



THE DISPATCHER

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VOL 75, NO 2 • FEBRUARY 2017

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Continuing the struggle: ILWU members joined an estimated 10,000 people who packed Seattle streets on January 16 to support racial justice, workers' rights and resistance to President Trump's anti-union agenda. Marchers included (L-R): ILWU Local 19 member John Krasucki, Labor Relations Committee member Justin Hirsch, and Local 19 Vice-President John Persak.

Honoring King Day with action

ILWU members in Los Angeles, Seattle and the Bay Area honored Martin Luther King Day by marching, protesting and meeting to promote social justice.

MLK breakfast in LA

"We can honor Dr. King's legacy by continuing his struggle for justice, especially for the poor and oppressed in our society," said ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, who attended a breakfast on January 14 with other ILWU leaders organized by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. Adams noted that King was assassinated in Memphis while he was helping union sanitation workers win their courageous strike for respect and better pay.

California's new Senator

Hundreds union members from throughout Southern California went to the Bonaventure Hotel in downtown LA where newly-elected U.S. Senator Kamala Harris was the featured speaker.

"When our ideals and fundamental values are under attack, do we retreat or do we fight? I say we fight!" she said. "Whenever there's been an assault on working families,

we've never backed down. We've stood together. And that's exactly what we'll do now."

Taking risks to win

Speakers at the LA event noted that King and other Civil Rights leaders of his generation were not afraid to take risks. King was arrested more than 30 times and suffered numerous beatings while advocating non-violent tactics in order to win public support.

King's lessons for labor

"There's still plenty we can learn from Dr. King's leadership style and his approach to strategy," said Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr. who attended the event. "There's no progress without a struggle, and winning public support is as important today as it was then. King was challenged by how to win majority support for a "minority" cause, and that's the same challenge labor unions face today with only 6% of private-sector workers in a union."

Keynote speaker

The keynote speaker at the LA labor breakfast was Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative, a leading human rights advocate who is challenging injustice in the courtroom and prison system. He has



Paying respect: ILWU leaders were among hundreds of union members who gathered in Los Angeles on the morning of January 16 for a breakfast honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Pictured are (L-R): Local 13 Vice President Mondo Porras, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr., and Local 63 Business Agent and District Council President Cathy Familathe

appeared before the Supreme Court and recently won a historic ruling that invalidated mandatory "life-without-parole" sentences for all children 17 or younger.

Seattle MLK march

ILWU members in the Puget Sound region joined a large event on Monday that began with workshops at a local high school, followed by a rally with speakers, and poetry and music in the gym. The main event was an afternoon march that drew an estimated 10,000 participants which

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LETTERS TO THE *DISPATCHER*

Dear Editor,

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 12, Local 92, and the ILWU Federated Women's Auxiliary contributed to several area organizations for the 2016 holiday season.

Local 12 hosted its Annual Toy and Canned Food Drive which allowed a generous donation of toys, including four bikes, to the North Bend Fire Department for distribution. The union's donation program was revived three years ago, by former Local 12 President Dan Lessard.

"Many longshore locals up and down the coast have longstanding holiday giving programs. Unfortunately, as our membership got smaller our toy drive faded away. The community need is still there so an effort was made several years ago, to send the word out asking our union brothers and sisters for donations," said Lessard.

For the second year, the ARK, formerly Maslow House, received stockings, personal hygiene supplies, \$400 in gift cards, and candy from longshoremen and the Auxiliary to be distributed to homeless and at risk youth.

"We had several individual members from ILWU Local 92 and Local 12 make substantial contributions this year which allowed us to expand our holiday donations," said Gary Alford Local 12 president. These contributions allowed a donation of \$400 in gift cards and \$500 in cash to Madison Elementary School.

In addition to their contribution of gift cards to ARK, the ILWU Federated Women's Auxiliary has a donation box at Local 12's hiring hall for new and gently used clothing, sleeping bags, and blankets to assist the Homeless Outreach Program.

Although the current holiday giving programs are relatively new, for over 30 years Local 12 members have contributed to Oregon Coast Community Action Med-Net Program. This year union members will donate over \$6500 to the Med-Net program.

**Jill Jacobson, Local 12
North Bend, OR**

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



LA Port Police officers visit the ILWU: Officers from the Los Angeles Port Police, represented by ILWU Local 65, stopped by the ILWU International offices. They were in town for the swearing in ceremony of William Scott who is the new Police Chief of the San Francisco Police Department. From left to right: Local 65 Secretary-Treasurer Nathan Blair, Local 65 President Michael Glimpse, ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe, Local Angeles Port Police Chief Tom Gazsi, Lt. Ryan Howley.



Testing contract knowledge: Over 1400 longshore workers from Locals 13 and 63 were eligible to take tests about their union contract and safety code on January 14 at San Pedro's Cruise Ship Terminal on Berth 92. Two groups of 700 applicants were given 90 minutes to answer 50 questions, which is just part of the process for applicants wishing to be considered for membership in Foremen's Local 94 that covers the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego and Port Hueneme. Registration into Local 94 is conducted mutually with employers in the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), using a selection process developed by independent experts that includes a written test, work history evaluation and oral interviews.



Local 17 Pensioners join massive march: Ramon Arroyo and Oscar Garcia were among an estimated 2.5 million worldwide who marched on January 21 to remind President Trump that rights for women, workers and the environment must be respected. Police estimated that the "Women's March" in Sacramento drew 20,000 participants; one of 730 similar events held around the globe on President Trump's first full day in office. Ramon Arroyo and Oscar Garcia are both longtime union activists; a decade ago they boarded a Greyhound bus to Los Angeles where they walked the picket line supporting grocery store workers who had been locked-out of their jobs.



Supporting ILWU Scholarships: Members of Auxiliary 8 sold baked goods during the holidays to help raise funds for their Polly Muhler Scholarship effort. This group of volunteers are among the many Auxiliary 8 members who attended the Pensioners Annual Banquet and Dance on October 30 where they held a bake sale to benefit local students (L-R): Delarie Brooks, Aurora Alvarado, Raphael Brooks and Dolores Ellis.

DISPATCHER

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



Foss tug crews continue fight for fair contract

Crews at Foss Tug in Long Beach escalated their fight to renew a fair contract during January. Dozens of workers represented by the Inland-boatmen's Union, the ILWU's Marine Division, attended a rally on January 6 in front of the Foss Long Beach headquarters on Berth 35.

Rally shows support

"The rally expressed our unity, determination to fight and willingness to win," said John Skow, IBU Regional Director for Southern California.

After a short march to the assembly area, workers heard from IBU President Alan Coté.

"This is an important struggle for the entire maritime industry," said Coté. "We're up against a big corporation that seems more comfortable dictating than negotiating, but solidarity has always been a powerful weapon to level the playing field for workers."

ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe spoke on behalf of the International union.

"You've got the entire ILWU family behind you in this struggle," said Familathe, who noted that the union has never flinched from taking on tough fights and difficult employers. "There are a lot of people here today who are

supporting this struggle," as he recognized an impressive contingent of ILWU leaders present that included Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr., Local 63 President Paul Trani, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, Local 68 Port Pilots President Ed Royals and leaders from Ship Scalers Local 56.

Representatives of the Masters, Mates and Pilots (MMP) union also attended as did members of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) union.

Disrespect & legal violations

The rally occurred because management at Foss Long Beach has been refusing to negotiate in good faith and continues to retaliate against 30 IBU members with lay-offs, leaving roughly 20 workers employed out of the 50-member workforce.

Implementing their ultimatum

On January 5, the company took the drastic step of implementing new schedules that eliminated the contract's 8-hour day – requiring workers to instead remain on vessels for days at a time. They also implemented a new pay schedule without union approval. These unilateral, one-sided actions are only allowed by law if the company has engaged in good-faith negotiations, exhausted all efforts to settle, and reached an "impasse" in the contact talks – something the IBU is vig-



Rally for good union jobs: Workers at Foss Tug in Long Beach rallied on January 6. The company retaliated with layoffs when union members tried to renew their contract.

orously disputing in legal charges that have been filed against the company.

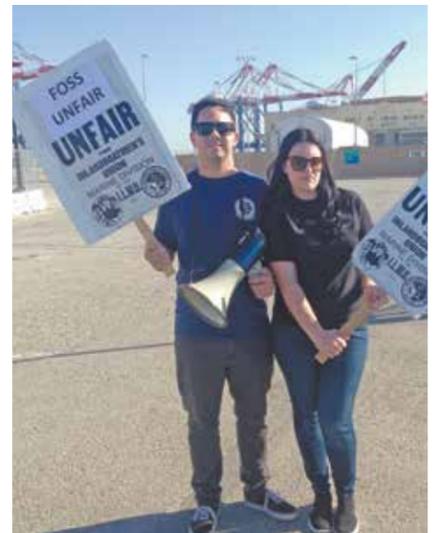
Strike in Long Beach

IBU members responded to the company's unlawful change in contract conditions by declaring an unfair labor practices (ULP) strike on January 16. The picket lines began to form early and were humming by 6am. They continued until 6pm that evening. The next morning, company officials were notified that union members agreed to return to work, with everyone back on the job that evening.

"We've been trying to negotiate with a company that doesn't seem to respect the law," said Skow. "The contract talks began more than six months ago, but we were far from an impasse and could easily reach a settlement if Foss would respect the law and show a willingness to compromise."

Big company with deep pockets

Foss is owned by Salchuk, a wealthy conglomerate created in 1982 that has grown with both union and non-union operations. Salchuk has used this flexibility to benefit wealthy owners at the expense of workers. For example, after Foss retaliated against workers with layoffs, they were able to keep clients by re-shuffling their tug business to a Salchuk subsidiary known as "AmNav," which operates at various west coast ports including LA/Long Beach – without IBU crew members.



Friends and family: Workers and supporters picketed on January 16 to protest unlawful actions by Foss Long Beach.

Union cooperation

Saltchuk workers are represented by several unions, including the Masters, Mates and Pilots (MMP), Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) and the Seafarers International Union (SIU). The ILWU and IBU are coordinating information efforts with these unions.

"In the end, the struggle here at Foss will come down to a combination of courage and solidarity, which is what it always takes to win on the waterfront," said ILWU Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe. "Foss workers are showing that they've got what it takes to see this through to a just conclusion."



ILWU support: ILWU locals from throughout the harbor area came to support Foss Tug workers at their rally on January 6. International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe spearheaded a delegation of local leaders.



Marching for good jobs at SEATAC: Local 9 Executive Board member Aaron Johanson, Local 9 Security Shop Steward Jimi Limric, and IBU Marine Division President Alan Coté marched with restaurant workers to the Seattle Port Commission meeting on January 24th at Seattle-Tacoma airport. Members of ILWU Local 9 who provide security and operations work at the airport recently launched a contract campaign to save good jobs. They've joined forces with other airport unions, including UNITE-HERE Local 8, to form the Port Unions Coalition that sponsored the January 24 solidarity action, seeking justice for all SEA-TAC airport workers

Strategy questions at union health care meeting



No bull: ILWU pensioner Rich Austin joined a protest at the “Wall Street Bull” statue in New York in January 15. The event marked the end of a 3-day conference to support “Medicare for All” with a strategy session for unions, including the ILWU, who backed Bernie Sanders for President.

The ILWU has been advocating for a national, single-payer health plan since 1938, and remains active in that effort through a network of unions and community groups who met in New York City on January 13-15, to continue pushing for a quality, non-profit health system that would cover every American.

ILWU International President Bob McEllrath assigned pensioner and

longtime “single-payer” health advocate Rich Austin, Sr., to attend the meeting and represent the ILWU.

Protest to protect Medicare & jobs

Activists from around the country began their 3-day meeting with an early-evening protest against threatened Medicare and Medicaid cuts proposed by Republican leaders in the House of Representative and U.S. Senate. They convened outside Trump Tower, where the President-elect had been meeting with Congressional lead-

ers. The Tower also hosts offices of a union-busting company, Momentive Chemical, which forced 700 workers out on strike last November by demanding huge concessions in health care benefits. Workers are resisting those take-aways despite bitter-cold days on the picket line.

Growing strength in numbers

More than 100 new participants were on hand for the opening session of the health care conference that began after the evening protest ended. The 500 attendees came from many different unions and groups including Physicians for a National Health Program and the Labor Campaign for Single Payer, which hosted the event.

Labor for Bernie continues

Invitations for a special meeting held during the conference went out to the six national unions, including the ILWU, who backed Senator Bernie Sanders for President: the Communication Workers of America, American Postal Workers Union, National Nurses United, United Electrical Workers, and the Amalgamated Transit Union. The representatives who attended felt that progressive unions should work to expand the “Labor for Bernie” network by including other national and local unions to promote “Medicare for All” and other issues raised by the Sanders campaign. A future meeting on this topic is being planned for February.

ILWU contribution noted

A contribution check from the ILWU to support the “Labor Campaign for Single Payer” effort was welcomed with applause when Rich Austin presented the donation on the second day of the conference. He noted the ILWU’s longtime support for a national health-care system that should cover everyone, similar to the Medicare program that already covers older Americans without using expensive, profit-making insurance companies.

Grassroots pressure

The conference ended with discussions about strategy, emphasizing the need to build grassroots support to protect and expand Medicare and Medicaid. After adjourning, Austin and others went to a rally at the “Wall Street Bull” statue in Bowling Green Park, an action inspired by Bernie Sanders to protect and improve America’s health care system.

“Over 12 million Americans supported Bernie Sanders during the Presidential primary campaign because they liked what he said about ‘Medicare for All,’ good union jobs, and affordable college for everyone,” said Austin. “Those problems will remain front-and-center during the next four years, and we need to be involved in the process.”

ILWU to Host Leadership Education Conference in May

The ILWU will be holding a Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD VII) in Seattle, Washington, May 7-11, 2017.

The theme of this year’s training will be: **Internal Unity and Mobilization: the ILWU in Action.**

“Our union and its membership demands leadership education to survive and grow. LEAD helps develop activists, a strong rank and file—everyone has a niche and leadership training helps pave avenues for action on all levels,” commented ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. “I look around and see that most of the leaders in this union have gone to LEAD. These programs help inspire and engage. Education will deliver us as we move forward.”

Topics at the training will include:

- Increasing strength and unity through member participation;
- Building union power in times of economic and political uncertainty;
- Improving communication—both within the union and with the general public;
- How to run effective union meetings;
- Bridging the generational gap; and inspiring young worker involvement;

- Lessons from the ILWU’s history, its diverse membership and divisions;

Instructors include active and retired ILWU members, labor activists, and staff from the International, university labor centers, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Local unions and affiliates may nominate participants, who are each required to fill out an application and hotel reservation form. Priority consideration will be given to new officers and rank and file activists who have not yet participated in any previous LEAD programs. For reasons of space and diversity, each affiliate should expect to send no more than two participants, but a waiting list will be taken in case of cancellations or non-participation by some locals.

The LEAD budget will cover participants’ hotel stay, breakfast, lunch, training materials, facilities, and instructors. Participants will be housed together in double rooms but may upgrade to a single room at their own expense. **Any reimbursement for expenses such as lost wages, or travel will have to be covered by the participant or his or her local or IBU region, or by area fundraising activities.** Financial hardship applications will be considered on an individual basis. In cases where financial hardship is



The LEAD Institute emphasizes group participation, collaboration and collective problem solving skills.

an obstacle to participation, a written request for assistance, including a statement about the circumstances involved and the amount of assistance requested, must be submitted to the International Secretary Treasurer.

Interested members should complete and return the application and reservation forms, which are available from your local or through the ILWU website: www.ilwu.org/training. Educational Services Director Robin Walker is also available to help answer questions.

Please return the completed forms by fax or mail no later than March 10, 2017 to:

ILWU LEAD VII Applications
c/o International Secretary
Treasurer William Adams
1188 Franklin St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109
Fax: 415-775-1302

Union-community coalition is changing Richmond, CA

When ILWU locals at the Northern California District Council endorsed pro-union candidates running for the Richmond City Council in 2014 and 2016, it wasn't obvious that the endorsements were part of a historic struggle to change a company town – long controlled by the Chevron Corporation – into a more progressive and union-friendly city.

Veteran labor journalist Steve Early explains how the citizens of Richmond have organized a grassroots movement that is making impressive changes to their formerly corrupt and mismanaged industrial city-by-the-bay, in his new book: *Refinery Town – Big Oil, Big Money and the Remaking of an American City.*

The Bernie connection

The book begins with a moving introduction from Senator Bernie Sanders, who first met with hundreds of Richmond activists in October of 2014 – one day before he visited with ILWU officers and union activists at the union's San Francisco headquarters – and six months before declaring his candidacy for President of the United States. Sanders came away from Richmond impressed by the way union members, environmentalists, and social justice activists were all working together in the "Richmond Progressive Alliance," known as the RPA.

Organizing for change

The RPA is a grassroots group that helps Richmond residents fight for better jobs, cleaner air, less crime, accountable policing and more affordable housing. Those goals also include making Chevron to pay a fair share of taxes from the massive refinery complex in Richmond that covers 3,000 acres with 5,000 miles of pipes that can process 240,000 barrels of crude oil

each day into valuable products worth as much as \$25 billion a year.

Big bucks vs. people power

Chevron's powerful grip on the City of Richmond was in place for a century before RPA organized volunteers over the past decade to loosen corporate control. Every two years, RPA volunteers organize grassroots campaigns for City Council candidates who refuse to take any donations from business interests, then challenge well-funded opponents financed primarily from Chevron's deep pockets.

In the 2014 Council race, Chevron spent \$3.1 million against the RPA's grassroots reformers – but failed to beat the citizen underdogs. The next race in 2016 saw business interests lose again to RPA candidates, giving the RPA 5 of the Council's 7 seats. Voters also passed a strong rent-control law backed by the RPA, overcoming massive campaign spending by local and statewide landlords. Over the years, RPA has suffered some defeats at the ballot box, but they try to learn from their failures.

Union friendly coalition

Instead of candidates who take money from business, the RPA partners with unions, gathering volunteers and donations to help all working families in Richmond. The unions involved include refinery workers who belong to Steelworkers Local 5, a union that has long battled Chevron at work, especially over safety concerns.

Dangerous explosions

Working and living near the refinery can be dangerous, something Local 5 members know better than anyone. On August 6, 2012, part of the refinery exploded, nearly killing 19 workers and sending thousands of residents to the hospital. Investigations by state and federal safety experts found that Chevron had caused the explosion by recklessly ignoring maintenance needed on critical equipment. The company's plea

of "no contest" to six criminal charges resulted in millions of dollars in fines, but no Chevron executives spent a day in jail.

Company town for a century

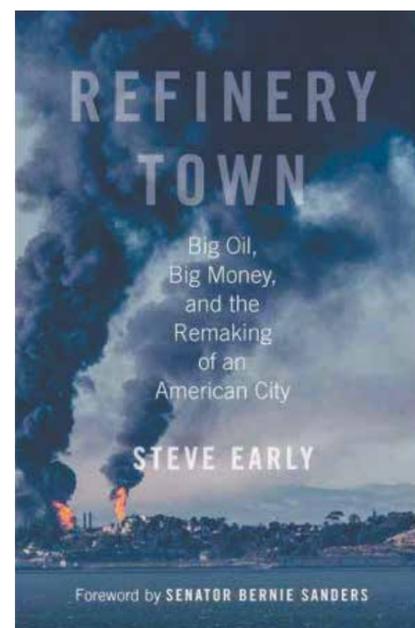
It turns out that Chevron has a long history of dangerous explosions and fires at their Richmond facility, which the author carefully chronicles. He also explains how the oil giant has an equally long record of attacking workers and unions, dating back to the time that founder John D. Rockefeller built an oil monopoly that controlled prices, accumulated vast wealth and wielded enormous power.

Union struggles

ILWU members will appreciate the author's revelation about Chevron's ability to divide workers, unions and community groups in order to maintain corporate power. His detailed account of what some unions in the building trades have done to curry favor with the company, by fighting RPA efforts to make Chevron pay more taxes or reduce harmful emissions, makes for painful but important reading. ILWU members who will recognize this same dynamic that occurred several years ago during the lockout by northwest grain terminal operators, and more recently in the Standing Rock Pipeline dispute in North Dakota.

Racism and Civil Rights

Perhaps the most important part of "Refinery Town" is the careful and detailed explanation that Early devotes to the history of racial injustice and civil rights organizing in Richmond. He explains how Richmond's racial composition changed dramatically during WWII when the Great Migration brought tens of thousands of African Americans from the South to work in the City's booming shipyards. The discrimination and racism they faced in their new home is told with sensitivity, along with some chilling examples.



Newer residents arriving from Latin America and Asia also find a voice in Refinery Town, and their struggles to escape exploitation and police abuse are included – along with efforts by RPA activists to address those problems.

Pushing for reform

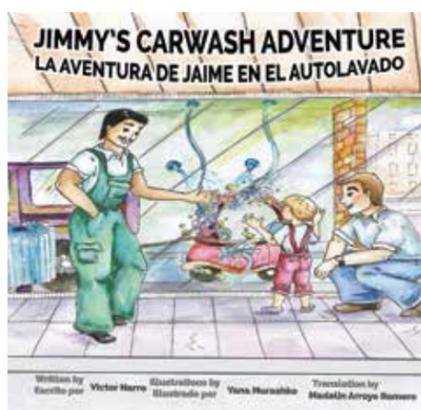
Readers may be fascinated with the way that RPA members on the City Council took action to reform their city administration and police departments by hiring new leaders with progressive attitudes toward civil rights – while also managing to dramatically address crime – including a drop in the murder rate that was once among the nation's highest.

What's happening in Richmond is still a work in progress, with many residents continuing to live in poverty without good jobs and increasingly scarce affordable housing. But the appeal of Refinery Town is the way that labor unions are part of a progressive solution that can make life better for working class residents – while also strengthening unions who discover new friends and allies in the eternal struggle for justice.

New children's book tells an important story

Jimmy's Carwash Adventure joins a small but growing number of children's books that are trying to tackle important social justice issues in ways that children can understand and appreciate.

This book is based on the experience of car wash workers in Los Angeles – mostly Mexican immigrants called "washeros" – who won their fight for better pay and respect by forming a union in 2012.



The book has sections written in both English and Spanish, making it easy for children and parents to compare, share and learn the different languages.

Author Victor Narro and illustrator Yana Murashko have created a book suitable for children ages 4-10, which can be purchased at Hard Ball Press, Amazon or booksellers everywhere.

The California Federation of Teachers offers 15 different publications about labor issues and history for children and young adults. The Teachers' Union offerings include the ILWU coloring book, "Along the Shore." For a copy of the catalog or to order books, contact the Labor in the Schools Committee, 1330 Broadway #1601, Oakland, CA 94612 or calling 510-523-5238 or emailing jgloria@cft.org



New CA law finally adds protection from dangerous indoor heat

Working inside a miserably hot building can quickly change from feeling uncomfortable into a dangerous, deadly condition where injuries may result from heat exhaustion and death can be caused by heat stroke.

A new California law sponsored by the ILWU will now protect workers from dangerous heat when they work indoors. Senate Bill 1167 was passed this summer by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Brown on September 29, 2016. Until now, there has not been a heat-specific law protecting workers who labor in hot buildings, including warehouses.

Rite Aid workers helped

Brutal summer heat inside Rite Aid's warehouse and distribution center in Lancaster, CA, helped inspire workers to launch a successful union organizing drive in 2006. The issue exploded when a co-worker suddenly died on the job after suffering in an oppressively hot warehouse. When workers learned there was no effective law on the books to protect them from dangerously high temperatures, they decided to join the ILWU and organize job actions that allowed them to win the nation's best "indoor heat" contract language for warehouse workers. Local 26 President Luisa Gratz and Rite Aid workers also provided testimony to state legislators and held a hearing about the need for stronger laws to protect all workers from dangerous heat.

"Legislation to protect workers from dangerous indoor heat has been proposed almost every year for the past decade, but industry lobbyists were able to kill those bills – until we finally passed it this year," said Lee Sandahl, the ILWU's Northern California District Council representative in Sacramento.

Broken safety system

For years, the ILWU along with other unions and allies tried patiently to "work through the system" in a frustrating effort to push California's Department of Industrial Relations to generate an indoor heat safety regulation. Industry lobbyists and weak, pro-business political appointees prevented real progress from being made through that route. When Governor Jerry Brown took office in 2011, he

appointed Ellen Widess, an aggressive defender of worker safety rights to lead California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA). Widess immediately pushed for stronger enforcement and tried to hire more inspectors to fill vacant positions. She supported the ILWU's campaign to help Bay Area recycling workers win better pay and safer working conditions, and backed efforts by Southern California warehouse workers who were pushing for indoor heat protections. Business lobbyists and their allies in the Brown administration targeted Widess and eventually succeeded in removing her in September of 2013.

Pressure to pass a law

Despite this setback, the ILWU's Northern California District Council continued supporting legislation for indoor heat protection with support from the State Labor Federation and a union-sponsored warehouse workers organizing campaign in Southern California. Additional critical help was provided by longtime allies at Worksafe!, the Southern California Committee on Occupational Safety and Health, and other health professionals. The failure of the Brown administration to establish an indoor heat regulation through their Cal-OSHA regulation process made it clear that legislators had to take action and pass a law requiring the administration to protect workers from dangerous indoor heat.

Lessons from the past

It's ironic that an outdoor heat standard was established over a decade ago by pro-business Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Governor, who also funded more OSHA inspectors during his administration than Jerry Brown's first four years in office, authorized a 2005 regulation requiring employers to provide water, shade, rest and training to help reduce farmworker deaths and injuries caused by working in high heat. That law also covers construction workers, landscapers and others who labor outside. When the outdoor standard was first proposed, the agribusiness lobby and Chamber of Commerce tried to kill the outdoor heat standard, but their objections were overcome by a coalition of unions including the United Farmworkers, ILWU, allies at Worksafe! and supportive medical experts and researchers who documented the



Fired up to organize: Rite Aid workers in Lancaster launched their campaign to form a union and join the ILWU after a co-worker died inside the brutally hot warehouse in the Mojave Desert with no air conditioning where outside temperatures reached 110 degrees. Their five-year struggle, which included a "pin-point boycott," won innovative contract language on indoor heat controls and other protections. Workers also testified about the need for a statewide law that finally passed in 2016.

danger to workers caused by high heat. The Farmworkers Union noted that the new regulation wouldn't mean anything unless it was strictly enforced, which set the stage for the later showdown between big business and Ellen Widess when she pushed to fill vacant inspector positions at Cal-OSHA despite resistance from the Governor's office and corporate interests.

Devil in the details

Exact details and implementation of the new indoor heat legislation, SB 1167, must still be hammered-out by the Cal-OSHA Standards Board. Business lobbyists will try to influence those details of the new regulation. But the fact remains that legislation protecting workers inside hot buildings was successfully co-sponsored by the ILWU and State Labor Federation, has now been passed, signed, and will soon be implemented in workplaces.

"Governor Brown made the right decision this year by signing the indoor heat legislation, said Lee Sandahl. "It

took much longer than it should have, and workers have suffered as a result, but the law is now on the books and that's progress."

Longtime Local 26 President Luisa Gratz added a similar perspective as Local 26 President and officer on the Southern California District Council: "Our involvement in this issue goes back decades. We know that heat affects humans differently, depending on their age, health, humidity and other factors, but we found that some in the labor movement were unwilling to support our bill in the beginning – and some actively opposed it. Regrettably, most workers today have no union to protect them inside an excessively hot workplace, so they end up blaming themselves or getting blamed by management when excessive heat forces a worker to slow down, miss production quotas or incur absences. Once these new regulations are in place, there must be an overwhelming PR campaign to educate, apply and enforce this long-overdue law."

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 7: Dean F. Ringenbach; **Local 8:** Felix F. Brown, Jr.; **Local 10:** Algerion Bryant; **Local 13:** Richard Le Grant; Ramon L. Ochart; Catherine H. Pace; Valerie K. Richman-Brown; Russell N. Moilov; Maria Del Pilar Zuanich; Frank J. Marshall; Kathleen J. Rowland; **Local 19:** Albert R. Reece, Jr.; Kenneth J. Carlton; **Local 21:** Lon A. Ylonen; **Local 23:** William T. Rachal, Sr.; Ralph Lacher; Rex A. Thompson; **Local 29:** Guillermo A. Jara; **Local 40:** Richard R. Foshaug; **Local 46:** Robert J. Maria; **Local 63:** Samuel A. Torres Jr; Gretchen

E. Williams; Irene G. Zavala; Robert J. Raquel; **Local 94:** Wayne A. Maunder; Rudy R. Ibarra;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Norman S. Parks; Walter A. Ingersoll; **Local 10:** Roosevelt Rhodes; Henry Williams; Vicente Nevel; **Local 12:** James F. Hammons Jr.; Gale E. Stevenson **Local 13:** Richard H. Olson; Arthur H. Hernandez; Paul Torres Jr; Leslie B. Phillips; Octavio B. Nunez; Rodolfo Chavez; William J. Flenniken; Alfred L. Carrasco; **Local 18:** Fred E. Huntsinger; **Local 26:** Joseph Welcome; Jesus D.

Tejeda; **Local 27:** Jon M. Nason; **Local 29:** Curtis A. Willard; **Local 34:** Pearson Herring Jr; **Local 46:** Joseph E. Solano; **Local 52:** David J. Brennan, Jr.; **Local 63:** James C. Seals; Lillian V. Bishop; Frederick H. Mauk Sr.; Steven L. Gabel; Ronald D. Palmer; **Local 94:** Kuzma B. Malahni; Anthony S. Vidulich (Maria Del Pilar-Zuanich); Joe Herrera; **Local 94:** Barry L. Sutlovich; **Local 98:** Ralph M. Brown Jr;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Alexandra S. Rendon; Linda Franske-Lafromboise; Geraldine M.

Morello; Rose M. Buckley; **Local 10:** Lillie M. Sawyer; Irma L. Randall; Mary Mifsud; Mary L. Grant; **Local 12:** Delpha Jakovac; **Local 13:** Ruth N. Amador; Marylou Schaller; Edna Jackson; Frances Dunn; Trina S. Hoge; **Local 19:** Patricia Downey; **Local 23:** Doris M. Usorac; **Local 34:** Wyn Davis; **Local 50:** Patricia A. Kujala; Colleen G. Hille; **Local 51:** Rebecca J. Whitney; **Local 54:** Doris Parenti; Elvira J. Mata; **Local 63:** Hilda J. Carlson; **Local 91:** Elsie Banchemo;

Nueva ley de CA finalmente protege a trabajadores del peligroso calor en interiores

El trabajar en un edificio en un calor sofocante puede no sólo ser incómodo sino que puede transformarse rápidamente en una situación peligrosa y mortal, ya que los trabajadores pueden llegar a sufrir un golpe de calor o morir de insolación.

Una nueva ley de California patrocinada por ILWU ahora protegerá a los trabajadores del calor peligroso cuando trabajan dentro de los edificios. El Proyecto de Ley del Senado 1167 fue aprobado este verano por la legislatura estatal y promulgada por el gobernador Brown el 29 de septiembre del 2016. Hasta ahora, no ha existido una ley específicamente sobre el calor que proteja a los que trabajan en edificios calurosos, incluidos los almacenes.

Ayuda para los trabajadores de Rite Aid

El calor infernal de verano dentro del almacén y centro de distribución de Rite Aid en Lancaster, CA fue uno de los motivos por los que los trabajadores lanzaron su campaña de organización en 2006. El asunto estalló cuando un compañero de trabajo murió de repente en el trabajo después de sufrir por el calor opresivo que había en el almacén. Cuando los trabajadores se dieron cuenta de que no existía ninguna ley que les protegiera efectivamente de las altas temperaturas peligrosas, decidieron unirse a ILWU y organizar acciones laborales que les llevó a conseguir la mejor cláusula contractual en todo el país para trabajadores de almacenes sobre el calor en interiores. La Presidenta del Local 26, Luisa Gratz y los trabajadores de Rite Aid también dieron su testimonio ante los legisladores estatales y celebraron una audiencia para señalar la falta de leyes más efectivas que protejan a todos los trabajadores del calor peligroso.

“La legislación para proteger a los trabajadores de los riesgos del calor en interiores se ha propuesto casi anualmente durante la última década pero los cabilderos de estas empresas han podido bloquear estos proyectos de ley – hasta que finalmente logramos que se aprobara este año”, dijo Lee Sandahl, el representante del Consejo del Distrito del Norte de California de ILWU en Sacramento.

Sistema de seguridad descompuesto

Durante años, el ILWU junto con otros sindicatos y aliados se armaron de paciencia y trataron de conseguir que el Departamento de Relaciones Industriales de California estableciera un reglamento de seguridad industrial sobre el calor en el interior de los edificios. Se vieron frustrados ya que los cabilderos de las empresas y los funcionarios débiles, pro empresariales impidieron que se lograra un verdadero avance por ese medio. Cuando el Gobernador Jerry Brown asumió el poder en 2011, nombró a Ellen Widess, una fuerte defensora del derecho de los trabajadores en materia de seguridad industrial a la jefatura de la División

de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional de California (Cal-OSHA). Widess inmediatamente presionó para que se aplicaran las leyes más rigurosamente y trató de contratar más inspectores para llenar los puestos vacantes. Ella apoyó la campaña de ILWU que ayudó a los trabajadores del reciclaje del área de la Bahía a conseguir mejores salarios y condiciones de trabajo más seguras, y respaldó los esfuerzos de los trabajadores de almacenes del sur de California por protegerse del calor dentro de los almacenes. Los cabilderos de las empresas y sus aliados en la administración de Brown atacaron a Widess y finalmente lograron quitarla de su puesto en septiembre de 2013.

La presión para aprobar una ley

A pesar de este contratiempo, el Consejo del Distrito del Norte de California de ILWU siguió luchando por leyes que protegieran a los trabajadores del calor en interiores con el apoyo de la Federación de Trabajo del Estado y la campaña de sindicalización de trabajadores de almacenes en el sur de California que el Sindicato estaba auspiciando. Además, recibimos en momentos críticos la ayuda de nuestros aliados de mucho tiempo de Worksafe!, el Comité de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional del Sur de California y otros profesionales de la salud. El fracaso de la administración de Brown para establecer un reglamento sobre el calor en interiores a través del proceso de regulación de Cal-OSHA dejó claro que los legisladores tenían que tomar acción y aprobar una ley obligando a la administración a proteger a los trabajadores de este calor peligroso.

Lecciones del pasado

Es irónico que el gobierno del Gobernador Arnold Schwarzenegger, conocido por sus posiciones pro empresariales, ya había establecido una norma sobre el calor externo hacía más de una década. Dicho Gobernador, que también financió más inspectores de OSHA durante su administración que durante los primeros cuatro años del mandato de Jerry Brown, autorizó un reglamento en 2005 que obligó a los empleadores a proporcionar agua, sombra, descanso y entrenamiento para ayudar a reducir las lesiones y muertes de trabajadores del campo causadas por el calor. Esa ley también ampara a los trabajadores de la construcción, jardineros y otros trabajadores que trabajan afuera. Cuando la norma referente al trabajo al aire libre se propuso por primera vez, los cabilderos agroindustriales y la Cámara de Comercio intentaron impedir la aprobación de la norma, pero su oposición fue superada por una coalición de sindicatos, incluso el de los Campesinos, ILWU, los aliados de Worksafe! y peritos e investigadores médicos que prestaron su apoyo y documentaron los peligros para los trabajadores causados por las altas temperaturas. La Unión de Campesinos señaló que el nuevo reglamento no significaba nada si no se aplicaba rigurosamente, lo cual sentó las bases



Finalmente: el pasado Septiembre, el Gobernador Jerry Brown firmó una nueva ley para proteger a trabajadores del calor intenso dentro de edificios

para el posterior enfrentamiento entre las grandes empresas y Ellen Widess cuando esta presionó para llenar las vacantes de inspector en Cal-OSHA a pesar de la resistencia de la gubernatura y las empresas.

El problema está en los detalles

Los detalles exactos y la aplicación de la nueva ley, SB 1167, sobre el calor interior aún tienen que ser definidos por la Junta de Normas de Cal-OSHA. Los cabilderos de las empresas tratarán de influir en los detalles de ese nuevo reglamento. Pero lo que queda claro es que la ley que protege a los trabajadores dentro de los edificios calurosos fue patrocinada conjuntamente con éxito por ILWU y la Federación Laboral del Estado, fue aprobada, promulgada y pronto será puesta en práctica en los centros de trabajo.

“El Gobernador Brown tomó la decisión correcta este año al promulgar la ley sobre el calor en el interior de edificios,” dijo Lee Sandahl. “Se tardó mucho más de lo necesario, y los trabajadores han sufrido como consecuencia de ello, pero la ley ahora existe y eso es un avance.”



New waterfront stadium: San Francisco Port Commission President Wilie Adams, who also serves as ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer, was joined on January 17 by Golden State Warriors Basketball Coach Steve Carr and Port Commission Vice President Kimberly Brandon at the groundbreaking for a new Warriors basketball stadium in San Francisco. The 18,000 seat privately-funded Chase Center will be built and operated by union workers on a site in Mission Bay. An earlier waterfront location closer to downtown at Piers 30-32 was dropped after community complaints. The new site was approved after traffic and parking congestion concerns were rejected by a court and the developer promised to reduce the impact on nearby hospitals, residents and businesses. The Golden State Warriors are returning to their home in San Francisco after playing for many years in Oakland.

Honoring King Day with action

continued from page 1

ended at the federal building in downtown Seattle, where a final rally was held. This year's event marked the 35th celebration held in Seattle to honor MLK's legacy.

Bay Area breakfast

An early morning breakfast on January 16 brought ILWU members

together with fellow unionists and civil rights activists at the Marriott Hotel San Francisco. The featured speaker was Dolores Huerta, a co-founder of the United Farmworkers Union, who helped lead a union drive five decades ago in California's agricultural fields. The UFW played a central role in the continuing civil rights struggle by Latino immigrants.



Honoring King: Local 10 members joined friends and allies on January 16 at a breakfast honoring Dr. Martin Luther King in San Francisco. Almost 50 years ago, the martyred Civil Rights leader visited the Longshoremen's Memorial Hall in 1967 – the same year that Local 10 members elected Cleophus Williams their first African-American President. Pictured (L-R) are Local 10's Melvyn Mackay, Secretary-Treasurer Derrick Muhammad, President Ed Ferris, Bookkeeper Julie Chandler, Farless Dailey and BALMA President Chris Christensen.



Auxiliary #8 Diaper Drive: When Teresa Rodriguez learned that some families in her community were having trouble paying for baby diapers, she shared the concern with her sisters at ILWU Auxiliary #8 in Wilmington, CA. Auxiliary members embraced the idea of a "Diaper Drive" and voted to support the project with Rodriguez serving as Co-Chair. "Teresa let us know about this need in our community, so we backed her idea and got organized," said Aux. 8 President Ida Taylor. Local 94 was also an important supporter with Vice President Ed Alexander and wife Nancy Dean donating \$250 that was matched by the membership. Another \$200 came from Local 94 member Marcel Ross and wife Shannon, who purchased and delivered dozens of cases during November that were distributed by the Harbor Pregnancy Help Center, Children's Institute and Harbor Community Clinic. "We couldn't do our work without all the support from the ILWU locals and Pensioners," said Taylor.

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