



# THE DISPATCHER

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## Members make history in November elections

**I**LWU members were active in the November 4th elections. Hundreds volunteered to help with phone banking, precinct walking, and get-out-the-vote activities. The union helped nearly 50 ILWU members work full-time during the final weeks of the campaign in the western "swing states" where the presidential and U.S. Senate races were expected to be close and decisive: Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon and Nevada. Dawn Des Brisay from Local 40 managed the field effort.

"ILWU members did an awesome job out there talking with other union members about how we can make America better for working families. Those member-to-member conversations are the most powerful resources we have to make change," said Des Brisay.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Obama's victory in perspective

**O**n November 4th, Americans made it clear that they want our country to move in a different direction.

There's good reason to be hopeful. President-elect Barack Obama says he supports unions. He's walked on a picket line. He's worked as an organizer. He says workers aren't getting our fair share while the rich and corporations have been getting too much. He says we need more good-paying jobs and should stop subsidizing companies that send jobs overseas. He says he'll raise taxes for anyone making over \$250,000 and cut taxes for the rest of us. That sounds like a breath of fresh air.

But after the dust settles from Obama's victory, we'll have some heavy lifting to do if we want to see real change. That's because there's a war being waged everyday between those of us who work, and those who own the places where we work, where we bank, where we pay our mortgages, and where we shop. It's what we call the class struggle, but whatever word you use today, it's as much a fact of life today as it was 75 years ago when our union was founded. Looking back at our history suggests that we can't afford to sit on the sidelines – especially when an opportunity like Obama's election comes along.

When Franklin Roosevelt was elected president in 1933, workers had been organizing unions for decades, but they weren't making much progress against vicious employers who hired thugs and had laws and courts that were stacked against workers. Roosevelt called his campaign for change the "New Deal." He put millions of Americans to work, kept millions more from starving, honored working families instead of worship-

ping CEO's, and empowered workers and their unions. Within a year of his election, Roosevelt's administration had approved the ILWU's historic coastwise longshore agreement that followed a general strike in San Francisco and the killing of six brothers who gave their lives in waterfront struggles. The following year, in 1935, Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act that made unions legal and required employers to recognize them and negotiate contracts.

It's doubtful any of these changes would have happened if activists hadn't been out there organizing unions, holding strikes, or organizing the unemployed to protest in the streets. The role that ILWU organizers like Harry Bridges played was to push things as far as possible when times were tough – and then further when new opportunities arose – such as Roosevelt's election and the passage of new labor laws. The ILWU's success required both factors to be successful: militant organizers like Harry and sympathetic politicians like FDR.

We're not living in the 1930's anymore, but there are some similarities worth considering. Decades of deregulation and unchecked corporate greed were at the root of both the 1929 Stock Market Crash and today's financial crisis. Another common thread between then and now is that unions are declining just as they were in the early 30's, along with falling standards for most workers. While unemployment today is nothing like it was in the Great Depression, there are concerns that it could get a lot worse.

What remains to be seen is whether unions today can rise to the opportunities created by Obama's election in the same way that activists in the ILWU made their mark three generations ago when Roosevelt was elected. The ILWU

is trying to meet our historic responsibility on several fronts.

First, we're following through on our commitment to help new workers organize and join the ILWU. Our Organizing Department has scored some impressive victories during the past year: helping 600 workers vote to join our union at the Rite Aid Distribution Center in Lancaster who are now bargaining their first contract, helping dozens of security guards in the Northwest go union, and assisting IBU's effort to organize Marine Spill Response Corporation workers in Long Beach and Tacoma. Soon, the 500 workers at Blue Diamond in Sacramento will be voting whether to join the ILWU. Local 142 in Hawaii also scored a major organizing victory for hundreds of hotel workers in Princeville, Kauai, who won their first contract this fall. Each of these campaigns has required an immense focus of energy and resources. Last month, Obama sent the Blue Diamond workers a personal message of support. We'll know in a few weeks if his message of hope can overcome the climate of fear and employer threats that have plagued Blue Diamond workers for years.

Second, we have to help Obama follow through on his promise to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), the new federal law that would allow workers to join a union without being threatened or fired. The law already passed the U.S. House of Representatives, but a minority of 40 U.S. Senators (including John McCain) killed it in the Senate. We need 60 Senators who will vote for the EFCA so Obama can sign the bill and make it law.

On November 4th, we won new support for EFCA when voters in Oregon, New Mexico, Colorado, and other states chose Senators who care about



**Robert McEllrath**  
International President

working families. But even with those victories, we're still a few votes short. Getting those last few votes for EFCA could require one of the biggest fights in our lifetime. Big business just spent millions of dollars attacking candidates who supported EFCA in this last election, and they'll continue fighting us in the months and years ahead.

Finally, Local 13 members set an example for all of us by collecting more than a thousand petition signatures for the EFCA during the past few weeks. The effort by Local 13 members along with other ILWU locals, combined with thousands of union members around the country, has generated over a million petition signatures. Those petitions will be presented to President-elect Obama in the coming weeks.

Hundreds of ILWU members worked hard during the past year to elect President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and other candidates who pledged to help working families. All that unglamorous work of phone banking, precinct walking, and envelope stuffing has made new opportunities possible. We can't sit back now – let's finish the job and keep up the pressure to deliver the kind of change that working families and America need now.

*An injury to one is an injury to all.*

## LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

*Dear Editor,*

I sit here wondering how, at this time in our history, people could have thought about putting John McCain into the White House? I remember when Ronald Reagan was elected governor of California. He closed the mental hospitals and soon we started seeing homeless people on the street. I remember the first homeless man I saw after Reagan closed the hospitals; he was sitting on a heating grate with a blanket wrapped around him to keep warm. Those hospitals never re-opened, which is why me and other Local 10 members called Reagan the "father of the homeless." When Reagan left the White House, he left us with trillions of dollars in national

debt. Our country went from having the most credit to having the most debt. Now Bush is spending trillions on his unjust war in Iraq.

**J. Al Austin**  
Oakland, CA

*Dear Editor,*

The October issue of the "Dispatcher" quoted PCPA President Rich Austin, as saying nearly 50 million U.S. residents do not have health care. I believe it is closer to 70 million.

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

## DISPATCHER

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# Spill workers organize and take action to win contract

Workers employed by the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) at Long Beach, California, and Tacoma, Washington, have won their first IBU/ILWU contracts after years of organizing and two strikes.

“It took a long time, but we stuck together and kept up the pressure until we won a good contract,” said Klete Freudenstein, a Tacoma-based MSRC responder who served with other rank-and-file members on the union negotiating committee.

The new three-and-a-half-year agreement was ratified with 100% approval by workers at both Tacoma and Long Beach on October 10th. The contracts include hourly wages up to \$32 an hour, with increases up to 13% in the first year followed by 3% raises in each of the following 3 years. They also won a grievance and arbitration procedure, maintenance of health benefits, and a union security clause. The retirement plan is a 401(k) with an employer contribution.

The victory came after a successful week-long strike in mid-August by MSRC workers in Tacoma. A strong showing of solidarity on the picket line was made by IBU members, Local 23 longshore workers, and Jobs With Justice activists. Tacoma’s *News Tribune* featured the strike and a photo of Local

23 supporters on the front page of their business section.

MSRC workers in Long Beach hit the picket lines for five days back in 2005 after MSRC took over a harbor-area response company, then refused to honor the existing union contract. The 2005 strike in Long Beach inspired the MSRC workers in Tacoma to start organizing their shop and join the ILWU.

Spending long hours on the water covered in crude oil or bunker fuel is just part of the job for MSRC workers, who are trained to scramble on short notice when there’s a spill involving oil or other hazardous materials. Staffing policies have been a concern and were an important issue in bargaining. The company has used a system they call “cascading” which requires redeployment of their 200-person workforce from across the country when there’s a spill.

“Working with unions has been a new experience for MSRC, and we’re still getting to know each other,” said IBU President Alan Cote. “But there’s a lot we could do to help each other on issues of common concern, such as our mutual commitment to protecting the environment – and the ILWU’s expertise in working with state and federal legislators.”

“There are still plenty of responders working on the West Coast who want a contract, so this agreement is an important step in helping them join the union,” said Cote.



**Trucker supports MSRC strike in Tacoma:** Striker Klete Freudenstein had no trouble winning support from this trucker and other port workers during a week-long strike in August that helped MSRC workers get their first contract.

# Canadian union honors ILWU members for May Day action



**President Dave Coles of Canada's CEP union accepts a gift from ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams.**

The courageous action by ILWU longshore workers who gave up their pay on May Day to support our troops and protest the war in Iraq continues to win praise at home and abroad. I recently had the honor of receiving an “ILWU Peace Prize” awarded on behalf of these workers who inspired Canadian union members at a time when they need a boost.

One of Canada’s largest private-sector unions, the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP), honored rank-and-file ILWU members

for the May Day action at the CEP convention in Montreal on Oct. 26-30.

Union members in Canada are facing problems much like our own due to anti-union governments and attacks from big business. The 150,000 members of the CEP have been hit especially hard because 32,000 Canadian forestry workers have lost their jobs in the past five years as plants closed, investment went offshore, construction has declined, and forest resources have dwindled. President Dave Coles gave a stirring address that emphasized the need to organize, stay active, and build solidarity.

The CEP is facing a tough fight in their energy sector, where 260 employees have been locked out for the past

year by Petro Canada which wants to break CEP’s pattern labor agreements. CEP delegates passed a resolution calling for a boycott of Petro Canada to continue until the lockout is ended and workers are treated fairly.

It was in this context of troubled times that CEP members found inspiration in the action taken by the ILWU workers who protested the war on May Day. I had the honor of traveling to Montreal at the request of International President Bob McEllrath to accept an award on behalf of ILWU members from their brothers and sisters in the CEP. When I was called to the stage, the convention exploded in a lengthy standing ovation to acknowledge the courage that our members and union showed on May 1st. I was deeply moved and touched by their expression of gratitude and appreciation.

The award itself was very special: a hand-carved “Talking Stick” crafted by First Nations artist Eugene Stewart, who is a member of the Haisla Nation in British Columbia. Stewart said that the Stick represents the important family groups in his home village of Kitmaat: the Raven, Eagle, Black Fish and Beaver clans. The Raven on top represents his grandmother, who is the oldest woman in his village.

In accepting this gift, I thanked



**A gift of solidarity:** ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams received a special “talking stick” prize from Canada’s CEP union that was carved by artist Eugene Stewart to honor ILWU dockworkers who went without pay on May Day to support the troops and protest the war in Iraq.

Mr. Stewart for carving such a beautiful and powerful symbol of the bond between workers in our two nations who are connected by a commitment to solidarity and social justice. Upon my return, I presented the Talking Stick to President McEllrath, who is arranging to have it displayed at our union headquarters in San Francisco.

The 1,500 participants at the CEP convention were excited to hear about Barack Obama’s impending victory in the presidential race and hope it will inspire working families in their country to reject the conservative, corporate-friendly, anti-union governments that have dominated Canadian politics for more than two decades. I appreciated the warmth and hospitality that the delegates and officers showed me during my visit, and look forward to reciprocating with CEP members in the future.

– Willie Adams

**“What did you learn from working on the elections?”**



“I spent more than 8 weeks working on campaigns here in Oregon. My main job was to encourage members of the ILWU and other maritime unions to volunteer and support working families’ issues. We got quite a few volunteers to come out for phone banking and canvassing. We spent all our time talking to union households. I’d volunteered myself a little bit before this election, but this was my first experience working on a big campaign, and it helped me see the strengths and weaknesses of the labor movement. It was inspiring to see so many new voters get registered and involved for the first time. I had some amazing talks with voters at their homes, including a woman who began by telling me that Barack Obama might be the “anti-Christ,” but I spent time talking and listening to her until we found common ground on the real issues that working families are facing.”

**Shanti Lewallen**  
Portland, OR



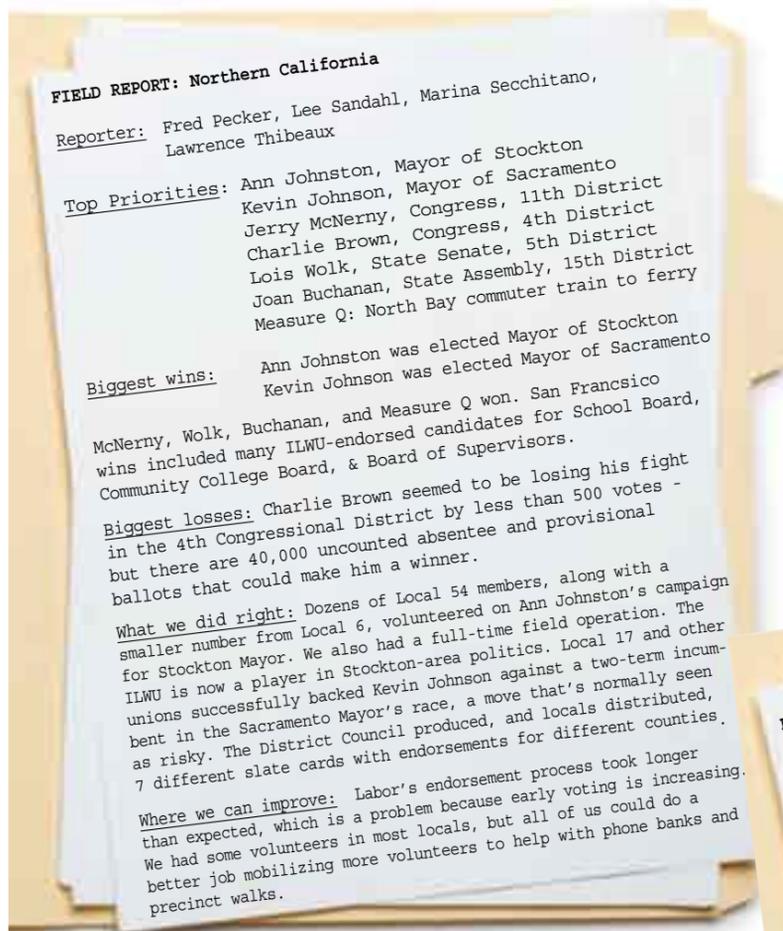
“I’ve run for office and served in the Alaska State Legislature, but I’ve never worked with so many different unions as we did on this election. There was a lot of energy coming from labor. We were out campaigning with the Local 13 members at 7 a.m. when it was 7 degrees outside, and they did a great job! We organized rallies and visited union households. In a few cases, people had concerns about issues like guns and abortion, but it was really only a handful – and most of them were worried because they had so little information. For the most part, we got a positive response – people were giving us the thumbs-up, and honking their horns to show support.”

**Cliff Davidson**  
Kodiak, AK



“I spent two weeks up in Reno with six of us from Locals 13 and 63. Four years ago, I also went to Reno where I did campaign work, but it seemed like a lot more neighborhoods were pro-Bush back then. It was different this time. I knocked on doors for two weeks with hardly any negative responses. There were about 50 union members walking each day, and about half of them lived in the Reno area. On the weekends, we had up to 200 union volunteers join us from nearby and out of state. We trained some new activists who were doing this for the first time, and I learned a few things myself. The organizers always had a plan. They kept us busy, and asked us for ideas and suggestions to make things better – which made our participation more enjoyable. I was really excited to be a part of this historic experience.”

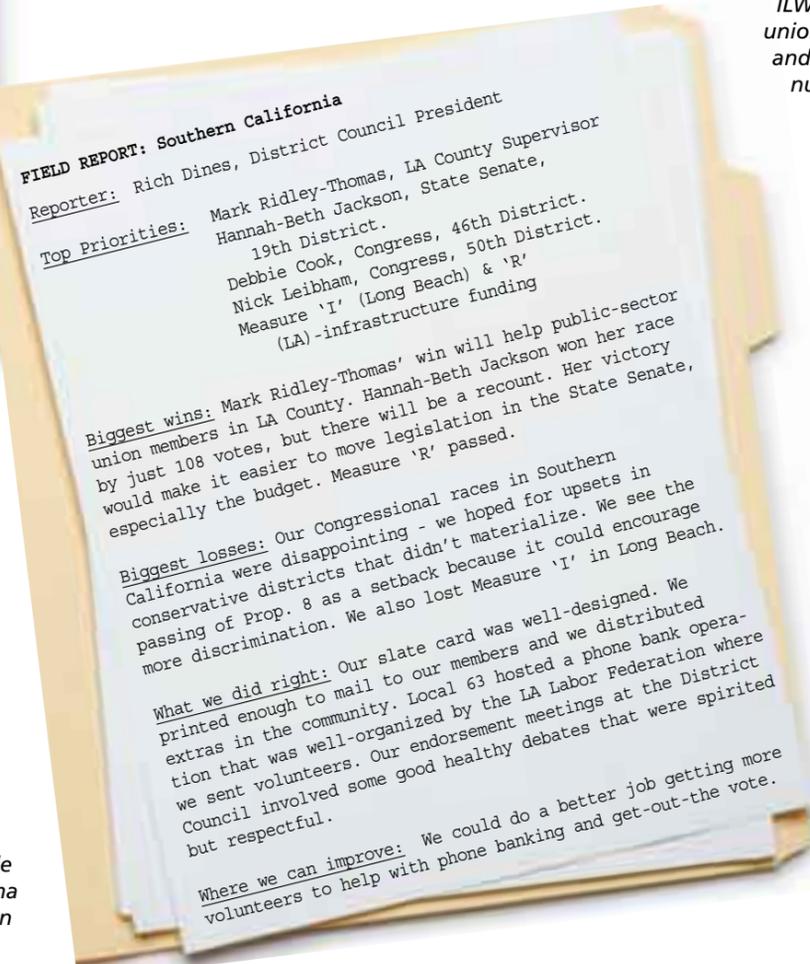
**Al Green**  
San Pedro, CA



ILWU’s Reno team joined union members from near and far to turnout record numbers of new voters.



The Colorado team worked hard in Denver’s high altitude to elect Barack Obama and defeat anti-union ballot measures.



Team New Mexico who supported...



"I worked in Denver, Colorado, with ILWU members and people from 25 different unions that came from everywhere. There was a huge campaign here because anti-union forces around the country know that unions are getting stronger in Colorado, especially the public sector unions. There's a big power struggle happening there between unions and these out-of-state, anti-union forces, and it's a fight we can't afford to lose. For us to reach where we need to be as union members in America, it's going to take a collective effort, and this campaign was a good example of that. We even worked with some business groups that were on board with us. We put in long days and nights doing phone banking, canvassing, handing out pamphlets, and getting people to vote early. The spirit and energy level was high and the camaraderie was unparalleled. We began our days with song and labor chants. The bonding among different rank-and-filers, pensioners, locals, and internationals was fantastic."

**Herbert Johnson, aka "Laptop"**  
San Francisco, CA



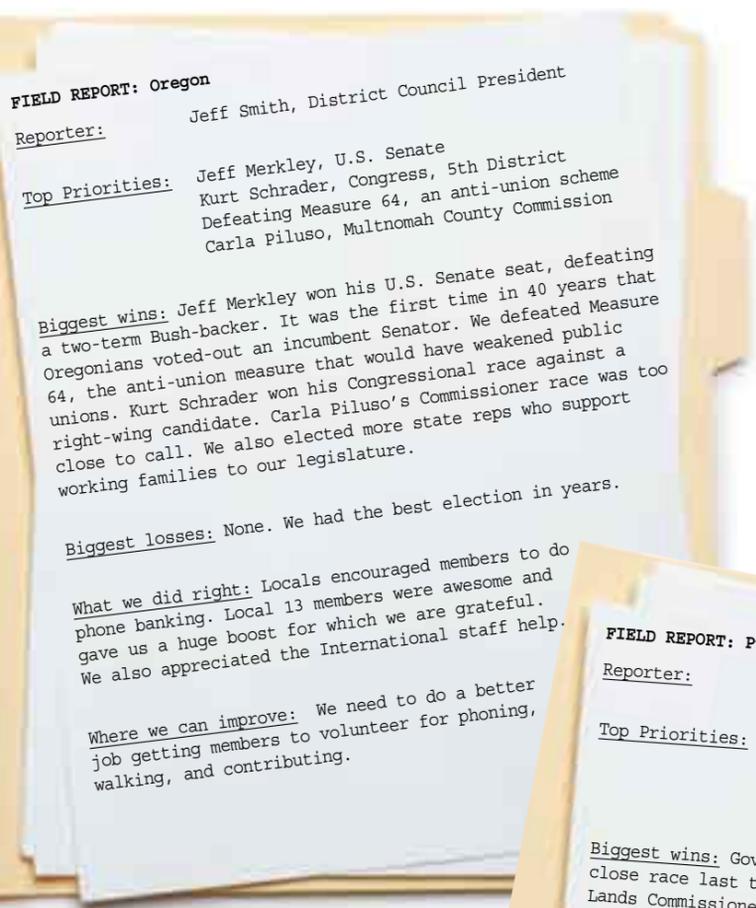
"I went to Las Vegas where I had an amazing, eye-opening experience. I didn't know what to expect when I arrived, because I'd never done anything like this before. When they said we'd be going door-to-door, I was worried. But when 12 of us from the ILWU arrived at the headquarters, we got a warm welcome from other union members. I did my first door with Mike Fennelly from Local 6 who'd done this before, so he knew what to say. Our first house was in a working class neighborhood where a woman answered the door and was really excited to see us. By the time we got to the next house, I was really into it and ready to do something I didn't think I could. We only had one or two negative people each week; most people were positive. I liked being part of a bigger cause to get our country going in the right direction again."

**Hector Aguilar**  
Los Angeles, CA



"We worked on the campaign in Albuquerque with a great group of union members who came from California, Texas, and the state of Washington where we live. Some of the volunteers from other unions had already been working in New Mexico for months before we arrived. It's time for people to consider the fate of our great country rather than purely their own personal situations. We think Obama will work to this end, and he's pro-labor – which will help get Americans back to work. He'll also help the U.S. regain our stature in this troubled world. We feel enlightened to have worked with the ILWU and other union members who were a part of this campaign that made history in America."

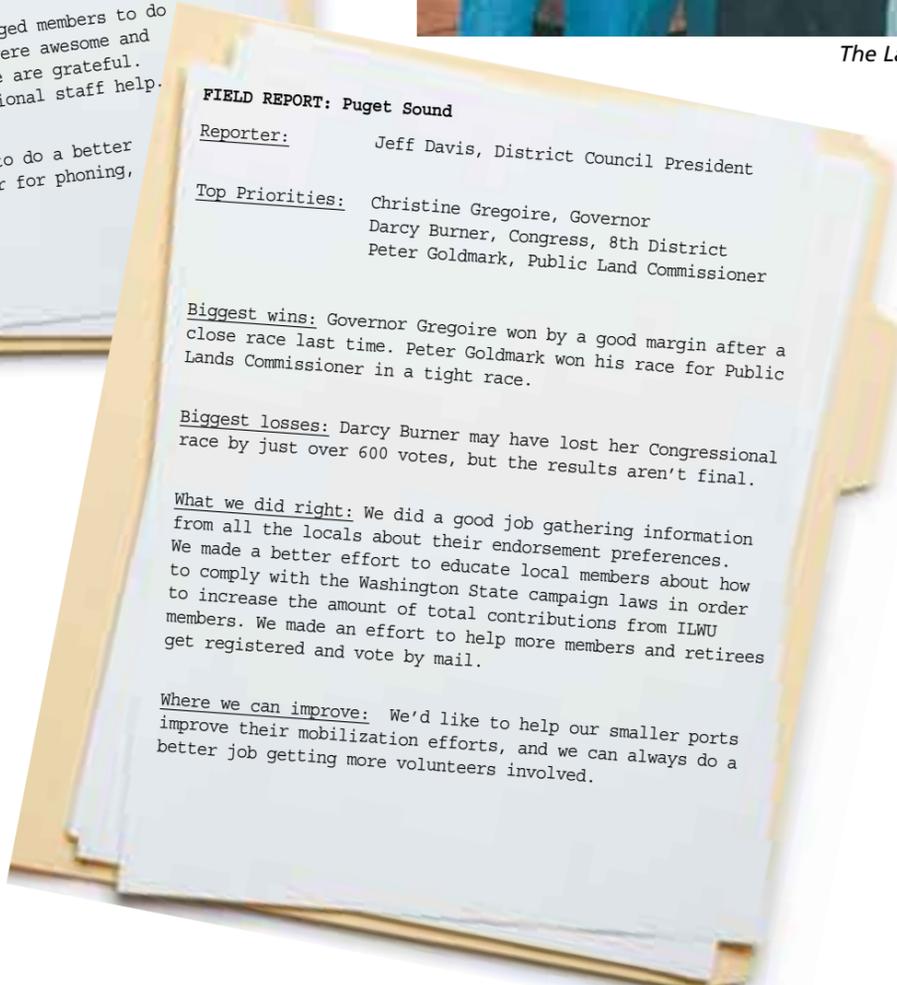
**Robert & Claire Everitt**  
Nahcotta, WA



The Las Vegas team pounded the pavement to help deliver the "Silver State" for Barack Obama.



ILWU members in Oregon helped elect a new U.S. Senator and help working families.



ILWU members in Oregon helped win a close race for U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, defeat an anti-union ballot measure, and elect Barack Obama by a healthy margin.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Local 4** members hosted a 2-day training in October for students from an alternative high school who were interested in learning about unions and longshore work. Of the 11 students in attendance, only one of them had grown up in a union household, and most said they knew no union members at all. After talking with Local 4 members, watching films about the ILWU and taking a 2-hour course from International Organizer Mary Winzig, the students participated in a mock union election and enthusiastically persuaded one another to join a union by an 11-1 vote. Two days later, Local 4 members took the students on a hands-on tour of the terminal.

**Local 6** members voted on October 21st for a new business agent, Cesar Garibay. The local has also hired a new dues clerk, Rita Marquez, along with a new office manager, Barbara Bonner. Contract negotiations between the local and San Leandro Hospital started on November 6th. Discussions with C&H Sugar over an equipment dispute continue.

**Local 8** members set the record straight after U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith gave them a very public "shout-out" at the end of a televised debate on October 9th where the anti-union Senator squared-off against ILWU-endorsed candidate Jeff Merkley. Several longshore workers, including President Jeff Smith, Jerry Lawrence, Shanti Lewallen, Lloyd Green and Stuart Strader, were filmed on the waterfront at Terminal 2 the next morning to make it clear that Gordon Smith was too much like George Bush: which is why the ILWU supported Jeff Merkley for U.S. Senate. The video (linked to [www.ilwu8.org](http://www.ilwu8.org)) was widely circulated among Oregon longshore workers, other union members, and campaign staffers, who thanked longshore workers for speaking out and setting the record straight... The following week, Local 8 members hosted a 50-person, pro-Merkley door-to-door canvass that featured former Governor Barbara Roberts, and excellent barbeque served by member Verl Green. The day before the election, Merkley toured Terminal 6 with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, and the two of them thanked ILWU members for their support of working families... On the 41st day of the Machinists' strike at Boeing, Local 8 opened their doors to help 60 strikers who applied for work as casuals. The Oregonian, KEX radio, and KGW news – the three largest media outlets in Oregon – came to the dispatch hall to talk with longshoremen and machinists. Pres. Jeff Smith told the *Oregonian*, "It's a longstanding history that we have, that whenever unions are on strike, when we have extra work left, we would hire striking union people rather than let the work go unfilled."

**Local 9** members may finally get some health benefits five years after the Port of Seattle closed down their warehousing operations in 2003. On October 4th, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the Port of Seattle still owes retired members of Local 9 health care benefits – despite the closure. The court found that the former warehouse workers had accrued vested rights to ongoing health care benefits, and noted there was no contract language saying otherwise. Local 9 members used to move freight inside a port warehouse used by Hasbro Toys until 2002, when the company closed the facility. According to Local 9 Secretary-Treasurer Tony Hutter, attorneys for both sides are still resolving details of the decision, and will have more news soon.

**Local 10** members and supporters held another rally outside the Yolo County Courthouse on October 6th to show solidarity for two of their brothers who were charged with resisting arrest during a 2007 incident that occurred when the pair returned to the port of Sacramento



**Local 10 members rallied to support their brothers at the courthouse in Woodland, CA.**

after lunch and a security guard and Sheriff's deputy asked to search their car. The Sacramento Labor Council has passed a resolution of support asking for the charges to be dropped. Negotiations with the District Attorney continue; a trial date has been set for December 15th at the Courthouse in Woodland, CA.

**Local 13** activist James 'Jimmy' Monti has been burning up clipboards, collecting more than 1,000 signatures from co-workers to support the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). Monti is leading the EFCA effort with his co-workers to keep the pressure on the U.S. Senate and new president. "Workers should be able to join the ILWU and other unions without getting fired," he explains when he's gathering the signatures. The petitions from Local 13 will be combined with more than one million others that union members have gathered. The goal is to present them to President-elect Barack Obama in the coming weeks... Some local 13 members were working on campaigns in the harbor area, but dozens more left to work in Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and Alaska. For some, the colder weather required giving up their usual shorts and t-shirts – in Alaska, it was 7 degrees one morning when they were standing outside to reach early morning commuters in downtown Anchorage.



**Running to help the homeless: Local 13 Health Benefits Officer Jerry Avila and wife Gabby ran in the Long Beach marathon October 12th to raise money for the Rescue Mission.**



**Auxiliary #8 member Ida Taylor talks to Obama at a Las Vegas rally.**



**Angel Blanco of Local 13 gets up close and personnel with President-elect Barack Obama in Albuquerque.**

**Local 17** held a Steward's Training on Saturday, November 1st that attracted about 15 members for an all-day session. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more. Most who attended were newer stewards, and some had just been elected. Fortunately two veteran stewards were on hand to help; Bob Tatosian from Kraft Foods and Bill Sligar from Weyerhaeuser. ILWU Education Director Gene Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann organized the training. Local 17 officers Jeff Carter, Jack Wyatt, Sr., and Everett Burdan assisted, along with attorney William Wright. "It was a great event with lots of member participation and involvement that kept things

**James "Jimmy" Monti of Local 13 (far right) has been leading an effort to gather more than 1,000 petitions to support the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA).**



**Local 17 members phone banked to help elect Kevin Johnson, the new Mayor in Sacramento.**

lively, said President Carter. "I'd encourage other locals to take advantage of the training through the ILWU Education Department."

**Local 19** awarded a host of \$730 scholarships at their October 9th membership meeting. Four winners received their prizes from the *Local #19 – Stevedoring Services of America Safety Scholarship*: Jazzlyn Cabaccang (daughter of Gilbert Cabaccang), Krista Auckland (daughter of Dan Auckland), Katrina Perry (daughter of Jon Perry), and Jessica Yates (daughter of Ken Cavin). The winner of Local 19's *Edward Kendall Memorial Scholarship* was Kiklas Enquist (son of Scott Enquist). Jessica Ventoza (daughter of Matt Ventoza) won the *Melvin Stenberg Memorial Scholarship*... This year's cruise ship season saw a record number of vessels visiting the Port of Seattle – a total of 210. The current cruise ship dock, Terminal 30, will be converted back into a container terminal for China Shipping, and a completely new cruise ship dock is being constructed at Terminal 91 for the Holland-America and Norwegian Cruise Lines... Cruise ship tourism wasn't the only operation expanding at the port this season. The port exported a record amount of grain this year, although imports are way down as the nation's economy slides into a deepening recession and the dollar has increased in value against foreign currency.

**Local 23's** dragon-boat racing team won first place in the 250-meter race in the Tahoma Division on September 13 during the Commencement Bay Maritime Fest. According to team member Holly Hulscher, eight female and 12 male paddlers stroked to victory to the beat of their team drummer. Local 23 members supported the team through its fundraising efforts for the fourth consecutive year. Dragon boats are very long and narrow human-powered boats which originated more than 2,000 years ago in ancient China and have been raced as an international sport since 1976.



**Local 23 members placed first in Tacoma's dragon boat races.**

Union-Pacific railroad just signed a contract with the Port of Tacoma which will bring more work to the local. The new contract should also create a healthy competition between Union-Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe, which has had a monopoly on rail cargo from the port for many years, said Local 23 President Conrad Spell.

**Local 46** has 160 members working at Port Hueneme, California who elected new officers on Sept. 18th. President Milo Valdivia and Secretary-Treasurer Jess Herrera were sworn-in on Oct. 3rd. Port Hueneme, like many other West Coast ports, is experiencing significant monthly declines in import revenues. At Port Hueneme, it's down between approximately 20-25 percent. So it was with some relief and celebration that Local 46 members loaded 2,000 General Motors autos onto the vessel *Shanghai* on October 21 for sale in China. Normally, the port imports Maseratis, Volvos, Suzukis and other foreign-made autos, in addition to handling breakbulk, bananas, and other cargo. Rising demand for bigger and more expensive cars in China is behind the auto exports. As a Harbor Commissioner, Local 46 Secretary-Treasurer Herrera visited China in 2006 on a fact-finding mission for the port and saw how Chinese consumers were beginning to prefer American-made autos over their own. Buicks are especially popular! Herrera thinks the port will continue regular exports of GM autos to China.

**Locals 52 and 19** were recognized on October 11th by *Washington State Jobs with Justice* with a special award for their role in the 2008 May Day job action when thousands of longshore workers gave up a day's pay to support the troops and protest the war in Iraq. At the ceremony, Jobs With Justice Co-Chair Terri Mast (who also serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Inlandboatmen's Union) recognized Puget Sound members onstage, including ILWU Legislative Committee Chair Max Vekich, with the following remarks: "We honor the members of the ILWU for their commitment to using workers' power to demand peace and justice, for their commitment to rank-and-file democracy which made the action possible, and for their leadership in helping to mobilize labor and community supporters in the Puget Sound to reclaim May Day as a workers' holiday."



**ILWU members in the Puget Sound were honored by Jobs With Justice for their May Day action against the Iraq war.**

**Local 54** members made their municipal and county elections a major priority this time, going all-out for Stockton mayoral candidate Ann Johnston, along with other City Council and County Board candidates... President Marc Cuevas says the Port of Stockton expects the rice harvest to be coming through for export a little later this year.

**Local 63** was the place to be in the evening hours if you were a union activist doing election work in Southern California. Hundreds of members from dozens of different unions visited local 63 offices in the evening hours to help with a massive phone bank operation that called swing-state union-households in Nevada, New



Earl "Skip" Southworth was elected to the City Council in Unalaska and Dutch Harbor.



Alaskan Dennis Robinson was also elected to the City Council.

Mexico, Ohio and Colorado. The operation was managed by the LA County Federation of Labor.

Alaska's Longshore Division met October 10-14 for their final caucus before contract negotiations with container companies. They've already completed the M&R Agreement in Dutch Harbor and will soon be negotiating their Security Guards contract... International Executive Board member Pete Hendrickson said that Alaska's ILWU longshore workers noticed an uptick in cruise ships this year, but there were fewer American—and more European—accents heard among the passengers. Given the economic crises on both continents, there may be less chatter and fewer passengers next season... Offloading the catch and provisioning fishing vessels makes up a sizeable portion of dock work in the Bristol Bay region and other parts of Alaska. Fishery forecasts for the season ahead predict that catches may be down as much as 27 percent for prime species like pollock that are used in many processed fish products. This would be the second year of declining catches. Schools of fish continue to migrate further north, making it harder for shipping fleets to catch them... Pete said that Shell oil continues to press for offshore drilling rights in Bristol Bay, but local fishermen are concerned that the drilling activity could hurt the salmon, crab, cod, and pollock fisheries... Last year, Dutch Harbor's longshore workers travelled to a remote area of Bristol Bay during the salmon season to demand their right to loading work on trampers owned by the Seatrade and Boyang companies. Jobs for Alaskan longshore workers are supposed to be protected by the Alaska Exception to the Im-

migration and Nationality Act. But companies refused to honor the agreement, so the union filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor. A year later, with help from ILWU attorneys, heavy fines were levied against the two companies. Seatrade has paid the fine, but Boyang has appealed. The feds have asked the union and Boyang to reach a settlement and negotiations are continuing... Two Dutch Harbor longshoremen have been elected to the Unalaska and Port of Dutch Harbor City Council. Earl "Skip" Southworth and Dennis Robinson won their seats on a platform that promised to improve the quality-of-life and well-being for the town's 5,000 residents. Among the initiatives that Southworth said he'd like to promote is the creation of a geothermal energy production plant for the city that could be financed from an interested investor. Non-polluting electricity produced by the area's volcanic geology could power an entire fleet of electric trucks and other vehicles at the port which exports more seafood than anywhere in the world. Southworth also wants to focus resources on job creation at the port through enhancing trade via the Northwest Passage, as global warming opens faster routes to Eurasia because the polar ice cap is melting.

ILWU Canada Local 502 is calling all songwriters and musicians! If you play or write songs about longshore work or the union, Tim Farrell from Local 502 in Vancouver would like to hear from you. He's putting together a CD, and wants to hear your songs. A friend with a studio and record company is helping with the project. They're talking about organizing a weekend where ILWU musicians could meet and play music together. Please send your songs to [tfarrells@shaw.ca](mailto:tfarrells@shaw.ca) or ship them the old-fashioned way to:

Tim Farrell  
c/o ILWU Local 502 Social Club  
11828 Tannery Road  
Surrey BC Canada  
V3V 3W7



Local 40 member Dawn DasBrisay coordinated the ILWU field operation that helped elect Barack Obama.



Members from Local 54 and Local 6 helped elect Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston and put the ILWU on the local political map.

## TRANSITIONS

### RECENT RETIREES:

**Local 8:** George C. Lutz; James L. McMahon; **Local 10:** Reginald L. Mayfield; **Local 12:** Dennis L. Gerber; **Local 13:** Rudy M. Urquides; Peter Galarza; Sydney E. Jacobson; Charles L. Hoy; John D. Canaday; David E. Erickson; Ronald Pesusich; Isau S. Borden; Frank S. Martinez; Edmund L. Maese; Ronald L. Reynolds; Carlos V. Dominguez; Carlos Acevedo; Tingsun Kwok; Gonzalo Venegas; Daniel G. Gandara; Ali K. Al-Amin; Helmut F. Mueller; **Local 18:** Gary C. Powell; **Local 19:** Kenneth I. Taylor; Eugene P. Crotty; **Local 21:** David L. Yokel; **Local 23:** Andrew P. Douvis; Allen Clemensen; John M. Antonson; **Local 24:** Daniel C. Peterson; **Local 26:** Gregorio G. Chavez; Albert Hobbs; **Local 34:** Hanson Lee; **Local 46:** Manuel D. Sanchez; **Local 52:** Frances C. Haynes-Herrera; John G. Kritsonis; Herbert L. Neeson; **Local 63:** Robert A. Richey; Robert J. Stahl; Delfin D. Echave; **Local 91:** Jorge B. Partida; **Local 92:** Erwin E. Owen; **Local 94:** Manuel Cabrera

### DECEASED:

**Local 7:** Rudy A. Sepich; **Local 13:** Samuel Rye; Jesus A. Talamantes; Kenneth D. Todd; Samuel Andrade; **Local 14:** James H. McNaughton; Toshio Tomita; **Local 18:** Bobby J. Foreman; **Local 21:** Keith G. Jacobs; **Local 23:** Kenneth Marshall; Clyde Currie; **Local 24:** Charles W. Ingram; **Local 26:** Charles G. Roland; **Local 27:** Andy W. Michaelis; **Local 32:** August P. Paglia; **Local 34:** Paul P. Mendiola; **Local 40:** Alfred E. Clason; **Local 52:**

Herbert D. Thompson; Donald K. Crepeau; **Local 63:** Quirino J. Manzo; **Local 94:** Michael L. Liams.

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 10:** Juanita Johnson; Doloris Vegas; **Local 13:** Petra B. Gomez; Alice L. Bullard; Dorothy Phillips; Emma Jean Jones; **Local 27:** Dolores Fitzpatrick; **Local 34:** Muriel Carter; Grace A. Patterson; Alta A. Crawford; **Local 40:** Yetta A. Hamilton; **Local 52:** Nell M. Peters; Neva C. Sullivan; **Local 54:** Ova N. Smith; **Local 63:** Lola F. Grey; **Local 91:** Thelma Ferreira; Emily Brown; **Local 94:** Frances L. Dunbar; **Local 98:** Elizabeth Johnson; Lorraine A. Collen.

### NEW SURVIVORS:

**Local 10:** Mercedes A. Bangay (Joe); **Local 12:** Jan C. Hiveley (Delbert); **Local 13:** Mary L. Dorsett (Carleton); Beatrice C. Talamantes (Jesus); Albertha M. Martinez (Levi); Mary Malnar (Michael); Slavia Herrera (Ernesto); **Local 21:** Kay P. Goodrich (Clifford); **Local 23:** Sharon D. Rinehart (Joel); Ida M. Currie (Clyde); **Local 26:** Linda D. Roland (Charles); **Local 29:** Eloisa Lopez (Victor); **Local 34:** Elizabeth Mendiola (Paul); Zaira J. Todaro (Frank); Frances A. Erickson (Leonard); **Local 52:** Josephine J. Pirak (Tony); **Local 63:** Margaret Manzo (Quirino); Florida Villescas (Richard); Jing Zhang (Benito M. Juarez); Joyce E. Schroeder (William); Cheri C. Drudge (George); **Local 91:** George E. Jacobsen; **Local 94:** Evelyn K. Bell (Raymond); Connie Pacheco (Frank); **Local 98:** Ruth A. Alexander (Jack).  
(deceased in parenthesis)

### Corrections

**Local 13:** Rudy M. Urquides was erroneously listed in the October issue as "deceased" but should have been listed as "retired." We regret the error and apologize to the families and co-workers.

**Local 26:** Charles Roland was erroneously listed in the October issue as "retired" but should have been listed as "deceased." We regret the error and apologize to the families and co-workers.

## LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

continued from page 2

It is criminal that the world's greatest economic power, at this time, anyway, is the only industrialized country in the entire world that does not provide universal health care for its residents

Randy C. Vekich  
Aberdeen, WA

Dear Editor,

I was a Precinct Committee Officer for Clear Lake Precinct #116 here in Washington. There were about 800 registered voters living in 500 households in my precinct.

At my own expense I printed 500 postcards calling on voters to vote for Barack Obama for president, and to re-elect Governor Chris Gregoire. I also urged the election of other Democrats for national, state, and local offices.

My total cost? About \$160 including postage. Why did I do this? In my 67 years on earth, I believe the elections in 2008 were the most important in my lifetime.

Using their surrogates in Congress and state legislatures, the richest 10% in our nation are dictating programs and policies that affect the bottom 90%. Control by corporate power and the wealthy elite are components of fascism. I am not an alarmist. Having said that, I believe we are on the precipice of fascism. Fascism is defined by many as having 14 central points:

1. powerful and continuing nationalism;
2. disdain for the recognition of human rights;
3. identification of "enemies" (scapegoats) as a unifying cause;
4. supremacy of the military;
5. rampant sexism;
6. controlled mass media;
7. obsession with national security;
8. religion and government are intertwined;
9. corporate power is protected;
10. labor is suppressed;
11. disdain for intellectuals and the arts;
12. obsession with crime and punishment;
13. rampant cronyism and corruption;
14. fraudulent elections.

Sound familiar? That's why I believe that the 2008 was a do or die election for America's working class. And that's why I did all I could to help elect Obama and other progressive Democrats.

Rich Austin  
Mount Vernon, WA

Dear Editor,

We recently received a copy of your new collective bargaining agreement for Longshore workers. This document will help the Indian dockers who are in the final stages of negotiating their own collective bargaining agreement.

The Indian economy is declining because of the global recessionary trend. We are eagerly looking forward to the results of your U.S. presidential election, and hope it will help reverse the current trend. We are looking forward to a new chapter in U. S. history.

P. K. Raman, Secretary  
Transport & Dock Workers Union  
Mumbai, India

continued on page 8

## LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

continued from page 7

Dear Editor,

Thanks for covering our Bloody Thursday Picnic in the July-August *Dispatcher*. Families and pensioners from locals 19, 52, and 98 were all there celebrating ILWU solidarity. Scott Martinez from Local 19 did an excellent job organizing the event as he has for the past six years. His family also helped, including his father Danny Martinez (retired from Local 19) who was there setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning, and tearing down. Wes Young was the chief BBQ chef; this must be his twentieth year. Scott and Wes both said this would be their last year; I hope not!

I'd also like to thank Teresa Lewis from Local 52 who held a BBQ outside Local 19 in memory of her late husband Butch Bowman from Local 19. He was one of the most phenomenal crane operators and human beings I have ever known. Over 700 people attended his memorial. Teresa paid for the entire BBQ then donated every dollar to the Picnic Fund! Like most "doers" in our union, she doesn't want credit but truly deserves it.

Sean O'Donnell, Local 52  
Seattle, WA

Dear Editor,

The October issue of the *Dispatcher* listed me as deceased, but I'm alive and well! I did retire on October 1st, so I should have been listed under the "Retired" column in your Transitions section instead of "Deceased." Could you please correct this in the next issue – I'm already getting phone calls! Thank you.

Rudy M Urquides  
San Pedro, CA

**Editor's notes:** Each month, *The Dispatcher* reprints a monthly report from the ILWU Benefits Plan office which they compile from several sources, including local unions. We apologize to families and friends for any errors that occasionally happen when we reprint this report in our "Transitions" column.

Last month's report on the Harbor Labor Day Parade could have noted that the current parade dates back to 1979 when many unions originally formed the LA/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition including ILWU Locals 13, 20, 26, 56, 63, and the Inlandboatmen's Union, plus the Teamsters, Food and Commercial Workers, Masters, Mates & Pilots, Marine Engineers, National Maritime Union, Oil, Chemical, & Atomic Workers, Newspaper Guild, United Electrical Workers, Painters, Ironworkers, Piledrivers, Lumber and Sawmill Workers, and Sailors Union of the Pacific. Local 26 President Luisa Gratz coordinated the event for the first 27 years, which has drawn up to 10,000 participants and involved over 100 unions.

## ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union's library at discounted prices!

### BOOKS

**A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii.** By Sanford Zalburg: A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii \$13.50 (paperback).

**Along the Shore/Por la Costa—ILWU Coloring Book.** A bi-lingual English/Spanish coloring book about waterfront workers and their union. Originally developed by the California Federation of Teachers' Labor in the Schools Committee in consultation with member Patricia Aguirre and the ILWU Local 13 Education Committee. Meets K-3 classroom standards for History and Social Studies. Two (2) for \$5.00

**The Legacy of 1934: An historical exhibit by the ILWU.** Produced as a catalogue to accompany the new traveling historical art exhibit about the origins of the ILWU in the 1934 maritime strike, this brief but vivid publication stands on its own as a pictorial history of the coastwise strike and an account of the extraordinary sacrifices and democratic principles of the founding members of the union. **Two (2) for \$5.00**

**Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States.** By Charles Larrowe. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. \$10.00

**The ILWU Story.** This book unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. \$5.00

**The Big Strike.** By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. \$9.00

**The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront.** By David Wellman. The important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. \$20.00 (paperback)

**A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco.** By David Selvin. Perhaps the most comprehensive single narrative about the San Francisco events of 1934. \$16.50

**The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938.** By Harvey Schwartz. A new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. \$9.00

### VIDEOS

**"Eye of the Storm: Our Fight for Justice and a Better Contract."** A 58-minute DVD feature documentary film produced and directed by Amie Williams, Eye of the Storm tells the story of the 2002 longshore lockout on the West Coast. DVD Version \$5.00

**"We Are the ILWU."** A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version \$5.00

**"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges."** A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD \$5.00

## A Helping Hand...

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

ADRP—Northern California  
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