



THE DISPATCHER

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President McEllrath and other workers put their bodies on the line for good jobs. [page 3](#)



Panama Canal Pilots vote to affiliate with ILWU: New strength and unity for both organizations

The global supply chain has many important links including dockworkers on the West Coast of the U.S. and Canada. But three thousand miles to the south, the Panama Canal remains one of the world's most vital links and an essential group of workers there has just decided to affiliate with the ILWU.

By an overwhelming vote, the Panama Canal Pilots Union decided to affiliate with the ILWU on September 7, the same date that an agreement was signed 32 years ago between the governments of Panama and the United States to return control of the Canal Zone to Panama. The Canal had been in U.S. hands since it was opened in 1914.

"This is an historic agreement that unites workers in different countries with a critical link in the global

supply chain," said International President Bob McEllrath upon hearing the decision by Pilots to affiliate with the ILWU. "We want to welcome these union brothers to the ILWU family and look forward to helping each other."

"We are very proud to become part of the ILWU family," said Captain Londor Rankin, Secretary General of the Pilots Union which has 250 members. "We're looking forward to meeting our new brothers and sisters."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you're a regular reader of *The Dispatcher*, then you know I don't write a column unless there's something important. Now I've got some things that I'd like to share with you and other ILWU members.

First, the decision by the Panama Canal Pilots to seek an affiliation agreement with the ILWU is an important, historic and welcome development. We will present a resolution to the delegates at next summer's International Convention in San Diego to seat this new division on the International Executive Board. But for now, please join me in welcoming these new brothers to the ILWU family with the spirit of solidarity that they deserve.

Like others who work at ports along the West Coast, the pilots in Panama have a critical role in the global supply chain. And like us, they understand that solidarity at home and around the world is linked to their union's survival. Our connection with these workers in Panama is part of a broader plan that we're developing to help our union survive and grow in the difficult years ahead.

In a similar way, I want to salute the work being done by our longshore team to help the port workers in Costa Rica and Peru. This is another part of our strategy and it also deserves recognition. With so many of our employers going global and attacking dockworkers in foreign ports, we can't afford to sit back while companies try to crush other dockworker unions.

The same principle applies here in North America where anti-union forces are stronger than any time in my memory, and probably stronger today than they have been for several generations. With most of America's private-sector union membership already destroyed during the past 30 years, anti-union forces are now attack-

ing public unions, including teachers, police, firefighters, librarians and anyone else who works for the local, state or federal government. The goal of these anti-union fanatics is to scapegoat "greedy unions" for the economic crisis. They want to weaken unions to the point that big business can operate without rules or regulations.

Because I'm speaking to ILWU members, I assume everyone understands that unions don't just help our membership get better wages and benefits. Our progress helps the entire working class. It's no accident that wages improved for everyone when union membership grew during the 1930's through the 1960's. It's also true that incomes have been falling for the past thirty years as union membership has declined.

There's no point in sugar-coating the problems that we face now or telling you that your leaders have everything under control. The problems are big and complicated, and they require all of us to lend a hand.

More and more employers are testing the ILWU to see if we have the ability to fight back. I'm talking about powerful companies like Rio Tinto in Boron, Rite Aid in Lancaster, Bayer Pharmaceuticals in Berkeley and the EGT grain terminal in Longview. These employers have challenged the ILWU's power and other companies are watching on the sidelines to see if we fold or fight. The results so far have been positive. We've been able to fight back and win. But many more of these fights are coming in the months and years ahead, so our ability to carry on – and escalate – will be tested.

The situation with EGT in Longview shows what kind of commitment will be required to win a high-stakes showdown with international employers. Already, more than 100 ILWU members



have been arrested in this fight with EGT. This is a company that hired 701 Operating Engineers from Portland, Oregon to do traditional ILWU Longshore work in Longview, Washington, Local 21 jurisdiction. For 43 years I have worked inside grain elevators in the Northwest. I have negotiated In-House Grain Agreements and Ship Board Manning and not before or since have I ever seen an operating engineer working inside one of our grain export facilities. All that you read or hear from the Operating Engineers is propaganda from a rogue union and an outlaw employer who won't respect the traditional ILWU jurisdiction established during the past 75 years.

In the political realm, President Obama has proven to be a disappointment. He's been too cautious and placating in dealing with big business, Wall Street and the growing number of anti-union politicians in both political parties. But Obama is being opposed by a majority in the House of Representatives who are hell-bent on destroying unions, weakening government, privatizing both Social Security and Medicare, while demanding more tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. This situation leaves us with fewer allies in Washington D.C. and a lot more fair-weather friends. To maneuver through this mess, we'll need to be more careful, independent and

willing to say "no" when it comes to making contributions or offering support to weak-kneed politicians.

On a positive note, I've been encouraged from the hundreds of ILWU members who have responded generously with contributions to the ILWU's Political Action Fund. Your contributions will help us hold politicians in Washington D.C. more accountable to union members and the working class.

Solving these and other problems won't be quick or easy. Our pensioners know what kind of involvement will be required – and they'll be the first to tell us that it's going to require some big fights and real sacrifices from everyone. In the 1930's, members literally put their bodies on the line to build this union. In the 1940's, 50's and 60's, members went to jail defending their political freedom and right to strike.

Now things have come full circle again, with the same kind of sacrifice required for the ILWU to survive and grow. With the positive and exciting affiliation of the Panama Canal Pilots to the disheartening actions of "another union," to our political situation in state and federal governments, more than ever we all have to fight together to keep our union strong!

An injury to one is an injury to all.

DISPATCHER

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Union volunteers “put their bodies on the line” to save good community jobs in Longview, WA

Hundreds of port workers and community supporters volunteered to stand in front of a train carrying grain to an outlaw loading facility in Longview, Washington on September 7th. Workers took action to protest the refusal by the big grain company, EGT, to honor agreements with the local community to provide good jobs in Longview.

The controversial grain terminal is owned and operated by EGT - a consortium of companies that includes U.S.-based Bunge North America, South Korea-based STX Pan Ocean and Japan-based Itochu Corporation. Bunge reported profits of \$2.5 billion dollars last year and operates in 30 countries.

“Everyone came to the tracks on their own free will to stand up for justice and protect good jobs in this community,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, who stood with the volunteers on September 7th. “It shouldn’t be a crime to fight for good jobs in America.”

The demonstration blocked the train for several hours. Police in riot gear charged the group of peaceful protesters which included women and children, causing minor injuries to several adults. Several workers were hit with pepper spray, struck with batons and wrestled to the ground by police, but no serious injuries were reported. After volunteers stood their ground, police retreated and the train was backed-off.

President McEllrath was physically assaulted and briefly detained by Cowlitz County Sheriff’s deputies before being released without charges. After a tense stand-off between demonstrators and the police, McEllrath returned to the group of volunteers.

“We can get maced, tear-gassed and clubbed today, or we can wait for long-shore support from all over the West Coast when the next train tries to enter the EGT terminal,” McEllrath explained.

Wildcat actions shut Washington Ports

After growing frustration over EGT’s continued disrespect for the Longview community, coupled with anger generated by the Sheriff’s man-

handling of President McEllrath, long-shore workers in Tacoma, Seattle, Anacortes and Everett engaged in a wildcat job action. Workers left their jobs at the ports and travelled to Longview where hundreds reportedly entered the EGT facility, opened the doors on grain cars, then left. Police arrived at the scene but no arrests were made.

Initial press reports of the incident contained ridiculous and false assertions of hostage-taking that were irresponsibly spread by Longview Police Chief Jim Duscha, who later downplayed his initial claims.

“The false claim made by Longview Police Chief Jim Duscha, as reported by the Associated Press on Thursday, September 8, 2011, that ‘Six guards were held hostage for a couple of hours’ in Longview, was a lie,” said Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet. “Chief Duscha owes the community of Longview an apology for mischaracterizing that morning’s events by using inaccurate, inflammatory and unprofessional terminology.”

EGT’s broken promises

Like so many companies that promise to bring good jobs to communities, EGT took substantial tax breaks and other benefits – including land that was secured for the company by the Port of Longview. But immediately after signing a sweetheart lease agreement with the Port, EGT turned its back on Longview taxpayers and imported low-paid, out-of-state workers to build the new terminal. With hundreds of skilled local workers in the building trades desperately searching for jobs, EGT passed them over and brought in workers from the outside, driving down area standard wages and adding insult to injury for local unemployed families.

Once the terminal was completed, EGT reneged on their lease agreement with the Port of Longview that required the company to staff the new terminal with members of ILWU Local 21.

When Port officials asked EGT to honor their promise to employ ILWU members, the company responded by filing a lawsuit against the Port of Longview.

“Our community gave EGT generous subsidies to build their new facility here because they promised to provide good-paying ILWU jobs for the local community, but then they reneged on

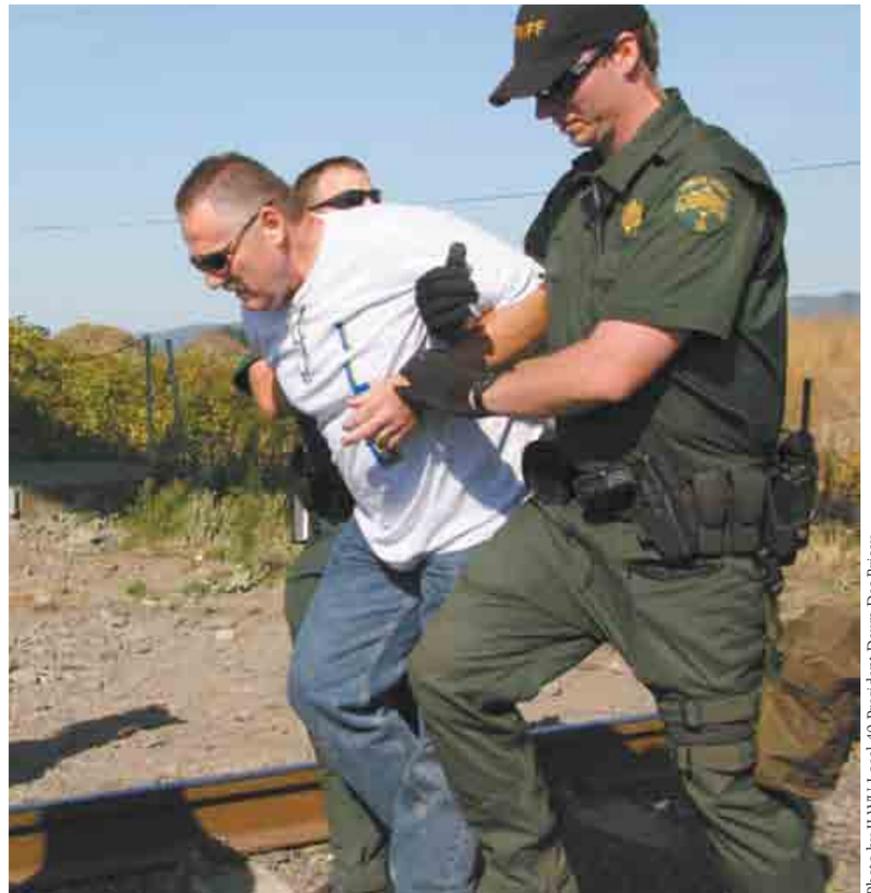


Photo by ILWU Local 40 President Dawn Des Brisay

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath was detained by law enforcement while standing up for good jobs with ILWU members against the outlaw multinational, EGT, in Longview, WA, on September 7, 2011

their promises and sued local taxpayers with a frivolous lawsuit that could cost our residents a fortune to defend,” explained President McEllrath who grew up in the nearby town on Vancouver.

EGT spends big on PR & union busting

While EGT is undercutting family wages and suing local taxpayers, they’re spending a fortune on a public relations and a union-busting “security company.” The company is using an out-of-state PR firm to place propaganda ads on local radio stations and is buying full-page newspaper ads to attack the union.

But EGT faces an uphill battle in the small town of Longview and surrounding communities where respect for the ILWU is rock solid. The proof isn’t hard to see with over 200 local businesses displaying signs in their windows that express support for Local 21 members in the dispute with EGT.

EGT’s phony negotiations

At first, EGT pretended to be interested in negotiating a contract with the ILWU. But after they declined to consider the same contract signed by members of the Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers Association, EGT made it clear that they weren’t serious about negotiating, and the company eventually walked-out. The ILWU has filed NLRB charges against EGT that are still being investigated by government officials. Meanwhile, the company’s NLRB charge against the union got express treatment at the NLRB, sending government officials scrambling to secure a federal court injunction against the ILWU.

“The laws in this country have always been stacked against workers, and the NLRB is no exception,” says Leal Sundet, who notes that the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 was designed to restrict effective picket lines and protect employers and their scabs by

requiring the NLRB to seek fast and far-reaching court injunctions.

EGT ends negotiation, triggers escalation

When it was clear that EGT was failing to negotiate in good faith, a massive rally of 1,000 ILWU supporters from all over the West Coast was called at EGT’s headquarters in downtown Portland on June 3rd.

Actions escalated during the following month when over 100 dock workers occupied the EGT facility on July 11 at a protest outside the EGT facility in Longview. About 100 ILWU members were arrested for trespassing, including Local 21 President Dan Coffman.

Three days later on July 14, 600 Columbia River dockworkers blocked a train that was delivering grain to the EGT terminal by standing on the railroad tracks. The 107-car train was rerouted to Vancouver following the standoff. Officials at Burlington Northern Santa Fe then suspended train traffic to the grain terminal for safety reasons until another delivery was attempted on September 7, when two blockages took place as the train moved toward the EGT Terminal. The action by individual workers the following morning resulted in the loss of some grain and minor property damage, but no physical harm to any EGT employees, according to news reports.

Court victory for workers

On the afternoon of September 8th, a United States District Court Judge in Tacoma denied the NLRB’s motion to ban picketing at the EGT facility in the Port of Longview. The judge issued a narrow injunction that preserved the right of union members to peacefully picket — far short of what EGT and the NLRB wanted.

The employer and government officials will seek contempt charges

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Photo by Dawn Des Brisay

Workers in Longview were attacked by police with pepper spray and batons on September 7th.

Panama Canal Pilots vote to affiliate with ILWU: New strength and unity for both organizations

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Rankin and other officers from the Pilots Union are scheduled to attend the ILWU International Executive Board meeting on September 15-16 in San Francisco.

The Panama Canal Pilots Union was founded in 1921 and like the ILWU, engaged in decades of struggle to protect their union and help workers. Rankin says the years when the Canal was transitioning between U.S. and Panamanian control were especially challenging. "We had two or three very difficult years during that period around 1999, and had to flex our muscles a few times," he explained, adding that the union maintains respectful relations with the Panamanian government. "Most of our recent struggles have been with middle management of the Canal administration," he added.

The Panama Canal is undergoing a dramatic transformation to widen and deepen the engineering marvel so it can accommodate giant container ships that are currently too large for the canal that was built almost a century ago. The process for moving ships through the canal will also change, with new technologies and procedures, but Rankin says the

Pilots will retain their vital role in the new Canal.

Bloody History

The first to consider building a canal through Panama was King Charles of Spain in the middle 1500's. He ordered a study to see if a canal could make it easier for shipments of gold and silver to reach Spain from the new colonies in Mexico, California, Central and South America. The Spanish abandoned their plans for the canal, choosing to use slaves instead for hauling their treasure over the mountains between the Pacific and Atlantic. The next serious canal effort began in 1880 under French leadership, but was abandoned after 21,900 workers died from malaria, yellow fever and landslides.

The United States launched the final – and successful effort to build the Canal, but 5,600 workers were killed in the process. When it opened in 1914, the U.S. maintained control of the Canal and surrounding Canal Zone until December, 1999. George H.W. Bush invaded Panama ten years earlier, in December 1989 after Panamanian President Noriega refused to step down after being exposed as a CIA operative.



Panama Canal Pilots welcomed to the ILWU family: From left to right: Capt. Alvaro Moreno, Business Manager, Panama Canal Pilots Union; Capt. Londor Rankin, Secretary General, Panama Canal Pilots Union; Robert McEllrath, ILWU International President; Capt. Rainiero Salas, Assistant General Secretary, Panama Canal Pilots Union; Ray Familathe, ILWU International Vice President.

A brighter future

This summer, McEllrath travelled to Panama with Vice President Ray Familathe to meet with the leaders of the Pilots Union and answer their questions about the ILWU. "Both unions will benefit from this new

affiliation that will provide each with more solidarity and support that will be there when we need it," said McEllrath. "With more of our employers now operating around the globe, this kind of strategic alliance makes a lot more sense today."



We are one: The ILWU and the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) pledged to forge closer ties and to work together to protect longshore jobs. The renewed commitment to solidarity was declared at the ILA's quadrennial convention held in Hollywood, FL at the end of July. ILWU International President Robert McEllrath said that employers "are using the word 'competition' to put a wedge in between" the ILWU and ILA.

"We are one," McEllrath said. "I'm going to work with the new ILA president, Harold Daggett... We're going to fight together, we're going to keep our jurisdiction and we're going to keep our unions' jobs."

Daggett said he was committed to forging closer ties with the ILWU. "It is my intention to bring the ILA closer to the ILWU, as we have many matters of mutual interest in dealing with management in protecting our jurisdictions and memberships."

President McEllrath and a guest will sit in on the next round of ILA contract negotiations at the invitation of ILA President Daggett.

Speaking out for good jobs at Bayer



In the photo above, From R to L: Arturo Lobato, Fred Pecker, Christian Sledge, Armando Rodriguez, and Carey Dall.

ILWU Local 6 member Arturo Lobato spoke to members of Congress who gathered in Oakland for a town hall meeting on August 16th. The event, called "Speak Out for Good Jobs Now," was held at the Acts Full Gospel Church in East Oakland. Lobato spoke to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Oakland Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Mike Honda of San Jose, and Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chair Raul Grijalva of Arizona.

Lobato, who works at the Bayer pharmaceutical plant in nearby Berkeley, explained how his co-workers have been trying to win better job security, safe staffing and a fair contract. He said it was ironic that a wealthy

international-healthcare corporation like Bayer was trying to raise the cost that he and other employees would pay for health insurance by \$3900 during the next 4 years – an increase of over 16%.

Workers reject Bayer contract proposal

On August 31st, Bayer workers voted by a 3-1 margin to reject the company's contract proposal that would make health insurance unaffordable. Other concerns included Bayer's failure to provide job security or address unsafe staffing levels that now plague the plant. The democratically-elected union negotiating committee described Bayer's proposal as "stingy."

Workers in Berkeley have received letters of solidarity from unionized Bayer workers throughout the US and Germany.

Union volunteers "put their bodies on the line" to save good community jobs in Longview, WA

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against the union when they return to court on September 15.

International outrage

The assault on President McEllrath received international condemnation from labor leaders across the globe. The International Transport Workers' Federation issued a statement condemning the treatment of McEllrath within hours of the assault. The ITF warned the company that their continued intransigence will only escalate the dispute.

"EGT is playing with fire, and they know it," said ITF President Paddy Crumlin. "They need to take a big step back and think about what they're trying to force through, then see sense and talk to the ILWU about how to resolve this issue before it escalates even further. The 350,000 plus dockers in the ITF will be watching how the company treats their American colleagues and, if the company makes it necessary, will be ready to take lawful solidarity action in support of the ILWU."

A similar message of support was received from the International Dockers Council (IDC), which issued a passionate expression of solidarity and pledge to support the struggle in Longview.

On the home front, support has come from the Washington State AFL-CIO, the Oregon State AFL-CIO, and Oregon State Building Trades. Longshore workers on the East Coast and Gulf states are also supporting the struggle in Longview. A statement issued by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) said: "We join in solidarity with our Sisters and Brothers of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in condemning the attack by police in riot gear on hundreds of ILWU member-protesters in Washington State and the detention of ILWU President Bob McEllrath." ILA President Harold Daggett said, "I stand with ILWU President McEllrath in proclaiming: 'It shouldn't be a crime to fight for good jobs in America.'" Daggett pledged the ILA's full support in the struggle against EGT.

The global fight against concessions

by International Vice President Ray Familathe

The ILWU is known as a powerful force here in the United States, and lately, we've been doing exactly that by reaching out to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the globe. With the onslaught of port concession agreements, many unions are facing tough battles to just retain the work they have performed for decades. In some cases, union are facing extinction.

Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, and Colombia are just few of the countries where port employers have initiated concession agreements to maximize financial opportunities, reduce labor costs and eliminate union participation.

As previously reported here in *The Dispatcher*, in Costa Rica 1500 union dockworkers faced elimination and asked for our help. With the assistance

of the ILWU and the ITF, the union was able to mount a defense and retain their jobs and their dignity. International President Bob McEllrath sent letters of concern to President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. We filed documents charging that the government of Costa Rica was violating terms of the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Full-page newspaper ads were placed in Costa Rica to publicize the issue and – most importantly – union members at the ports of Moin and Limon mobilized to make an effective and successful strategy.

At the recent ITF Dockers section meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Chairman Paddy Crumlin of the Maritime Union of Australia and I talked with delegates about the importance of solidarity and mutual cooperation in our battle against companies that seek to eliminate unions and labor agreements through port concessions.

A great example was the Port of Callao in Peru. One of the fastest grow-

ing ports in the world, Callao is a gem sought after by countries wanting to exploit their minerals, agriculture and seafood products, while taking advantage of the booming local economy to sell cars, TV's, shoes and anything else that can be imported.

Once again, APM Terminals (APM) and Dubai Ports World (DPW) seized the opportunity and ponied up huge sums of money to secure operating rights at Peru's terminals.

We were alerted to the situation in Callao right after DPW built their new terminal and opened without utilizing any of the current union workers. At one time the port employed up to 1100 union workers, but that number was reduced to about 500 after the companies demanded concessions and opened a new terminal.

In early May, International Executive Board member Mike Mitre, and I travelled with recently retired Local 13 member Greg Mitre to the Port of Callao. We met with officials from

APM and DPW to make it clear that the ILWU did not appreciate them circumventing the local union workforce. After further discussions that included the head of Callao's dockworkers union, a blueprint agreement was reached, requiring APM to hire the union workforce of foremen, clerks, and longshore stevedores.

Several weeks later, Brother Greg Mitre traveled back to Callao to help the union negotiate an agreement that included a new dispatch system with paid union dispatchers.

As of press time, the union workers are enjoying the new system of dispatch, with meal breaks and voluntary overtime.

The union in Callao now holds the ILWU in high regard. Costa Rican dockworkers in Limon and Moin have said they will forever be indebted to the ILWU. If you or your families are ever able to visit in these countries, I hope you will stop by the local union office to say hello and see how truly grateful these hard working union brothers and sisters are.

In addition to serving as ILWU International Vice President (Mainland), Ray Familathe is 2nd Vice President of the ITF Dockers Section.



ILWU members in Sitka, Alaska protest cruise ships that are refusing to hire ILWU longshore workers to perform local work.

Local 16 members fight to protect jurisdiction from cruise ships trying to cheat the system

The big cruise ships that visit Alaska's port cities during the summer months carry thousands of tourists who provide a welcome boost to the local economy and working families. But the cruise ship owners are trying to create a loophole in federal maritime laws that would allow them to avoid hiring local longshore workers.

Longshore workers are determined to protect longshore jurisdiction, beginning with a protest held on Monday, August 29 in Juneau against the cruise ships who are trying to cheat local workers. A similar protest was also held in Sitka, AK.

"It comes down to companies that are trying to cheat local working families by refusing to hire locally," explains Dennis Young, President of ILWU Local 16 in Juneau.

When the cruise ships arrive at one of Juneau's docks, there's no problem. ILWU longshore workers are there to secure the lines, set up the gangways, help passengers load and unload, move luggage, stock the ship with supplies and other routine duties.

But there's only so much dock space available during the busy summer season, so a growing number of cruise ships have been dropping anchor in local harbors instead of docking – then claiming that they're no longer under any obligation to hire longshore workers.

The vessels anchor and use their lifeboats, or tender boats, to bring passengers ashore and use their own crew to dock the tender boats and disembark the passengers.

Young says that ILWU members will continue their protests until the cruise ships start respecting the local workforce.

Local 200 remembers Pete Hendrickson

When longshoreman Pete Hendrickson of Local 200, unit 223, died in 2009, he left \$5,000 in his will for a big party in the Aleutian Islands port of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Alaska. On July 21, his wish came true with a \$10,000 bash for the whole community, thanks to a matching gift from the union, ILWU Local 200 unit 223.

The event included games for children, including the dunnage pull, where kids used a common local longshore tool, the pickaroon, to drag shortened versions of the wooden beams that support stacks of heavy shipping containers. Pete's mother Doris flew up from northern California, and is shown on the right cutting the cake prepared with a picture of Pete on a fishing trip. The lavish spread of munchies included salads, burgers, hotdogs and a roasted pig.



Jim Paulin photo

Celebrating the life of a son and union brother. The mother of Alaska ILWU member Pete Hendrickson's cut a cake decorated with an image of her late son on July 20 in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. Doris Hendrickson travelled from California to preside over the celebration of Pete's life that brought together the community in Dutch Harbor.

Solidarity is the theme at Labor Day celebrations

With workers under attack from politicians and corporate interests across the country, the labor movement responded with shows of labor solidarity in Labor Day events in San Francisco and in Southern California.

This year's Labor Day march and picnic in Wilmington, CA attracted over 1,000 union members, activists and families from all over Southern California. The event started with an ILWU-sponsored parade of union members who traveled on foot, motorcycles, floats and classic cars through the streets of Wilmington to Banning Park.

Local residents lined the streets

and the Southern California pensioners tossed sweets to children from their float.

There was a lot of celebrating at the event to honor the contributions of the working men and women who have built this country. But the labor leaders who spoke at the event responded to the recent attacks on unions by right-wing politicians and the unprecedented assault on Social Security and Medicare by both political parties, with a defiant tone. Union members were encouraged to redouble their efforts to protect collective bargaining rights by organizing in their workplaces and holding politicians accountable.

ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe spoke at the Wilmington picnic. In his speech, he highlighted



Truth, justice and the American working class: From left to right: Norman Ten, an SEIU 1021 activist dressed as Superman; SF Labor Council President, Connie Ford; SF Labor Council Executive Director, Tim Paulson; Captain Josh of the Local 10 Drill Team and ILWU pensioner Leroy King.



From Left to Right: Local 13 Executive Board member, Mark Jurisic, Local 13 Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr., Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Local 13 President Joe Cortez at the annual Labor Day picnic in Wilmington, CA.



Local 13's Labor Day breakfast: Now in its 11th year, the annual breakfast would not happen without the hard work of ILWU volunteers.

RockTenn workers take action, win improvements in Oakland

Local 6 members at the RockTenn recycling facility in Oakland went on strike for several hours early in the morning on August 30th after the company refused to bargain fairly for a new contract. Workers made the decision to strike after unfair labor practice charges were filed against the company.

Less than two weeks later, on Sept. 11th, workers overwhelmingly ratified a new agreement that will raise wages and move toward wage parity with workers in San Jose.

Before the action, negotiations with RockTenn had dragged-on for more than a year. The company had made it clear that they were not interested in hearing the workers' proposals, including the issue of wage parity with RockTenn workers in San Jose

who had been earning \$2.00 more per hour for the same work.

Recycling work at RockTenn can be hazardous. Workers face numerous hazards including sharp objects, discarded hypodermic needles, and dangerous trash compacting machinery. Amalia Cerrillo who has worked at the facility for 14 years, is only earning \$1.00 an hour more than when she first started. "It is unfair that the company is paying us so much less than the workers in San Jose," she said.

ILWU members from several Bay Area locals joined the picket in solidarity. Local 10 members were on hand to show their support including Local 10 President Richard Mead. Local 34 members came along with Local 6 members from several shops to picket in solidarity with the RockTenn workers. Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker was on hand and thanked all of the ILWU members for their solidarity.

the solidarity efforts of ILWU members in the fight to protect the collective bargaining rights of public employees under assault in Wisconsin and other states.

Familathe said it was important that the labor movement mobilize against the free trade agreements being pushed by President Obama.

"Free trade isn't free," Familathe said, noting that the agreements come at a high cost to workers and create a race to the bottom in wages and working conditions.

Before the march, ILWU Local 13 members hosted the annual Labor Day breakfast at the Dispatch Hall just a few blocks from the launching point of the parade. The breakfast, which began 11 years ago as a way to encourage participation in the annual march, has since grown into an institution of its own. It feeds upwards of 1,500 people a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage.

Free trade isn't free: ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe said that the free trade agreements being pushed by President Obama will be bad news for workers in the US and abroad.

San Francisco Labor Day march and rally

A contingent of ILWU members from Local 6 and Local 10 joined a Labor Day march and rally that highlighted UNITE HERE Local 2's contract struggles with the Hyatt Regency and Grand Hyatt. The main sticking point in the negotiations is the contract's "solidarity clause" that would allow union hotel workers to support non-union workers. The march began at Union Square stopped at the Hotel Frank on Geary and then marched to the Grand Hyatt.



Truck drivers refused to cross the picket line including two trucks from the City of El Cerrito that were driven by members who belong to SEIU Local 1021.

After several hours of picketing, the workers voluntarily voted to end their strike and return unconditionally to work.



Early morning picket: RockTenn workers in Oakland voted to strike just after 4 am on Aug 30th. They ratified a new contract on Sept. 11th.

LETTERS TO THE *DISPATCHER*

Dear Editor,

I compiled these quotes years ago that were made by some of our U.S. presidents about workers. As we approach Labor Day, I thought it might be a good idea to share them in *The Dispatcher*.

Abraham Lincoln: "If a man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. There is no America without labor, and to fleece one is to rob the other."

Woodrow Wilson: "While we are fighting for freedom, we must see, among other things, that labor is free."

Franklin Roosevelt: "If I were a worker in a factory, the first thing I would do would be to join a union."

Harry Truman: "The right to join a union of one's choice is unquestioned today, and is sanctioned and protected by laws."

Dwight Eisenhower: "Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice."

The right to join a union shouldn't be a Democratic or Republican issue, but strictly a matter of human rights and justice for American workers.

**Lou Loveridge, former president and 24-year member
Southern California Pensioners Group**

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the members of the ILWU for following what's been happening to union families who are under attack in Wisconsin and across America. I first contacted you back in February, when ILWU members arrived on a chartered airplane with other union activists from Southern California. Sending those reinforcements on that plane brought tears to my eyes.

My husband and I are both school teachers. He makes \$44,000 after 33 years of teaching high school math. We didn't cause the financial crisis, but we are being punished – along with so many other working families who support unions.

When Governor Walker and his anti-union supporters in the legislature started attacking union members, the results were ugly. My husband lost his collective bargaining rights, grievance procedures, seniority and raises. His 10 days of sick leave were reduced to 16 hours. There's no more early retirement package and a long list of other cuts. Although he was just 4 months shy of retirement, he refused to work in these immoral conditions

Local 23 awarded Tacoma 'City of Destiny' honor

Local 23 was honored by the City of Tacoma with the 2011 "City of Destiny" award. The members of Local 23 have long been active in a variety of projects to help make Tacoma a better place. Members and pensioners have been active every month since 1984 at St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen, preparing and serving meals to people in need. This year, Local 23 members also volunteered to participate in "Paint Tacoma Beautiful." They painted an elderly woman's house and fixed up her dog's house as well.

Members have also volunteered for the Multiple Sclerosis fundraising walk every year for 7 years. Over 90 walkers turned out this this year. All of these efforts are in addition to Local 23's annual toy drive.

Local 23's charities director, Dragan Butorac accepted the award on behalf of local 23 along with our volunteers.

The city of destiny award is a program is spearheaded by a City Council appointed Citizens Recognition Committee comprised of local community leaders from a broad array of backgrounds and areas of expertise. Since 1987, the City of Tacoma has honored over 200 outstanding volunteers through its City of Destiny Awards program. The Citizens Recognition Committee of individuals appointed by the City Council selects the winners.



ILWU Local 23 members received the Tacoma City of Destiny Award for years of committed service to the Tacoma community.

and resigned in protest because he will not work as a slave. This is our personal experience, but many others have a similar story.

The fight here is rough but thousands of us are volunteering to talk with our neighbors. Our goal is to replace the anti-union politicians in legislature and with a majority who will support working families and unions.

In late July, the building with our "We Are Wisconsin" campaign headquarters was burned down to a pile of rubble. An investigation is underway. The Plumbers and Steamfitters Union let us use their training center to continue our recall campaign against the six anti-union politicians. On August 9th, we succeeded in recalling two of the anti-union politicians, but needed one more to secure a majority. This was disappointing, but still impressive. Only two other politicians have ever been recalled in Wisconsin's 160-year political history. At least things seem to be moving in the right direction.

This remains a hell of a fight and both of us are unemployed, but we're still loyal to the union effort. All of us need to stand strong and stay united.

**Maggie O'Brien
Madison, WI**

Dear Editor,

I met an ILWU delegation of solidarity here in Madison, WI last winter. It meant a lot to us. Your display of genuine solidarity was beautiful and spoke loudly about the quality of your union and your membership.

**Bert G. Zipperer
Madison, WI**

Dear Editor,

The Dispatcher is a hell of a lot better paper than the *San Francisco Chronicle* rag where I worked as a printer for 30 years.

I'm always ready to stand in solidarity with the ILWU. Enclosed is a small check to cover a sub and costs.

**Bruce Larner, International Typographical Union, Local 21 (retired)
Inverness, CA**

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



San Francisco labor honors former Port Commissioner

The San Francisco Labor Council honored Mike Mike Hardeman, former head of Sign and Display Local 510 and a former San Francisco Port Commissioner. In the photo above from left to right: Farless Daily, Local 10 Sec.-Treasurer; Richard Mead, Local 10 President; Fred Pecker, Local 6, Sec.-Treasurer; Allen Fung, Local 34 Sec.-Treasurer; Mike Hardeman; Sean Farley, Local 34 President.

Mike Hardeman was presented with ILWU apparel for his decades of service

to the San Francisco labor movement and for his contributions to the maritime industry as a Port Commissioner. The labor breakfast started with a job action by UNITE HERE Local 2 members working at the Holiday Inn where the event was being held. Local 2 members are in contract negotiations there and management wants Local 2's support in allowing the company to hire non-union building trades contractors for the hotel's remodel. Local 2 members walked off the job at the start of the breakfast as a show of solidarity with the building trades. "If we get a good contract but have to sell out another union to get it, that is not a victory, that is a defeat and we will not stand for it," one Local 2 member said.

ILWU Local 13 member, Rich Dines, appointed to Long Beach Harbor Commission

Rich Dines, ILWU Southern California District Council President, was sworn in and seated at the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners meeting on August 8th. Dines was appointed by Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster in July and confirmed by the City Council on August 2nd.

Dines brings 15 years of experience working on the waterfront to his new position a port commissioner. He is also an active member of the Long Beach community. Dines is a board member of the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network and sits on the Policy and Steering Committee for California State University Long Beach's Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT).

Helping students attend college



ILWU Local 13, 63. 94 and Southern California Pensioners Group contributed over \$24,000.00 in scholarship funds this Spring to help 48 high school students attend college this fall. Eligible students wrote essays about the life of Harry Bridges and disclosed their grade point averages to a committee of teachers at 16 high schools who chose three winners at each site. "We were able to help students from 16 different high schools this year - several more than last year, which resulted in 12 additional scholarships," said Serrato. Local 13 also awarded 19 scholarships to ILWU family members. Student Anthony Van Guyse from Wilson High in Long Beach took top honors with a GPA of 4.52. Student John Amalfitano from San Pedro High (above, center) received his check from Local 13 President Joe Cortez (left) and Local 13 Scholarship Committee Chairman David Serrato. Both students will attend UCLA this Fall.



On July 27th, the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association presented \$28,000 in scholarships to 50 students at a reception held at the Local 10 hall in San Francisco.

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St. #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
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Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Northern California
Norm McLeod
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San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8363

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
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Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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Teamsters Assistance Program
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Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR
(604) 254-7911

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Robert B. Fernandez; Ernest Ortiz; Jack G. Ward; Clifton F. Eakin III; Henry K. Kelihoomaluu; Manuel Gonzalez Jr; Mike A. Cabrera; Vincent J. Di Leva; Robert S. Castillo; Joe P. Saenz, Jr; **Local 19:** Thomas S. Rogers; Raymond J. Millenaar; **Local 23:** Victor R. Martineau; Donald E. Ragsdale; **Local 34:** Eugene R. Campbell; **Local 52:** Frank A. Cappiello; William D. Crawford; **Local 54:** Fernando L. Pineda; **Local 63:** Michael Encinas; Gloria J. Williams; Ronald L. Hayes; Jon R. Fiamengo; Steve A. Cowell; Rachel A. Castillo; Theresa M. Evdokimoff; **Local 94:** Joseph G. Orozco

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Henry L. Schmidt (Wanda); **Local 10:** Willie Churchill (Louise); Adonis Hope (Bordenave); James Williams; Lee Watty; Eddie Valentine; Jorge L. Chavez;

Miguel Balinton; **Local 13:** Jose F. Lopez; Arnold R. Madrid (Madalen); Elmer E. Fematt; Phillip J. Costillo; Roland Payne; **Local 19:** Michael M. Brady; **Local 21:** Henry J. Anderson; Kenneth G. Fulbright; Gary R. Hansen (Christine Ann); Gary L. Heath; **Local 23:** Lloyd E. Gosney (Mary Anne); **Local 24:** Dewey W. Cox; **Local 32:** Cysul G. Norsby; **Local 63:** Gerald A. Cherveney; Luis C. Quiroz; **Local 92:** Raymond A. Ramey (Patricia); **Local 94:** Jerome Dominguez

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Shirley Tourville; Mandy J. St John; **Local 10:** Lorraine Reed; Faith Partier; Tommie J. Robinson; Florence R. Cooper; **Local 13:** Irene Mc Peak; Virginia Jackson; **Local 19:** Edna J. Armstrong; Sylvia Jacobson; **Local 24:** Norma J. Munoz; **Local 52:** Lucy A. Dike

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