



THE DISPATCHER

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Photo by Michelle Meese

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Charting a course forward: The 23rd IBU Convention convened in Seattle from November 4-6. Prior to the convention, caucuses were held for the tow boat and passenger industries. Dozens of delegates representing approximately 3200 IBU members attended the convention.

Uniting in strength: IBU convenes their 23rd convention

The 23rd convention of the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) met in Seattle on November 4-6 and committed to bold steps that will boost organizing and training. Elected delegates heard from a variety of speakers, participated in panel discussions, and joined debates, workshops and working groups that went late into the evenings. Important decisions made at the convention included a unanimous endorsement of Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, plans to implement a union training trust and increased support for the union's organizing efforts.

Passenger Industry and Towboat Caucuses

Before the Convention formally opened on November 3rd, the IBU held two caucuses—one for the

passenger industry and another for the tow boat industry. The goal was to gather workers in those industries from every region and provide an opportunity to meet and discuss common issues facing their respective industries.

Both caucuses heard international guests from the Maritime Union of Australia. The MUA's Assistant National Secretary-Treasurer Ian Bray spoke at the Towboat Caucus and Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Garret addressed the Passenger Industry Caucus.

The Passenger Industry Caucus also heard a report from Tricia Schroeder, Executive Vice President at SEIU Local 925 on the ways in which right-wing organizations like the Freedom Foundation are using "right to work" laws in Washington State to harass and defund unions by tricking members with misleading mail campaigns into opting-out of paying union dues and agency fees.

President Coté's address

In his convention address, IBU President Alan Coté outlined the challenges facing the union and all of organized labor – noting unions are under threat from subcontracting, privatization, automation, coordinated legal and legislative attacks on the rights of workers to collectively organize and bargain. Coté said that employers strategically use intimidation, threats and other unfair labor practices to subvert the few rights that workers currently have under the law. Maritime unions are under threat from attempts to undermine cabotage laws that protect the domestic shipping industry while public sector workers are threatened by "right-to-work" laws.

"If you are comfortable right now, and feel that everything is going well, and that your contracts are all in order, I suggest that you are asleep at the wheel," Coté said. "I believe we're at war. There is a global war against labor."

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Happy Holidays from the Officers and Staff of the ILWU



Happy New Year!

LETTERS TO THE *DISPATCHER*

Dear Editor,

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties expresses our sincere gratitude to the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local No. 21 members for their generous contribution to our program. RIF is able to continue to provide books to local children, and also help promote literacy in our community because of local organizations such as the ILWU.

The ILWU has contributed unselfishly to RIF for many years without fanfare or hype.

We sincerely appreciate their continued support and look forward to their partnership in the future.

The RIF Board of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties, WA

(this letter was first published in Longview's newspaper, *The Daily News*, on November 3, 2015.)

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A letter published in the November issue from pensioner Rich Austin omitted part of a sentence. The full sentence should have read "Sadly, a "Right to Work" law was passed in 1985, and today less than 3 percent of Idaho's private sector jobs are union".

The caption for a group photo appearing on page 2 of the October issue should have noted that the ILWU's titled officers were among those sworn-in at the ILWU International Executive Board meeting on October 5.



Photo by Michelle Meese

Feeding the Community: ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94, the ILWU Southern California Pensioners, and ILWU Federated Auxiliary #8, sponsored the annual "Feed the Community Day" on November 24 at the Memorial Hall in Wilmington. The ILWU distributed 1,800 Thanksgiving dinner baskets, which can feed as many as 10 people. The baskets include a whole 12-pound turkey, cornbread, fresh fruit, vegetables, and other items so that families can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. The volunteer Local 13 Holiday Committee works year-round to plan the annual Feed the Community Day and the Children's' Holiday Party and Toy drive that takes place in December. The ILWU has been holding the event for the past 17 years.

DISPATCHER

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IBU members win settlement but fight continues at Saltchuk

Members of the Inland-boatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU), the ILWU's Marine Division, won a significant settlement in October from Delta Western, an affiliate of Saltchuk Resources, Inc. Delta Western operates several west coast fuel docks, including a facility in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, — the remote location known to millions of Americans as home port for the "Deadliest Catch" television series.

Delta-Western workers in "Dutch" voted to join the union in April, 2014. But before winning that election, the Saltchuk-owned company did everything possible to prevent workers from joining the union, and officials are now resisting efforts to negotiate a fair contract. Workers say the company has discriminated against the predominantly Filipino crew and repeatedly violated labor laws.

Workers filed claims with the federal government last year against management for illegally retaliating and discriminating against members. Settlement of those charges came roughly one year after Manolito "Mo" Reyes was unfairly terminated. As a result, Reyes will receive a settlement to compensate him for one year's worth of lost wages. The settlement was signed by the company's managers and approved by officials at the National Labor Relations Board.

"When management fired me, my co-workers went on strike to protest Saltchuk's conduct," said Reyes. "Today, we succeeded in having managers clear my good name and restore the income that I lost." In addition to paying Reyes, the company agreed to expunge the unfair discipline from his personnel file.

"This settlement confirms that Mo is a good worker and a good union

man, who should not have been fired by the company," said Leo Dacio, a co-worker at the Dutch Harbor fuel dock.

Dacio says he has also faced retaliation and harassment for supporting the union, explaining that Saltchuk's Delta-Western affiliate demoted him and cut his pay just months before they fired Reyes. At the same time, the company promoted two employees who opposed the union and provided them extra pay for "housing expenses."

As a condition of settling the federal charges, Saltchuk agreed to promote Dacio with a raise and provide him with compensation for his lost wages. His personnel record will also be cleared of unfair entries.

"This is a vindication," said Robin Marquez, another employee. "We knew all along that Mo and Leo were unfairly disciplined, and now the public knows too."

"This settlement is important, but what we want is respect on the job and a fair contract so we can take care of our families. This is a very hard job and it is really expensive to live here," said employee Erwin Riodil.

"All of us have been bargaining an agreement with the company, but they've slowed the process almost to a halt for months," said fuel dock worker Art Guiang. "If management would have signed a fair contract with us, we could have used the new rules to resolve these issues."

In addition to protesting the company's repeated violations of labor rights, IBU members have identified a pattern of discrimination at Saltchuk's Delta Western site in Dutch Harbor that has targeted Filipino-American and Asian-Pacific Islander American workers for termination, demotion, substandard work conditions and even a ban on speaking Tagalog on the job.

In March, eight members filed charges against the company with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).



BBQ for a good cause: Snowstorms can happen almost any time in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, so union members and supporters didn't hesitate to hold a BBQ last March to protest discrimination against Filipino and Asian-Pacific Islander American workers by management at the Delta-Western Fuel Dock owned by Saltchuk. The company was recently charged with serious violations of federal labor laws, including discrimination against union members, which were settled favorably for workers. Other discrimination claims remain pending against the corporation.

"Why does this Saltchuk company refuse to respect all members of the community?" asked Dacio. "All employees work hard to keep the company operations running smoothly and profitably, but management prevents us from doing our jobs by discriminating against Filipino-American and Asian-Pacific Islander American workers."

"Regardless of a person's race or ethnicity everyone should be treated equally especially in the workplace," said Richard Gurtiza, Regional Director of IBU Region 37. "Anything less is an insult not only to the individual worker but for entire communities."

Employees' charges state that, among other violations of federal law, managers illegally discriminated on the basis of race, national origin and age by:

- Harassing and firing Reyes over a trumped-up safety issue;
- Offering better working conditions to white employees commuting from Anchorage to Dutch Harbor than were offered to Filipino-American and Asian-Pacific Islander American employees living and working locally; and

- Ordering employees to stop speaking Tagalog to each other on the job and to speak only English.

"All that should matter to Delta Western and Saltchuk is that the best people for the job are hired and working well together," said Riodil. "To harass, discipline, fire and try to prevent us from speaking casually shows an unacceptable practice of treating us as less valuable employees."

"We ask all our brothers and sisters in the IBU and ILWU to stand with us in our fight against Saltchuk and Delta Western for an end to discrimination and a fair union contract," said Dacio.

"Saltchuk won a 'World's Most Ethical Company' award last year," said Alan Coté, IBU President. "Let's pull together all our strength and solidarity to back up these courageous members' struggle to make this employer live up to that title."

"Helping workers organize a union to win some justice has always been a struggle, and we're committed to helping these Saltchuk/Delta-Western workers to win their fight for respect," said ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe who oversees the union's organizing campaigns.

Single-payer health care conference: strategy for a better plan continues

A report by Dan McKisson, Local 19 and Rich Austin, Pensioner

President McEllrath assigned us to attend the 2015 Single-Payer Strategy Conference in Chicago, IL on October 30 - November 1, 2015.

The conference was a collaborative effort involving Labor Campaign for Single Payer (LCSP), Healthcare-NOW and Single Payer States. The Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) were also holding a conference and participated in portions of our conference. Many unions and state single payer organizations were represented at the conference with the nurses unions having the most representatives. There was approximately 400 people in attendance.

The first day included a well participated rally at the offices of Blue Cross.

The keynote speaker was Tom Conway of United Steel Workers (USW) who spoke about the challenges faced by workers of addressing healthcare at the bargaining table.

Day two started with a speech by Representative Jim McDermott from Washington State, who has been a longtime single payer advocate. His latest strategy is to move HR3241, a state-based bill that would give waivers to states to move away from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and pool the money to start a single payer system in their states. There was debate throughout the conference when or if national and other state efforts should break away from their local campaigns to support another state that is on the verge of succeeding to secure a single payer system.

The afternoon included a menu of

workshops including, "Winning Support from the Business Community," "The Cadillac Tax & Attacks on Workers Healthcare" and "Healthcare is a Human Right Model."

The ILWU took an early position against the ACA's excise tax and it was good to see other unions and groups finally coming around to this position. Some people expressed concern that if the excise tax were to be amended or repealed, that the single payer movement could lose momentum. One sister chastised the moderator for using the employer's words when addressing the excise tax—calling it the "Cadillac tax." She is right. This term unfairly paints comprehensive health insurance coverage that ILWU members have fought for as "luxuries" instead of as a right that all Americans should have.

The most interesting workshop was the "Winning Support from the Business Community". The presentation was based on a short film that was recently produced by a business owner from LeHigh, Pennsylvania called "Fix It". The film addresses why business should support a single payer system. (The film can be seen at: <http://fix-ithealthcare.com>) Even with the passion and motivation of the attendees at the conference we will only be able to move single payer forward when the business community sees the financial advantage of a universal health care system. The day concluded with a fund raiser and I was able to present the \$1,500 check from the Coast Longshore Division to the LCSP and Brother Austin presented a check from the

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Waterfront energy debates continue after November elections

The status of several controversial energy projects at west coast ports continues to intensify, with the recent November elections impacting some of the struggles.

Oakland heats up

There were no elections in Oakland that impacted the proposed massive coal export terminal in Oakland that's being promoted by non-union coal companies in Utah and backed by Wall Street investors. The project remains strongly opposed by Bay Area ILWU locals and the Alameda County Labor Council who say it threatens community health and good jobs. One new development is a recently-filed lawsuit in Utah that challenges the legality of using \$53 million in locally-controlled

public funds to finance the coal company project in Oakland. Among the dangers raised in the suit is the prospect of Utah residents being saddled with decades of debt and bankruptcies if the demand for coal continues to decline.

Vancouver crude oil controversy

In Vancouver, WA, Local 4 members were pleased to see candidate Eric LaBrant win his race for Port Commissioner in the Nov. 3 election. LaBrant defeated a candidate sponsored by the oil industry who was pushing a plan – developed in secret – to build a crude oil export terminal at the Port. The newly-elected commissioner has also expressed concern about the proposal's impact on community safety and other waterfront jobs. Members of the firefighters union recently raised

safety concerns about the project that would involve handling 100-car trainloads of highly-flammable Bakken crude oil delivered regularly from North Dakota. A recent poll showed residents oppose the plan by 51 to 42 with 7% undecided.

Status quo in Bellingham

In Bellingham, WA, a slate of four coal terminal critics were easily re-elected to the Whatcom County Council despite an effort to replace them. The election results mean that coal proponents will continue facing an uphill battle to build a proposed \$600 million terminal north of Bellingham at Cherry Point that would export 48 million tons of coal annually. ILWU Local 7's membership of 10 has been supporting the project, hoping it would bring more union jobs to their small

port that once thrived on log exports.

Seattle Socialist

Voters in Seattle made headlines in 2013 by electing the first socialist to their City Council in recent history. On November 3, voters re-elected Councilwoman Kshama Sawant after an impressive campaign for her city-wide seat that was supported by the ILWU and 30 other unions – plus a team of 600 volunteers and dozens of progressive community groups. Business leaders backed a slick candidate who campaigned against the socialist, but failed to match Kashama's advocacy for working families or mobilize support that produced 90,000 home visits and 170,000 phone calls.

Longshore legislative update

(Editor's note: This was the latest available report when the Dispatcher went to press on November 25. Please check the ILWU websites for an updated report)

Work by ILWU members and staff continued during the month of November to counter anti-union legislation in Congress that aims to weaken the ILWU and hurt longshore workers.

Both houses of Congress have passed versions of a new transportation bill called the "Drive Act." Anti-union groups and their friends in Congress tried to amend the Drive Act with a provision they called the "Port Performance Act" or "Port Transparency Act." Both would require government officials to gather massive amounts of data from west coast ports in an effort to monitor productivity. These measures are also opposed by port managers and some industry leaders who see it as burdensome and unnecessary.

The House of Representatives opposed including these anti-union provisions in the version of the Drive Act that was passed on Thursday, November 5, 2015. However, the Senate voted to include these provisions in their Drive Act legislation during their debate in

October at the insistence of Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune, Republican Senator from South Dakota.

A Conference Committee is now required to reconcile these and other differences between the two bills before a final vote. Representative Peter DeFazio of Eugene, Oregon was appointed to the Conference Committee and is leading an effort to ensure that the Drive Act is not saddled with anti-union provisions. Support is also needed from other Conference Committee members, including Rep. Grace Napolitano of Norwalk, California, and Representative Rick Larsen of Washington's 2nd District which runs north from Everett up to Bellingham and the border. The Senate Conference Committee will include California's Barbara Boxer, Oregon's Ron Wyden and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski. The ILWU will push to eliminate anti-union provisions from the final bill.

The Conference Committee is expected to finish their work on the Drive Act sometime after Thanksgiving, and the Dispatcher will carry an update in the January issue.



Photo by Dawn DesBrisay

Important discussions: Longshore Legislative Committee members Dawn DesBrisay (L) and Mike Podue (R) met with Representative Grace Napolitano in November. Napolitano represents a working-class district in Southern California and was appointed to sit on the Conference Committee which must reconcile differences between House and Senate versions of the Drive Act transportation bill. Anti-union forces are trying to use that legislation to attack the ILWU and burden ports with unnecessary and dangerous monitoring requirements.

Últimas noticias legislativas de los Estibadores

Los miembros y personal de ILWU continuaron su trabajo durante el mes de noviembre para resistir leyes anti sindicales en el Congreso que tienen como propósito debilitar a ILWU y perjudicar a los estibadores y trabajadores portuarios.

Ambas cámaras del Congreso han aprobado un nuevo proyecto de ley de transportación llamado la Ley de Transporte ("Drive Act"). Los grupos anti sindicales y sus amigos en el Congreso trataron de enmendar esta Ley, agregándole una cláusula llamada Ley de Rendimiento Portuario ("Port Performance Act") o Ley de Transparencia

Portuaria. Ambas proponían que los funcionarios del gobierno recolectaran grandes cantidades de datos de los puertos del Pacífico con tal de monitorear la productividad. Estas medidas también fueron rechazadas por los gerentes de los puertos y algunos líderes de las empresas del ramo por considerarlas una carga innecesaria y excesiva.

La Cámara de Representantes se opuso a incluir estas disposiciones anti sindicales en la última versión de la Ley de Transporte que finalmente se aprobó el jueves, 5 de noviembre de 2015. Sin embargo, el Senado aprobó la inclusión de estas disposiciones en su propia versión de la ley durante sus debates en octubre por insistencia de

John Thune, senador republicano del estado de South Dakota que es también el Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Comerciales.

Ahora se requiere que un Comité de Consulta resuelva esta y otras diferencias entre los dos proyectos de ley antes de que se lleve a cabo la votación final. El diputado Peter DeFazio de Eugene, Oregon fue nombrado a dicho Comité y está encabezando los esfuerzos por asegurar que la Ley de Transporte no quede cargada de disposiciones anti sindicales. También se requiere apoyo de otros miembros del Comité de Consulta, incluso la diputada Grace Napolitano de Norwalk, California y diputado Rick Lar-

son del segundo distrito electoral del estado de Washington, que abarca desde Everett hasta Bellingham y la frontera. El Comité de Consulta del Senado incluye a Barbara Boxer de California, Ron Wyden de Oregon y Lisa Murkowski de Alaska. ILWU presionará para que se eliminen las disposiciones anti sindicales del proyecto definitivo de ley.

Se espera que el Comité de Consulta termine su trabajo sobre la Ley de Transporte después del Día de Acción de Gracias y el Despachador (Dispatcher) contendrá un informe actualizado en el número de enero.

ILWU Canada held their 2nd and very successful Young Workers Conference in September



I want to thank all who attended and helped make ILWU Canada's 2nd Young Workers Conference a huge success on Sept, 23-25. We had 156 first time delegates including 10 International delegates from the MUA, IBU-Alaska, ILWU Local 13 (Southern California) and ILWU Local 23 (Tacoma).

Our 3-day conference showed a level of solidarity and union pride which motivated and impressed all who attended. The theme for this year's conference was "Solidarity, Equality and Unity."

On day one, topics at the conference included a history segment presented by ILWU Pensioners Tom Dufresne, Mike Marino and Barry Campbell who provided us with an in-depth look at Harry Bridges, our founding President's life. We also heard from delegates representing the

Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) who gave us an update on their current struggles, noting some similarities with challenges we're facing in Canada.

On day two, we discussed port security clearances, along with the pros and cons of using social media for union communication. Presenters included two of ILWU Canada's labour lawyers from the Victory Square Law firm. We then heard Brian Cambell from the British Columbia Federation of Labour who made a presentation about Occupational Health and Safety, emphasizing the right to refuse unsafe work. We ended the day with an address from our union brother Dean McGrath, President of ILWU Local 23 who delivered a presentation and greetings of solidarity from dockworkers in Tacoma, Washington.

Day three began with a buzz in the air because the election for the new Young Workers Committee was scheduled to take place before lunch.

Our morning guest speaker was Irene Lanzinger, President of British Columbia's Federation of Labour. She gave an overview of work at the Federation, and was followed by Mark Leier from Simon Fraser University's Labour Studies program. Mark shared what he believed were the four roles needed to create a strong movement; helpers, organizers, educators and last but not least, rebels! The day closed with an address by Selena Robinson, an elected member of British Columbia's Legislative Assembly. She reminded delegates that every vote would count in the upcoming national election that saw the anti-union Conservative government finally thrown out of power. Sharing her personal story of losing and winning elections by only a few votes made it clear to all of us that every vote counts!

After waiting patiently until the end of the day for the results of our own Young Workers election, results were finally announced. Our new Young Workers Committee will be led by 7 active young union members who work on Canada's west coast waterfront. Each of the members are active within their union, and are striving to make a difference both in their workplace and community.

Each day of the conference we asked delegates and volunteers to bring an item for the food bank as a way to give back to the community. We did this recognizing that support is needed for our brothers and sisters who are struggling and could use a hand up. In October, the Young Workers Committee delivered 2385 lbs of food to the Harvest Project, the SHARE Food Bank Society and the Surrey Food Bank. We also handed a \$1165 cheque to Covenant House that will go towards their



Solidarity, Equality and Unity: Delegates to the Young Workers conference signing a solidarity statement. Delegates also collected food items and delivered 2385 lbs of food to the Harvest Project, the SHARE Food Bank Society and the Surrey Food Bank.

Christmas Backpack Program. We know that together with these organizations' help we can reach those who are most in need.

A huge thanks to our outgoing Young Workers Committee who paved the way and got the ball rolling. All of us were thrilled to see that a year of hard work by the Committee had increased our turnout by tenfold over the previous year.

I would like to send a special thanks to the ILWU Canada office staff for their hard work behind the scenes: thank you Jeannie Magenta and Lise Lindsay.

In Solidarity
Steve Nasby, 2nd Vice President
ILWU Canada - Chair of Education



The Second ILWU Canada Young Workers conference was attended by 156 first time delegates including 10 International delegates from the Maritime Union of Australia, IBU-Alaska, ILWU Local 13 (Southern California) and ILWU Local 23 (Tacoma).

Uniting in strength: IBU convenes their 23rd convention

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Despite these threats, Coté outlined a path forward for the IBU that included forging new strategic allies with other maritime unions in the United States and strengthening existing relationships internationally with like-minded unions like the Maritime Union of Australia. Coté also stressed the need for strategic organizing campaigns in key sectors and regions such as what the fuel dock workers are doing in Dutch Harbor Alaska and urged delegates to finally enact a training program.

“If unions don’t control labor through their own training programs, we are at the mercy of every employer. Why should you have to go to your employer and beg him for training?” Coté said.

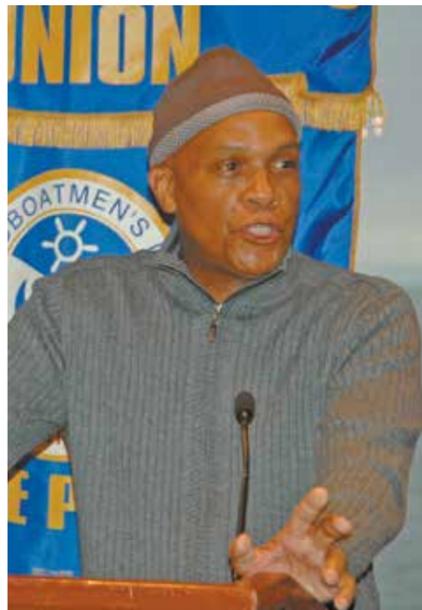
Focus on organizing

ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe, who oversees the ILWU Organizing Department, addressed the convention on the first day. He outlined the legislative attacks on the ILWU Longshore Division that, if enacted, would restrict the rights of longshore workers to take lawful labor actions to protect their wages and conditions. He said that this was a part of an attack against maritime workers and dock workers across the globe.

“There’s a reason they are coming after us, and that is because we are highly unionized.” Familathe said.



ILWU Canada President
Mark Gordienko



ILWU International Secretary
Treasurer Willie Adams

“That is why we are in organizations like the International Transport Workers Federation and the International Dockers Council, and why it is so important to have friends like the MUA.”

Familathe also highlighted the organizing efforts in Dutch Harbor Alaska and acknowledged the hard work of ILWU organizers Adam Dalton and Jon Brier who were in attendance.

After his speech, Familathe participated in a panel discussion on organizing with organizer Adam Dalton and Monty Beard, a worker from the Catalina Express organizing drive in San Pedro. The panel discussed the organizing efforts in Dutch Harbor which is now focused on winning a new contract. They also covered the challenges encountered in last Spring’s organizing drive at Catalina Express that fell a few votes short of victory.

The panel acknowledge the many obstacles involved in any organizing campaign that include illegal employer harassment, intimidation of workers and high priced union-busting consultants, but agreed that organizing needs to continue and be an important focus of the union.

Tongue Point Seamanship Program

The convention heard a presentation about the Seamanship Program at Tongue Point in Astoria, OR. Seamanship Program Director Len Tumbarello and student Daniel Myking gave an overview of their program which is funded by Job Corps, a federal training program run by the Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24. The training and education is provided at no cost to the students who live on campus during their training. Students are placed in internships and receive job placement assistance. Applicants from all over the United States attend the Seamanship program which enrolls 120 students. Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast noted that IBU convention delegate Meagan Nye had graduated from the Tongue Point program and was recognized by delegates.

Political action

ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams spoke about the need to be actively engaged in politics at every level to protect the interests of ILWU members.

“We have to be smart about who give money to,” Adams said. “If a politician comes around asking for a donation from our Political Action Fund and they haven’t supported the ILWU or the interests of workers, we don’t give them any money. It’s that simple.”

After Adams spoke, there was a panel discussion on political action at the federal, state and local levels that included Adams, Southern California Regional Director John Skow, and Puget Sound Regional Director Peter Hart.

John Skow discussed the “Safe Manning Act,” legislation that the Southern California IBU is seeking introduce in the California legislature. The goal is to ensure proper staffing

on tugboats in the state’s harbors. Skow said the legislation is currently on hold while they document the safety hazards on under-staffed tugs.

Adams talked about the legislative attacks on the Jones Act, a federal law passed in 1920 which protects the domestic shipping industry. In his role as a San Francisco Port Commissioner, Adams said he has been asked if he would support changes to the Jones Act, based on claims that it might bring more cruise ships to San Francisco. “I’m not in favor of touching the Jones Act at all,” Adams said. “Leave it alone.”

Hart underscored the need for political engagement. “You do politics or politics does you,” he warned. He added that the IBU does not have a large Political Action Fund. “But what we do have is a lot of members who can add this stuff up. We’ve got to educate and engage members about this anti-worker legislation and the politicians who support it.”

The struggle down under

MUA Assistant National Secretary-Treasurer Ian Bray addressed the convention on the second day to provide delegates with an international perspective about recent attacks on workers and labor organizations. He discussed recent changes in labor laws made by Australia’s right-wing government that have restricted rights of Australian union members to engage in labor actions. Other changes include weakened health and safety regulations needed to protect workers. Finally, Bray noted recent changes to visa laws have made it easier for employers to import low-wage workers into Australia – eroding pay and working conditions that the MUA fought for generations to establish.

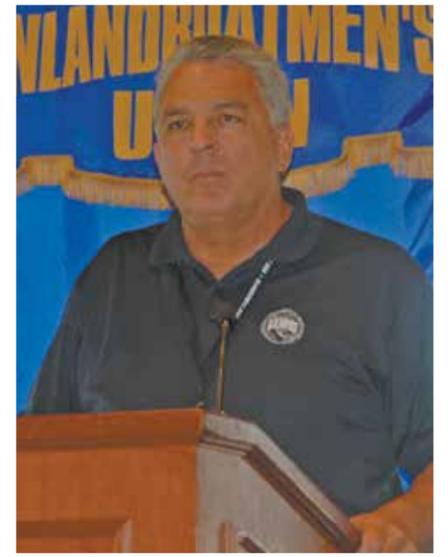
“A boss who is only concerned with unfettered productivity doesn’t care about your safety and he doesn’t care if you make it home to your family at the end of your shift,” Bray said.

Young workers panel

At the end of the second morning’s plenary session, the convention heard from a panel of young workers who discussed the challenges with integrating young and new members into the union. Meagan Nye, Adam Smith and Samantha Levens participated on the panel.

The IBU had sent each of these workers to represent the union at various events in order to involve and train a new generation of rank and file leaders. Nye participated in the ILWU Young Workers Conference in Canada, Smith attended the International Transport Worker’s Federation Summer School and Levens represented the IBU at a recent MUA convention. During the panel, they provided a report-back on their experiences.

Levens said that it was important to engage new members as soon as they come into the union and have ways they can actively participate in



ILWU International Vice President
Ray Familathe

union contract campaigns, new worker organizing and other activities.

“It’s great to talk about young workers in the union but we need to make sure we have structures in place to actively engage young workers,” Levens said. She recalled how she was asked to assist in the organizing drive at Hornblower Cruises when she first became an IBU member and how important that experience was in integrating her into the union. “I think I spent more time on the picket line in my first few months as an IBU member than I did working on ferries.”

Resolutions adopted

Delegates discussed dozens of proposed resolutions which were debated, amended and voted by the body. Key resolutions adopted by the 23rd IBU Convention delegates include:

- Unanimous endorsement of Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders;
- Support of continued funding of the Alaska Marine Highway;
- Support for the development of the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project;
- Support for a fair contract for Sakuma Brothers Farms workers;
- Continued support for the Southern Alaska communities of Sitka, Hoonah, Haines, and Skagway;
- The development of a Training Trust Fund;
- Opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership;
- Support for Washington State Ferries Concession Members
- Support for a Southern California Region job apprenticeship program
- Support for the Delta Western Workers in Dutch Harbor, Alaska
- Commitment to fight against attacks on public sector unions
- Commitment to create a leadership and mentoring program for rank-and-file members

The financial package was also approved by the delegates which will include a dues increase that will go to IBU members for a final vote.

“We made some important decisions that will help this union move forward in an economic and political climate that is hostile to workers,” said Secretary Treasurer Mast. “It’s important that we respond when we are attacked but also take the steps necessary to plan and strengthen this union for future generations.”

“Trumbo” movie is tangled with ILWU history

The famous Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo who is portrayed in the new film “Trumbo,” was helped by the ILWU during a difficult time when his advocacy for working-class politics became a dangerous liability during the Cold War.

Targeted for his views

Trumbo is played in the film by Bryon Cranston, famous for his award-winning role in the AMC series “Breaking Bad.” The new film explains Trumbo’s personal commitment to working-class politics and world peace that made him a target of anti-communist witch hunters during the “Red Scare” that dominated American politics for 15 years after WWII.

Like Harry Bridges

Like ILWU co-founder and International President Harry Bridges, Trumbo was deeply committed to promoting social change in America. Both were among many of their generation who drew inspiration from the Russian revolution and American organizing efforts that helped millions of workers and the unemployed build unions during the Great Depression of the 1930’s. Trumbo’s passion led him to join the U.S. Communist Party for five years beginning in 1943, believing at the time it could help bring about an alternative to capitalism that would make America better.

Repression after WWII

After the war, Trumbo, Bridges and thousands of other Americans became tangled in a web of informers, stool pigeons, politicians and government investigators who persecuted them for supporting the Communist Party in America – which was a serious crime punishable by imprisonment until the laws were later found to be unconstitutional.

Refusing to inform

In 1947, Trumbo and dozens of Hollywood actors and writers were ordered to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). The Committee demanded witnesses to confess their Communist beliefs and involvement, and required them to name others who shared similar beliefs. Ten prominent screenwriters, including Trumbo refused to cooperate and became known as the “Hollywood Ten.” Most were sent to federal prison for their refusal to “name names.” A larger group of writers and actors cooperated with the Committee and FBI, including actor Ronald Reagan who became a lifelong FBI informant and confidant of FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover.

Writing for “fronts”

In addition to facing prison terms for their beliefs, Trumbo and the “Hollywood Ten” were fired from major studios who maintained a “blacklist” of banned writers. But the blacklisted

writers continued producing Hollywood screenplays by using assumed names – or asking other writers who were willing to serve as “fronts” for the banned authors. Trumbo wrote several movies using this system, including the Academy Award-winner “Spartacus” of 1960 which told the story of a Roman slave revolt. Actor Kirk Douglas who played Spartacus in the film, helped break the blacklist by identifying Trumbo as the film’s true writer.

ILWU help

It was during the difficult days of the blacklist that some of the “Hollywood Ten” writers sought and received work from the ILWU.

ILWU Librarian and archivist Robin Walker says Trumbo wrote an essay for the union, “The Everlasting Bridges Case,” which appeared in the first edition of the ILWU Story. That essay also appears in the current version of the same ILWU official history. Walker says Trumbo also authored an ILWU pamphlet titled: “Harry Bridges: a discussion of the latest effort to deport civil liberties and the rights of American labor.”

The ILWU also helped “Hollywood Ten” screenwriter, Alvah Bessie, who worked as Editor of the union’s Dispatcher newspaper after he was released from federal prison for refusing to cooperate with the FBI and HUAC.

The Bridges case

Having experienced government repression himself, Trumbo was well-suited to summarize the government’s shameful attacks against Harry Bridges in the essay he wrote for The ILWU Story:

“For twenty-one years, Harry Bridges, who emerged as the leader of the new longshoremen’s union in the strike of 1934 and remained as its president until his retirement in 1977, was a defendant before the courts. He was the subject of a Congressional investigation and of two pieces of federal legislation, one of which was enacted into law. He underwent two deportation hearings, and a denaturalization proceeding and twice was vindicated in other actions before the Supreme Court. All four prosecutions were based on the same false charge: his alleged Communist affiliation. He was wrongfully convicted, illegally imprisoned, fraudulently stripped of his citizenship, and his attorneys sent to jail for defending him. Not without reason did Supreme Court Justice Murphy declare at the time of Bridges first vindication before the highest court that, “The record in this case will stand forever as a monument to man’s intolerance of man.”

The film “Trumbo” is now screening in theaters everywhere.

Aussie dockers return after mass-firing

Nearly 100 dockers who were fired three months ago by Hutchison Ports Australia (HPA) will now be returning to work, according to an agreement reached November 17 between the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and HPA management.

One hundred and three days had elapsed since 97 workers at Brisbane and Sydney learned of their terminations via text messages and email. HPA tried to terminate the workers after boasting of plans to aggressively automate ports – without first negotiating terms and conditions with the union.

Union officials say the November 17 settlement will provide “substan-

tial” benefits for workers who take voluntary retirement packages. Reaching those terms took several rounds of intense negotiations.

International Transport workers Federation (ITF) President and MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin led the talks with HPA officials at the government’s Fair Work Commission. Crumlin said the new agreement indicated “a more functional and mature approach to industrial relations,” compared with the company’s unilateral attempt to restructure their operations three months ago.

Crumlin thanked affiliates of the ITF and IDC (International Dockworker Council) for their solidarity to help the sacked workers during the past three months.



Dare to struggle, dare to win: After learning via text and email they were being sacked, Maritime Union of Australia dockers took action and won their jobs back in a struggle over automation.

Single-payer health care conference: strategy for a better plan continues

continued from page 3

Pacific Coast Pensioners Association. Both contributions were very much appreciated.

The final day comprised of groups discussing five questions and submitting ideas to guide future actions by the sponsoring groups.

There were some at the conference who concluded that the ACA had a couple of good changes, but that it was still a discriminatory system—it does not cover undocumented residents, for example. In addition, the

ACA was largely written by drug and insurance companies and for-profit hospitals in order to maximize their profits at the expense of public health. Many people at the conference felt that we should stop making excuses for the ACA, and instead work to make single payer a reality. The conference was informative and much larger than the previous Labor Campaign for Single Payer conferences. The movement seems to be gaining some strength even with the recent setbacks in Vermont and New York.

In order to win single payer, some people felt that the best strategy is to win it state by state. That theory suggests that once the first state goes, it will be a domino effect thereafter. Others, including a number of doctors belonging to Physicians for a National Health Program, feel that a national approach such as House Resolution 676 (HR 676) “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All” that was endorsed by the ILWU should be our overall objective.

The LCSP had a business meeting at the end of the conference and Rich Austin Sr. was voted to the Steering Committee where he will be an invaluable resource.

Future conferences should continue to be attended by the ILWU and we should take the opportunity to send different members each time to represent and experience the conferences so they can bring it back to their members.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Jerry L. Dirksen; **Local 8:** Jay S. Davison; Janice K. Glover; Robert W. Ivey; **Local 10:** Richard T. Mead; Arthur J. Perket; Pablo Pochet; **Local 13:** David Martinez; Alden S. Velez; Juan A. Gutierrez; Michael L. Eckenrod; Gilbert C. Lucero; **Local 19:** David E. Vigil, Jr; Lawrence T. Biggs; **Local 23:** Raymond H. Iverson; Daniel T. Martinelli; **Local 29:** George Cortez; **Local 63:** Estelle W. Webb; David Ysais; Danny B. Tatro; **Local 75:** Willie Every, Jr;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Jerry L. Mace; **Local 10:** Thomas Z. Berry; **Local 12:** Robert G. Wilmot (Sandra); **Local 13:**

Frank J. Espinosa; Cheryl Y. Schmidt; Raymond A. Matthews
Local 19: Samuel P. Puailihau Jr; Gerald W. Arger; **Local 23:** Lloyd E. Trihub; **Local 26:** James D. Larson; **Local 34:** Robert Bowman; **Local 52:** Michael Johnson; Roderic Johansen; **Local 94:** Delaware Boone

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Betty E. Proll; **Local 8:** Barbara J. Ensunsa; **Local 10:** Cristita Y. Cook; **Local 13:** Lucy B. Watson; Alice Misuraca; Enez Evans; Patricia Hansen; **Local 32:** Mary Lou Burgess; **Local 34:** Betty Berry; Mary E. Martin; **Local 92:** Jean H. Coon; **Local 94:** Patricia J. Kennedy; Alice I. Monroy;

If you are a longshore worker or pensioner covered by the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan:

Please read your medical Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for accuracy when they arrive in the mail after you receive any medical treatment. If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse please report it to the Benefit Plans Office in San Francisco at (415) 673-8500 or call your local Area Welfare Director.

All calls will remain confidential.

Thank you.

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS

Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU. By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. \$17.00.

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).

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)

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**

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