



# THE DISPATCHER

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ILWU International President Robert McEllrath and ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams along with attendees of ILWU Canada's Leadership Course which helps to train a new generation of leaders.

# ILWU Canada leadership course trains new leaders

The ILWU Canada Leadership Course held on February 14-19 at Harrison Hot Springs in British Columbia, was a tremendous success. Our class was bursting at the seams with 26 participants who attended from ILWU Canada Locals 502, 505, 508, 514, 517, Grain Workers Union Local 333 and the Retail Wholesale Union of British Columbia.

Participants were taught skills that included: working together as a team, public speaking, how to run a meeting, political action, how to challenge bullying and harassment, arbi-

trations, ethics and the function of a union.

Joining our local participants were special guest speakers that included: ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, ILWU Canada President Emeritus Tom Dufresne, and Jim Sinclair, our past President of the British Columbia Federation of Labour.

I was personally happy to see three members from Grain Workers Union Local 333, a new local to ILWU Canada, being welcomed by everyone in a great showing of solidarity. The expressions of solidarity that took place during the meet-

ings and throughout the entire Leadership Course by the Brothers and Sisters made me proud to be a part of this great union.

Given the number and size of our last two training conferences, ILWU Canada will consider holding two of these events in 2017, in order to accommodate the education needs of our members. Giving these Brothers and Sisters the skills they need to stand up and help lead our great union will ensure that our future will be a positive one.

In Solidarity,  
Steve Nasby  
2nd Vice President, ILWU Canada

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# ILWU endorses Senator Bernie Sanders for President

**S**AN FRANCISCO, CA – The ILWU's International Executive Board voted on March 24th to endorse U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders for President.

"Bernie Sanders is the best candidate for America's working families," said ILWU International President Robert McEllrath. "Bernie is best on the issues that matter most to American workers: better trade agreements, support for unions, fair wages, free tuition for students and public

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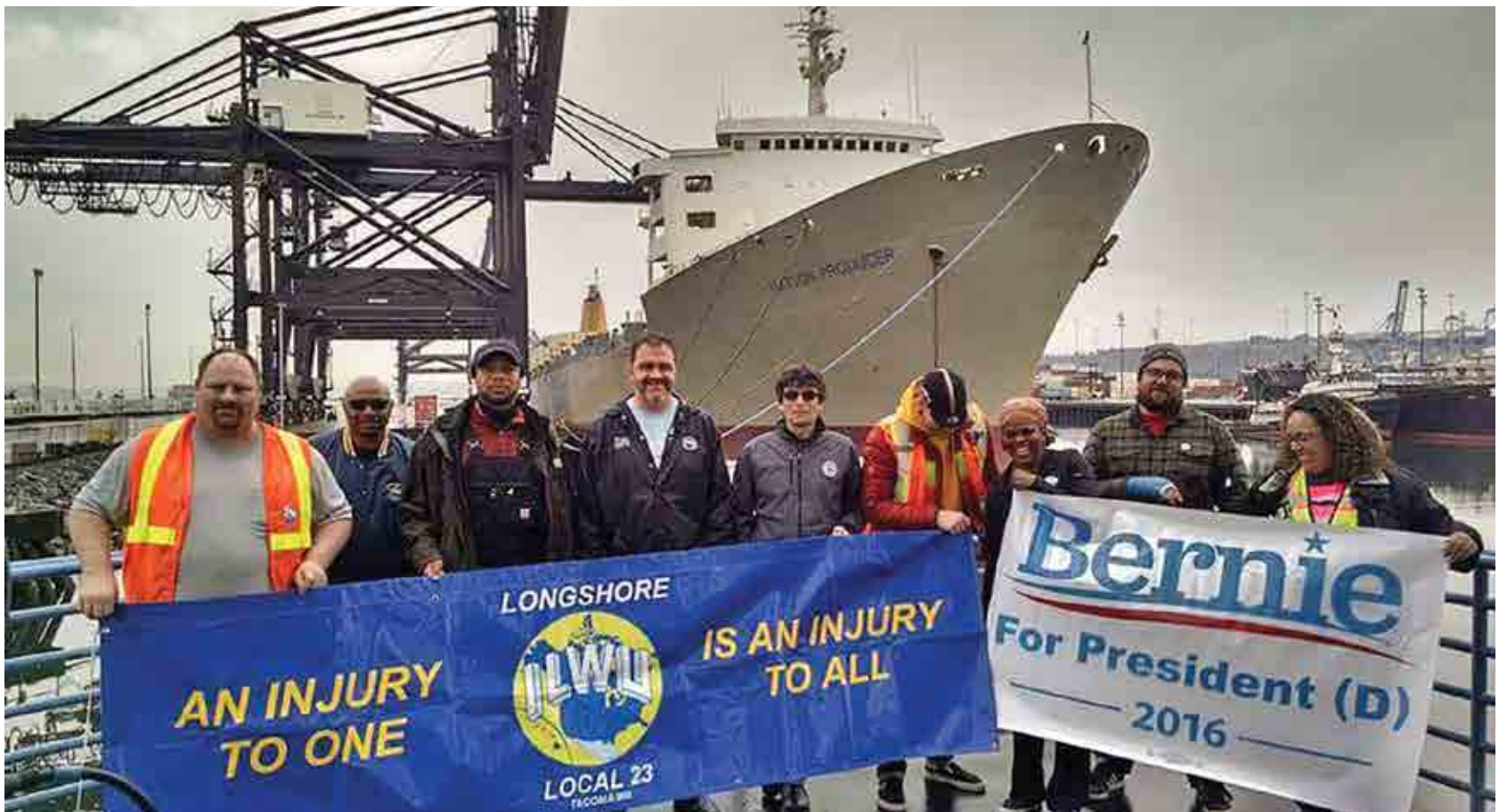
**– ILWU International President Robert McEllrath**

colleges, Medicare for all, fighting a corrupt campaign finance system and confronting the power of Wall Street that's making life harder for most Americans."

Many longshore union members have expressed enthusiastic support for Sanders at the local level.

The ILWU represents approximately 50,000 women and men

who work in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii – in addition to ILWU Divisions representing workers in Canada and Panama.



**Support for Bernie:** Support for Bernie Sanders among ILWU members is strong including in the Puget Sound.



On March 24th, the ILWU International Executive Board voted to endorse Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders for President.



ILWU International President Robert McEllrath (left) with Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders.

## DISPATCHER

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# HC&S sugar plantation in Hawaii to close



Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) workers gather under overcast skies at the company town house meeting on January 6, 2016 to receive the announcement that HC&S will be making their last sugar cane harvest this year. More than 650 ILWU members will be losing their jobs when HC&S, the last surviving sugar plantation in Hawaii shuts down at the end of the year.

**P**UUNENE, Maui – At its peak, sugar was the number one industry in Hawaii with hundreds of thousands of acres under cultivation on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii island. By 2015, only Maui's Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) remained of the industry once called “king,” and by the end of 2016 that last plantation will grind to a halt, ending commercialized sugar in the state.

## Shut-down announced affecting 650 ILWU members

“The day began like any other day,” recalled Charles Andrion, a third generation sugar worker at HC&S. “It was the first week of the year and the beginning of the off season, when repairs and refitting of equipment are done. It was business as usual and hopes were high that the harvest season would start soon.” Just after noon, a company town hall meeting at 1:00 p.m. was announced. Under overcast skies, HC&S workers were given a packet with a letter stating that the company would be phasing out of sugar after the current crop is harvested at the end of the year. The shutdown will affect more than 650 ILWU members.

Citing operating losses of \$30 million in 2015 and a forecast of continued losses in the future, the company said that it will stop planting in early March and as many as 90 field workers will lose their jobs. The rest of the workers will lose their jobs throughout the year as their specific responsibilities are completed.

## Workers and their families face uncertainty

Andrion has worked as an Instrument Technician since he was accepted into HC&S's apprenticeship program after graduating from college nine years ago. His grandfather was one of the sakadas who were recruited from the Philippines to work on the plantation in 1946. His grandparents and parents were able to provide for their families with the wages and benefits they received, which were negotiated by the ILWU. Andrion was stunned by the unforeseen announcement by Alexander & Baldwin (A&B), the parent company of HC&S.

During a family discussion at the dinner table the day before the announcement, Andrion's four-year-old pre-schooler asked if they could sign her up for gymnastic class. “I told her yes, but after the announcement was made, we are not sure if we can afford the tuition,” said Andrion.

## Disappointment in the decision to close

Esther Manibog's father was also a sakada. He met the woman of his dreams who was working in the power plant and married her and put down roots in Maui. In 1986, Esther began working in the field like her father. After several years, she was accepted into the apprenticeship program and earned certifications to be an electrician. Manibog considered applying for jobs outside of HC&S but didn't because the ILWU negotiated wages and benefits provided her enough to pay the mortgage and raise her child, even as a single parent.

Manibog expressed her disappointment regarding A&B's decision to shut down the operation. She described how the union—Local, Maui Division, and HC&S unit officers—mobilized her fellow HC&S workers and their families and worked hard to educate the community on the economic benefits and the jobs that HC&S provided. “We provided testimony in opposition to the proposed reductions of water from East Maui because of the concerns over the economic impacts that the reduced water would have on the plantation and jobs, Esther said.

A lawsuit seeking to end all agricultural burning was filed by the “Stop Cane Burning group” against HC&S last July. “Through a coordinated effort, by the union, we gathered more than 6,000 signatures on a petition supporting the current Agricultural Burning Permit and delivered it to the Department of Health.” Manibog said, “Despite all these efforts, A&B made the decision to close.”

## An Injury to One is an Injury to All

With the first layoff period fast approaching, the union again mobilized—this time to help the affected workers in transitioning into a new jobs and to deal with the hardships that they will face.

A survey was sent out to the workers immediately after the announcement was made. The survey allows the union to gather information on the affected worker's needs, so that the appropriate resources are provided by the company as well as federal, state and county governments. The workers also updated their contact information to ensure that the union can provide additional information or assistance when needed.

Two open house meetings were held at the ILWU Hall in Wailuku on January 15-16, 2016, to meet the workers face-to-face and to answer any questions that they may have. Assistance in completing the survey was available. English and Ilocano speaking members were on hand to make certain that everyone understood what services and programs are available to help them with the transition and layoff. Help will also be provided to laid-off workers applying for unemployment benefits.

## Effects bargaining to begin

Because HC&S workers are covered by an ILWU contract, the company has a duty to bargain with the ILWU over the effects of the closure on workers. This is called effects bargaining.

Some of the issues that will be discussed are severance pay, payout of unused vacation and sick leave, seniority, retirement benefits, and medical and dental insurance. The union has asked to begin effects bargaining with HC&S as quickly as possible. “We will be working hard to assure that the workers receive the full benefit of their contract and what they are entitled to by federal and state law,” said ILWU President and negotiating committee spokesperson Donna Domingo.

## Severance pay and medical coverage

Severance pay is usually based on the length of employment with a company and is not required by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). However, the ILWU negotiated contract with HC&S includes severance as a benefit and specifies that it will be paid out on the basis of nine days' pay for each year of service for all eligible workers. No union dues are deducted from severance pay.

The union negotiating committee's goal is to increase the severance benefit to help laid-off workers pay for housing and other expenses—a concern for many HC&S ILWU members. Mariano Oliveros, who emigrated from the Philippines seven years ago, got his first full-time job as a drip irrigation hook-up and repair worker. “My family is living comfortably because the plantation provided me with a stable income. I'm in my fifties, too old to find another job easily. How am I going to pay for my medical coverage and mortgage without a job?” said Oliveros.

Another area that the union negotiating committee will be working on is the severance payout timeframe. Workers at other companies have waited up to 14 months after the closure to receive their severance pay. The union negotiating committee will do its best to insure that the severance is paid out in a timely manner.

The union negotiating committee will also be fighting to extend the period during which laid-off workers

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Social Services Coordinator Joanne Kealoha (right) going over the packet and information to be passed out at the open house meeting on January 15, 2016. This was the first of two meetings to meet the members and pass out information on the services and programs that are available to help the workers in the transition and how to best survive the layoff (l-r): Local Executive Board Member Ester Manibog, Gordon Martins, Unit Chair Daniel Martinez, and Business Agent Joe Aquino.

# Longshoreman & wife support their community, family – and son who played in the Super Bowl

**R**egan Keo is a respected member of Local 19 who has worked on Seattle's waterfront for decades. But his profile increased dramatically earlier this year when word spread that his son, Shiloh, was playing for the Denver Broncos and heading for Super Bowl 50.

"There was a lot of buzz and excitement from so many of us who were proud of Regan, his family and his son," said Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr.

## 27 years of coaching

While he's invested decades on the docks, Regan's true passion revolves around his devotion to coaching and mentoring young athletes.

"We've been coaching for 27 years now," said Regan, who uses the word "we" intentionally to acknowledge the important role played by his wife and partner, Diana, who is an integral part of their successful and unique coaching effort.

"We're a team that does it all together," he says, "I'm the offensive coach and she's the defensive coach." The couple coaches football and softball – both fast and slow-pitch.

## Philosophy of fun

The young people they mentor range in age from 7 to 14, and all of them receive the same message from Regan and Diana who believe that strong teams are built on a coaching philosophy that boils down to three words: "firm but fun!" The couple says that approach is one reason they always have an after-game BBQs for the players and their families – whether the team wins or loses.

"We always try to have fun out there, and think of ourselves more as teachers than coaches," adds Diana.

"These kids are young and so open to ideas – they just sponge-up new concepts."

## Respecting women

One of the concepts they try to get across is respect for girls and women. The young men being taught by this veteran female defensive expert are getting more than just a novel coaching experience and valuable field strategy. The couple hopes to provide an example with lifetime impact.

"We hope it teaches them to respect women, and understand they can go beyond what they think is 'normal,'" says Regan.

## Big family at home

In addition to teaching and mentoring dozens of children on the field each season, the Keo's have kept busy over the years raising their own family of seven children.

Their kids all played sports at a young age, and one – Shiloh – showed some special talent at a very early age.

"We both saw that he had something special when he was just 7 years old," said Regan. "We could see that he had a chance to go very far."

But the couple remained sober about what the future might hold, providing sound advice to Shiloh, their other children – and every child they've coached during the past 27 years.

## Realistic advice

"We've done this long enough to be able to tell kids that it will be hard, especially if you spend time away from your family – if you're lucky enough to play at college," says Regan.

"We tell them to focus on their school work, and not just party – because very few of them will be able to make a living by being an athlete."

## Beating the odds

Because their son Shiloh showed remarkable speed and agility at a young age, his parents tried to prepare him for the trials and tribulations that face a promising pro athlete.

In Shilo's case, his career began when his exceptional high school performance led to being recruited by the University of Idaho in 2006 where he made 72 tackles his freshman year and was voted MVP the next. After recovering from an injury in his junior year, he finished his senior year with another MVP award and set several college records.

## Entering the NFL

Shiloh beat the odds facing most college players when he was drafted by the Houston Texans in 2011 where he made some key plays, became a team captain in 2012, and moved up to become starting safety in late 2013. Then an injury in 2014 caused him to be cut from the team. After recovering, he was signed by the Cincinnati Ben-



**Team effort:** Regan and Diana Keo have devoted almost three decades to coaching youth sports. Besides raising their 7 children – including one who made it to the NFL – they both coach softball and football teams in the Puget Sound.

gals in early 2015 – but then released later that same year.

## Super Bowl bound

At the end of 2015, Denver signed Shiloh who jumped into the last regular season game on January 3, making an interception that led to a winning touchdown. Then it was on to the AFC Championship against the Patriots on Jan 24 where he recovered an onside kick attempt by New England with 12 seconds remaining in the game, protecting Denver's 20-18 win that sent the Broncos to Super Bowl 50.

## Big challenges

Regan and Diana know that Shiloh still faces an uphill fight for job security in one of America's most insecure and hazardous professions where the pay can be staggering, but most careers are shockingly brief – typically just over 3 years according to the Players Association union. And players also face the prospect of bankruptcy and financial ruin when they leave the game at a staggering rate of 78%, according to a recent Sports Illustrated study.

## Dad remains his coach

Shiloh ties to be reflective as he maneuvers his way through the obstacle course of professional sports. Many of the pros have to struggle on their own without support from two parents. Shiloh's one of the lucky ones with a mother and father who continue to provide their son with rock

solid support – something he recognizes and appreciates.

"He's still my coach today," says Shiloh about his father. "I come from a very big family. We have a lot of men in the family. We all grew up playing football. Everything I learned I started off learning from my family and learning from my dad."

"Once I was able to start playing, my dad was my coach until I got to high school, and it didn't stop," he said, explaining that the support continued when he moved away to college.

"I thought there would be no more dad coaching me. But it never stops. He'll always be there for me and he'll always give me tips when he thinks I need some. He's always there to support me. I can't thank him enough."

## Life moves ahead

Regan Keo and his wife have no intention of ending the support for their son, the rest of their family – or the thousands of kids they've taught and mentored over nearly three decades.

"My longshore job was flexible enough to let us to coach together all these years," says Regan. "At some point, I'll retire, but the coaching will continue and we'll keep helping these kids every second that they're on the field, so we can help them go as far as possible in life."

# HC&S sugar plantation in Hawaii to close

*continued from page 3*

receive medical coverage. "I'm having a hard time sleeping because I'm worried about how I'm going to pay for my daughter's and my medical," said Manibog, with tears in her eyes.

## An era ends, but the impact of sugar workers remain

Sugar plantations once stretched the length of the island chain—from Kekaha to Kau. Hundreds of thousands of workers and even family were

brought to Hawaii from as far away as the Azores and Puerto Rico and China, Korea, Japan and the Philippines to work the fields. Plantation communities were the foundation of Hawaii's multi-ethnic culture and values.

In 1946, 30,000 sugar workers plus their families went on strike to begin a long battle for a better life. Their struggle—along with their fellow workers in other industries in the ILWU—reshaped Hawaii, building

power for workers and their families and achieving a large measure of economic, social and political justice.

The era in which ILWU sugar workers shaped the history of Hawaii has passed, but the impact of sugar, its workers, and the workers' union remains. "The workers should take pride in the fact that they did everything they could to keep HC&S going, and that they were able to rally their community in support of Hawaii's

last sugar plantation," said ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura. "I see them as heroes of the ILWU."

Charles Andrion summed up his feelings on the bittersweet ending of HC&S. "It feels like my grandparents put the first cane stalk into the ground and I will be taking the last cane stalk out of the ground," he said. "But we'll find a way to move forward."

# Recycling is important – and recycling workers deserve better conditions

Americans are beginning to dump our throw-away economy. Curbside recycling is now available in most west coast communities and more than 9,000 cities across America. It's helping to divert one-third of our waste that used to be burned or buried.

Recycling is also good because it conserves raw materials and saves money for local governments. And it reduces greenhouse gases that cause global climate change.

But recycling won't succeed if recycling workers don't have decent pay, good benefits and safe working conditions. Most full-time recycling workers are forced to live in poverty – and their "green jobs" are far too dangerous. Recycling workers are being killed and seriously injured every year.

On March 1, a 42-year old worker was killed at a Waste Management's recycling plant in Philadelphia. He was crushed to death by a one-ton bale of paper.

Ironically – on same day – a Bay Area recycling firm was being honored by workers and community leaders for "dramatically improving working conditions" at a company which recently signed an ILWU Local 6 contract. During an interfaith luncheon, the Sierra Club's Ruth Abbe presented a plaque to Chris Valbusa, general manager of Alameda County Industries (ACI), recognizing the company's effort to cooperate with workers and create safer jobs with good pay, benefits and the right to fair treatment.

ACI and Waste Management are both private companies. And like most large recycling firms, their workers are paid with public funds – from residents and ratepayers – through contracts awarded by local governments.

When we drop a newspaper, bottle, or food waste in our recycling bin, it's good to know that it will be recycled – but most of us don't know anything about the workers performing these dirty and dangerous jobs – often employed by companies who exploit labor and cut corners on safety.

Years before the worker was killed at Waste Management's Philadelphia facility on March 1, reports of hazardous conditions were being received by the Philadelphia Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH). The complaints included workers getting sick on the job, suffering from poor ventilation, dust, dizziness, fainting – and even coughing up blood.

These conditions happen when employers cut corners on safety to deal with materials arriving in recycling bins that include syringes, toxic chemicals, animal carcasses, human waste and other filth. A 2015 study by public health experts, "Sustainable and Safe Recycling," found that recycling workers are injured more than twice as much as other industrial workers. The findings also noted that fifteen recycling workers were killed on the job between 2011 and 2013.

The only way for workers to protect themselves is through education and active health and safety programs that they can control.

At the Waste Management facility in Philadelphia, we learned that many workers were considered "temporary" and assigned by an agency called Centrix Staffing. To check the company's approach to safety, we asked a Spanish-speaking colleague to apply for work there. He was shown a short training video – in English – then deemed ready for work, with no hands-on instruction and no evidence that he understood any of the material presented to him.

The incident was captured on film in the an excellent documentary, "A Day's Work," which details the hazards – including death – facing workers in America's growing "temp" industry.

Something similar happened to ACI workers who were also being hired as temps by an outside agency until 16 months ago. Things changed at ACI because workers asked the Longshore Union to help them organize a campaign to improve conditions. The effort included legal action to enforce living wage laws. Workers attended classes on their own time to learn about safety and rights on the job through trainings provided by the Uni-



**Courage to make things better:** Maria Irene Granados helped lead her co-workers to win dramatic improvements in pay and working conditions for recyclers at ACI.



**Better for families:** "The better pay we won made it possible for my family to buy a home," said ACI worker Jesus Muñoz.

the workers real employees. In October of 2014, ACI's recycling workers formally voted to join ILWU. Instead of fighting the outcome, ACI management negotiated a fair agreement with a committee elected by workers.

The results have transformed pay and working conditions at ACI and lifted families out of poverty. Previous wages of \$8 an hour will reach over \$20 an hour by July 2019. Workers now earn sick pay, vacations, holidays and health insurance for their families. And safety has improved dramatically, thanks to an active health and safety committee that meets every three months – and includes a strong voice from workers.

The remarkable story of progress at ACI proves there is a clear path to reduce injuries on the job and prevent future tragedies: listen to workers; respect their right to organize; and support smart, effective labor-management cooperation.

The people who handle our recyclables ultimately work for us. So let's treat them with the dignity and respect that they deserve.

- Gail Bateson & Barbara Rahke

Gail Bateson is executive director at WorkSafe, an Oakland-based group that supported ILWU recycling workers through the Sustainable Recycling Coalition. Barbara Rahke is executive director of PhilaPOSH and board chair of the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health.

versity of California's Labor Occupational and Health Program. Help from the Coalition for Sustainable Recycling mobilized dozens of groups to support the effort, including Worksafe! Local churches, immigrant rights organizations and environmental groups contacted elected officials in the communities where ACI had recycling contracts.

ACI responded in a positive way to this growing pressure. The company dropped the temp agency and made



**Working together:** Relations between workers and ACI management have improved dramatically since recycling workers organized and took action with support from community leaders. (L-R) ACI supervisor Brenda Perez, ACI recycler Jose Degadillo, ACI general manager Chris Valbusa and ACI recycling worker Pedro Sanchez.

# El reciclaje es importante - y los trabajadores del reciclaje se merecen mejores condiciones

Los norteamericanos empiezan a rechazar el sistema económico que produce el despilfarro. La recolección de basura reciclable ahora está disponible en la mayoría de las comunidades de la costa del Pacífico y en más de 9,000 ciudades por todo Estados Unidos. El reciclaje está ayudando a desviar una tercera parte de la basura que anteriormente se quemaba o enterraba.

El reciclaje es también bueno porque conserva las materias primas y ahorra dinero para los gobiernos locales. Además, reduce los gases de efecto invernadero que causan el cambio climático mundial.

Pero el reciclaje no tendrá éxito si los trabajadores de este ramo no tienen un salario digno, buenos beneficios y condiciones de trabajo seguras. La mayoría de los trabajadores a tiempo completo del reciclaje están obligados a vivir en la pobreza - y sus "puestos de trabajo verdes" son demasiado peligrosos. Los trabajadores del reciclaje están muriendo y sufriendo lesiones graves cada año debido a su trabajo.

El 1 de marzo, un trabajador de 42 años de edad murió en una planta de reciclaje de Waste Management en Filadelfia. Él fue aplastado por un fardo de papel que pesaba una tonelada.

Irónicamente, ese mismo día, una empresa de reciclaje del área de la Bahía que recientemente firmó un contrato con el Local 6 de ILWU fue homenajeada por los trabajadores y los líderes de la comunidad por haber "mejorado radicalmente las condiciones de trabajo." Durante un almuerzo interreligioso, Ruth Abbe del Sierra Club, presentó una placa a Chris Valbusa, gerente general de Alameda County Industries (ACI), reconociendo a la compañía por su cooperación con los trabajadores y la creación de puestos de trabajo menos peligrosos, con buenos salarios y beneficios y el derecho al trato justo.

Ambas ACI y Waste Management son empresas privadas. Y al igual que la mayoría de las grandes empresas de reciclaje, sus trabajadores son pagados con fondos públicos - de residentes y contribuyentes - a través de contratos adjudicados por los gobiernos locales.

Cuando tiramos un periódico, botella, o los residuos de alimentos en nuestro recipiente de reciclaje, es bueno saber que serán reciclados, pero la mayoría de nosotros no sabemos nada acerca de los trabajadores que hacen esos trabajos sucios y peligrosos - a menudo para empresas que los explotan y descuidan la seguridad industrial.

Años antes de que el trabajador muriera el 1 de marzo en Waste Management en Filadelfia, el Proyecto de Seguridad y Salud Ocupacional de Filadelfia (PhilaPOSH) había recibido informes de condiciones peligrosas. Se habían presentado quejas de trabajadores que se estaban enfermando en el trabajo, que sufrían de mala ventilación, polvo, mareos, desmayos, e incluso estaban tosiendo sangre.

Estas condiciones ocurren cuando los empleadores descuidan la seguridad industrial al manejar los materiales que llegan en contenedores de reciclaje, los cuales incluyen jeringas, productos químicos tóxicos, desechos humanos, cadáveres de animales y demás escoria. Un estudio de 2015 por expertos en salud pública titulado "Reciclaje Sostenible y Seguro" encontró que los trabajadores del reciclaje se lesionan más del doble que otros trabajadores industriales. Las conclusiones también señalaron que quince trabajadores del reciclaje murieron en el trabajo entre 2011 y 2013.

La única manera que los trabajadores se pueden proteger es a través de la educación y la participación activa en los programas de salud y seguridad industrial que ellos pueden controlar.

En la instalación de Waste Management en Filadelfia, nos enteramos de que muchos trabajadores eran considerados "temporales" y colocados por la agencia llamada Centrix Staffing. Para



**Maurice Titus:** "Ahora tengo un buen trabajo y puedo proveer lo necesario a mi familia."

comprobar la manera en que la compañía enfocaba la seguridad, le pedimos a un colega de habla hispana que solicitara trabajo allí. A él se le mostró un video corto de entrenamiento - en inglés - e inmediatamente después se le consideró listo para trabajar, sin ninguna instrucción práctica ni prueba de que había entendido lo que se le presentó.

El incidente fue captado en la excelente película documental "A Day's Work," que detalla los peligros - incluida la muerte - a las que se enfrentan los trabajadores de las agencias de empleados "temporales" cada vez más abundantes en Estados Unidos.

Algo similar ocurrió con los trabajadores de ACI que eran también contratados como temporales por una antigua agencia externa hasta hace 16 meses. Las cosas cambiaron en ACI porque los trabajadores pidieron ayuda al Sindicato de Estibadores para organizar una campaña que llevara a mejorar sus condiciones. La campaña incluyó una acción legal para hacer cumplir las leyes del salario mínimo municipal. Los trabajadores asistieron a clases en su tiempo libre para aprender acerca de la seguridad industrial y los derechos laborales a través de cursos de capacitación ofrecidos por la Universidad de California en su Programa Laboral de Salud Ocupacional. Con la ayuda de la Coalición para el Reciclaje Sostenible se movilizaron a docenas de grupos para apoyar la campaña, incluido Worksafe! Las iglesias locales, organizaciones de derechos migratorios y grupos de defensa ambiental se comunicaron con los oficiales electos de las comunidades que ocupaban a ACI para recoger la basura reciclable.

ACI respondió en forma positiva a esta creciente presión. La compañía despidió a la agencia de trabajadores temporales y contrató a los trabajadores directamente. En octubre de

2014, los trabajadores del reciclaje de ACI votaron formalmente para unirse a ILWU. En vez de apelar el resultado, los administradores de ACI negociaron un contrato laboral justo con el comité elegido por los trabajadores.

Los resultados han transformado las condiciones de trabajo y los salarios en ACI y han ayudado a las familias a superar la pobreza. Los antiguos salarios de \$8 por hora se transformarán en \$20 por hora para julio de 2019. Los trabajadores ahora reciben el pago de ausencias por enfermedad, vacaciones, días festivos y seguro médico para sus familias. Y la seguridad ha mejorado de forma espectacular, gracias a un comité de salud y seguridad industrial que se reúne cada tres meses en el que los trabajadores tienen una voz fuerte.

La historia extraordinaria de progreso en ACI demuestra que hay un camino claro para reducir las lesiones en el trabajo y evitar futuras tragedias: hay que escuchar a los trabajadores; respetar su derecho a organizar; y apoyar la cooperación inteligente y eficaz entre trabajadores y empleadores.

La gente que se encarga de nuestros residuos reciclables en última instancia trabajan para nosotros. Así que hay que tratarlos con la dignidad y respeto que se merecen.

- Gail Bateson & Barbara Rahke

Gail Bateson es la directora ejecutiva de WorkSafe, un grupo de Oakland que apoyó a los trabajadores del reciclaje afiliados a ILWU por medio de la Coalición para el Reciclaje Sostenible. Barbara Rahke es la directora ejecutiva de PhilaPOSH y presidenta de la junta directiva del Consejo Nacional de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional.



**Maria Albarran:** Participo en el evento con todos los trabajadores de ACI.

## Domenick Miretti, Local 13/63 pensioner passes away at age 83

**D**omenick Miretti, ILWU pensioner and former member of Locals 13 and 63 passed away on February 17 at the age of 83. He was known for his dedication to the union, his skill as a teacher and for his the important role he played as Port Liaison for the ILWU.

Domenick was born on September 12, 1932 on the Palos Verdes Ranch where his family farmed. He followed his father and uncle into the longshore industry in 1951 and became a member of Local 13. He was inspired to learn about the world by the watching the ships he was loading and unloading coming from all over the globe.

So he went to school to study geography at Harbor College in Wilmington, CA where he received his AA degree. He transferred to CSULB (then Long Beach State) where he graduated with a BA and Master's degrees before moving on to UCLA for his Ph.D. After receiving his doctorate, Domenick continued to work in the longshore industry and transferred to Local 63.

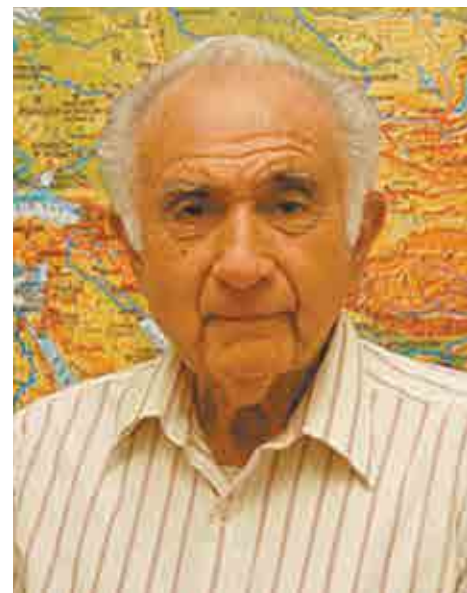
He married his wife Carol Hamilton in 1956. They met in the 9th grade at Narbonne High School.

He began his teaching career at Dodson Jr. High where he taught from 1965-1970. He became a professor of geography at East Los Angeles College in 1970 and taught there until the time of his passing. He maintained two

careers for much of his professional life and was nicknamed "The Professor" on the waterfront.

In 1984, Dave Arian, then President of Local 13, appointed Domenick to be the Senior Liaison to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach where he played in integral role in ensuring that the ILWU was connected to what was going on in the ports.

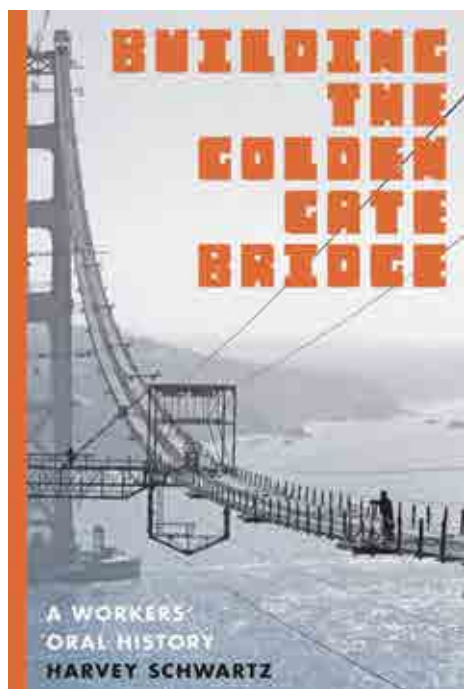
"Domenick Miretti embodies so much of what makes America great," Arian said. "He was the grandson on an immigrant and was raised on a farm. He wasn't satisfied with just a career on the waterfront. He was intellectually curious so he went to school and pursued multiple degrees. He had two successful careers one as a longshore-



man and also as a teacher and still managed to serve his union. That's the kind of person Domenick was."

He is survived by his wife Carol and daughter Sharon, his grandchildren Devin and Lauren Christiansen, his sister, Lydia Albertoni.

### BOOK REVIEW



## Building the Golden Gate Bridge: A Workers' Oral History

### By Harvey Schwartz

The book is largely based on interviews with surviving bridge workers conducted by Schwartz in 1987 for the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the bridge. Of the 14 workers represented in the book, nine were bridge workers in the 1930s hailing from a number of crafts—ironworkers, electricians, elevator constructors, laborers, and piledrivers. The book also includes stories from four women—two nurses from St. Mary's hospital who tended to those injured on the Golden Gate Bridge, the wife of one high steel bridge man, and an ironworker who later labored as a maintenance worker on the Golden Gate.

"I never met Joseph Strauss, the chief engineer, but I saw him around a lot of times," said Al Zampa, one of the workers interviewed. "I never shook hands with him or nothing. I was out there working. We were busy. We couldn't leave and go shake hands with him. That was for the upper man. See, all the big shots were the ones that were doing all the hand-shaking. In fact, they should have come out and hand-shaked us. We were the ones doing the work."

Zampa was an ironworker with a decade of bridge building experience when he began working on the Golden Gate in 1936. That same year he fell from the bridge. He was one of the founders—and last surviving member of the "Half Way to Hell Club." This exclusive 19-member club was formed by workers who fell from the Golden Gate Bridge during its construction. They were saved by safety net that was an innovation at the time. Zampa broke his back in several places from the fall. He eventually returned to work as a high-steel

bridge builder, and worked at that job until he retired in 1970. Al Zampa's long career made him a legendary figure among construction workers. A bridge in Vallejo, CA, is named in his honor. It remains the only bridge in the US named after a worker.

In the introduction, Schwartz sums up the scope of the book: "This book is an oral history of Golden Gate Bridge ironworkers like Zampa, as well as equally dauntless construction people from other trades who faced constant challenges between 1933 and 1937 to build one of the iconic structures of the United States. Their stories are not just about labor history—though most of the interviewees talk about unions and Depression-era politics—but also about the work itself, narrated sometimes in rather technical detail and often with vivid recollections of the physical conditions, small pleasures, hardships and gruesome accidents of construction jobs on the Golden Gate Bridge."

The oral of histories cover a range of themes including work experiences, accidents, injuries and weather conditions. The Golden Gate was famous for its micro-climates. One section of the bridge would be boiling hot, while another would be freezing cold. Other themes covered include the Depression itself, workers' views on unions, politics, and even the color of the bridge, which was a source of controversy at the time.

"I imagine there was controversy about the color the Golden Gate Bridge was painted, but that was for other people," said ironworker Glen McIntyre. "I don't think it mattered a hell of a lot to the ironworkers themselves. It may have been important

with the politicians to have something to say, one against the other. But the ironworkers didn't care what color it was. Payday and five o'clock was what they was looking for. The color didn't make no difference as long as the green got in your pocket."

Several of the workers discuss their recollections of the 1934 longshore strike and their fondness for Harry Bridges. Elevator constructor John Noren recalled telling his father, who was a longshore worker, that he was thinking about joining the National Guard because times were tough and he needed the work. "I says, 'I can go to camp, go to meetings, and pick up a few dollars,'" Noren recalled. "He said, 'No, don't do it John.'" This happened in early 1934, it must have been because he says, 'I think there's going to be a strike, and if that comes to pass, you'll be in the National Guard. They might call you out, and I'll be on the other side of the street.' And he was right. I never did join the National Guard."

Schwartz's *Building the Golden Gate Bridge* does for the history of the Golden Gate what his *Solidarity Stories* did for the history of the ILWU. These interviews allow workers to tell their own stories and give us a broader glimpse into the lives of the people who built America.

**T**he Golden Gate Bridge is one the most iconic structures of San Francisco. Although it opened up nearly 80 years ago, the Golden Gate remains one the longest suspension bridge in the world; it was eclipsed by New York's Verazano-Narrows Bridge in 1964. Numerous books exist about the bridge—detailing the architects and designers, the engineering, the beauty and the pre-construction politics.

In *Building the Golden Gate Bridge*, ILWU oral historian Harvey Schwartz fills in an important piece missing from the vast literature on the bridge's history by telling full life stories of the workers who built and maintained the bridge. It is a strength of the book that the workers tell their stories in their own words. In their oral histories, they discuss not only their labor, but also the politics of the time. The lives of several of the workers interviewed intersect with the 1934 longshore strike.



**Recognizing leadership:** San Francisco Port Commission President Willie Adams thanked outgoing Port Director Monique Moyer (on his right) for her 12 years of service as Executive Director at the Port. Adams was joined by Commissioner Leslie Katz (L) and Commission Vice President Kimberley Brandon (far right). They presented Moyer with a resolution that honored her public service. Adams, who also serves as the ILWU's International Secretary Treasurer, saluted Moyer's vision and financial skills that allowed the Port to serve the public, provide good union jobs and protect the city's valuable waterfront for public enjoyment.

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** David M. Erickson; Michael F. O'Toole; Gary D. Schwirze; **Local 13:** Archie L. Simmons; Anthony M. Torres; David Nieto; Vivian C. Salcido-Torres; Victor Barrios Jeffrey M. Wong; Anita Vega; Sidney Hernandez, Jr.; Donald L. Gray; Lawrence E. Moore; Albert O. Nakazawa Jr.; **Local 19:** Roosevelt Lathan, Jr.; Robert J. Gilmore; Dan P. Vlastelica; **Local 23:** Anthony M. De Paul; Michael R. Mc Millin; **Local 40:** Daniel E. Palica; John L. Rethati; **Local 54:** Joel L. Rimes; **Local 63:** Sandra A. Phillips; Rosa E. Mendoza; Patricia A. McGuire; **Local 92:** Michael S. Ayers; **Local 94:** Sharon K. Espinoza;

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** George R. Powell; **Local 10:** Rolf G. Kvalvik; Emile Powells Jr (Allie); Louis P. Piombo; Darryle A. Cole; **Local 13:** Robert M. Fuerte (Mary); Ronnie G. Hall; Henry G. Flores; Rafael Tupaz; Roosevelt L. Johnson; **Local 21:** Jimmy L. Sutherland;

Danny G. Bales; **Local 23:** John J. Soikowski; **Local 34:** Joseph P. Summit; **Local 51:** Harvey G. Babcock Jr.; **Local 63:** Domenick L. Miretti (Carol); John D. Woodson; Teresa Y. Saffold (David); **Local 94:** Ronald D. O'Brien (Gail); **Local 94:** Victor Salcido; **Local 98:** Oliver Pickford; Mason C. Bailey;

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 10:** Lorraine Grech; Cecil L. Wright; Laversa Pier; **Local 12:** Eleanor G. Humphrey; **Local 13:** Mary R. Bozulich; Patricia Henderson; Dorothy Furioli; Ruth Campbell; Loretta A. Gibbons; Gloria Torres; Keunsik London; Dorothy M. Andrews; Beatriz Tostado; **Local 19:** Philomena Asis; **Local 21:** Colleen Adirim; **Local 23:** Florence Edwards; Elna O. Ell; **Local 24:** Glenna R. Green; **Local 27:** Lois D. Myren; **Local 63:** Agnes M. Leonardo;

## 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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Portland, OR 97221  
(503) 231-4882

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### ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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