Portland honors the 1963 March on Washington

Members of local 8, 4, and the Inland Boating 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 and unhealthy safety conditions. Before the strike, two workers had been killed while taking a lunch break during a torrential rain. 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 preperation 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 n*gga! 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.
L os miembros del Local 8, 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 50avo. 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 reparación del suelo 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 estaba cargando con una gran cantidad de basura. 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” de 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 el día siguiente solo tenía treinta y siete años.

A principios de este año, la Corte Suprema de EU anunció la decisión de cuatro de la Ley de Derecho al Voto. Esta disposición requiere que la Oficina de Derechos Civiles del Departamento de Justicia revise y apruebe todas las reformas de las leyes de votación en aquellos estados con abundantes antecedentes de discriminación racial. Antes de que la Corte modifique 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 estas leyes establecía que los votantes tuvieran que presentar ciertos documentos de identidad para poder votar. Desde que la Corte Suprema 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 prohibido a sus estudiantes abordar el tema de la segregación escolar en sus reexaminaciones. Las 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 documentado de manera impresionante en una grabación de audio hecha por un adolescente latino de un adolescente negro. 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 rafito 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.” Aunque, en una juez federal halló recientemente que este programa es anticonstitucional y discmina a dos 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 movimiento es tan relevante hoy como en el pasado. Muchas de las amenazas de Hoover y otros, explicando que “Algunos serán acusados de ser “rojos” o radicales, socialistas, comunistas o simplemente antiamericanos. El mismo Henry Bridges fue acusado de esto durante las tres audiencias de deportación a que fue sometido y de las que finalmente se libró. En esas audiencias, muchos testigos se presentaron para declarar en contra del Presidente del ILWU. Muchos cometieron perjuicio 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. Profecíamos.”

El 50avo. 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 son un aumento mientras que muchos trabajadores no organizados necesitan desesperadamente un sindicato fuerte como el ILWU. No se puede olvidar la “Marcha a Washington: 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 letreros. Hablamos con ellos, los visitamos, fuimos hasta sus campamentos. Reconocimos la importancia de rodearlos de amigos, personas con las que podíamos contar, personas que reconocían la necesidad de cumplir una obligación. Si no mejoramos las condiciones del vecino para ser iguales a las nuestras, el tratará de arrancarnos nuestros logros. Eso se lo garantizo.”

La perspectiva 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 sean los atacados – y no sólo por los empleadores – sino por esos mismos trabajadores mal remunerados que van a tratar de hundernos. El entusiasmo manifestado el 24 de agosto por los participantes de la Marcha fue algo inspirador. Vimos a nuestro alrededor personas que parecían estar a la altura del reto que teníamos por delante, que es el de capturar 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 en que muchas personas lucharon y sacrificaron por cambiar. Los afiliados de ILWU tienen la responsabilidad de mantener vivo el sueño y ser conscientes con nuestro credo: un ataque contra uno es un ataque contra todos! – Matt Thiesen, 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 ILWU, 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, were entitled to all damages awarded to them by the District Court. The ILWU immediately requested a rehearing concerning the award of contempt fines 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 fines 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 ILWU. Once this money is paid by the ILWU, the matter of contempt fines will be resolved.

ILWU’s Pacific Northwest grain struggle continues

Intransigence by Marubeni and Mitsui is continuing to affect grain growers and workers in Washington, Montana, Oregon, and North Dakota to the extent that some workers have established picket lines in front of grain elevators owned by Marubeni-Columna Grain, Mitsui-United Grain and Louis Dreyfus.

Defending the unions’ rights to picket has resulted in ILWU Local 23 President Scott Mason being cited for criminal trespass at a facility in Hazlemont, Montana on September 18. Mason said he and other ILWU members will continue fighting for their rights 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.

NEW PENSIONERS:
Local 8: William B. Potts, Local 21: Michael E. Murri; Local 13: John J. Di Leva, Ramona J. Pack; Alberto Barreras; Robert B. McNeil; Anthony G. Osuniga; Norma L. Dominguez; Christian J. Dennis; M. Bulis; Christopher J. Lincoln; Local 23: Joseph W. Gunite; Lynn E. Sconyers; Local 34: George A. Marble; Robert M. Gradek; Robert J. Colla; Local 63: Edward R. Medina; Roxanne A. Champion; Local 91: Erka L. Barnett; DECEASED PENSIONERS: Local 8: Frank Hidalgo; James R. Palmer, Jr.; Local 10: William Christmas (Katherine); Bernardo B. Bagaso; 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. Baggapi; Julia E. Carranza; Harvey R. Meyer; Robert G. Wildermuth (Eliza); John F. Le Vine; Local 94: Edward A. Hutchinson; DECEASED SURVIVORS: Local 8: Gisela Probodabar; Local 10: Canzada Mollart; Grace E. Burke; Maria A. Santos; Local 12: L. Marquetta Kerns; Charlotte S. Shindler; Local 13: Isabel G. Ramos; Nellie Crew; Irene Montano; Rose Marie Solomon; Ruby Conwell; Local 19: Barbara J. Morris; Local 21: Thelma Ojalehto; Local 23: Ruth Ferris; Tae-Jik Harrison; Evelyn J. Angelussi; Local 34: Josephine Perio; Local 47: Kathleen Clason; Local 91: Clara A. Wheelihan; Local 54: Verna V. Crumbly;