



THE DISPATCHER

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VOL 78, NO 2 • FEBRUARY 2020

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Kingdom Day parade: Members from Southern California ILWU locals were joined by the Local 10 Drill Team.

ILWU locals turnout in force for 35th annual Kingdom Day Parade in Los Angeles

For the first time in over a decade, ILWU Locals marched in a show of strength at the Los Angeles Kingdom Day parade to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's parade theme was "Equality For All Humanity, Our Next Step." The three-mile parade route in South-Central Los Angeles started at Western and MLK Boulevard, then went the length of MLK to end at Leimert Park where there was a festival with music, games and food vendors. The event attracted thousands of participants and spectators, and was broadcast live on three local television stations.

Approximately 75 ILWU members from Locals 13, 94 and 56 participated in the parade which was led by the ILWU Local 10 Drill Team who travelled from the Bay Area to participate. Local 13 member Geraldine Hecker-Popov and Local 13 Executive Board member Melon Caesar co-organized the event. Local 13 provided funding that paid for special t-shirts, along with ILWU caps and snacks for the marchers. A bus that transported members from the ILWU Memorial Hall in Wilmington to the parade area was provided by

Los Angeles Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Hecker-Popov said she attended the Kingdom Day parade last year with her children where she saw other unions participating but not the ILWU. She was determined to make sure that the ILWU had a presence this year.

Hecker-Popov says she learned to be an activist at an early age while growing up in the housing projects of San Pedro. "When I see something wrong, I have to make it right," she said. "Dr. King was an honorary member of Local 10. He fought for

racial justice, Civil Rights and for workers' rights, just like the ILWU always has. Especially with all that is going on in this country right now, I felt it was important for our union to have a presence honoring his legacy."

She brought the issue to the Local 13 Executive Board and membership meeting. Both bodies approved supporting the Local's participation in the parade.

Ceaser said participation in the parade is part of an effort build a stronger awareness of the ILWU in

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Future ILWU member: Steven Lawson proudly displays the Local 13 flag.

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Fellow workers,

On behalf of the ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee, I want to invite you to join us in Chicago from April 17-19 for this year's Labor Notes Conference.

In 2018, our committee raised money and received support from our local to send ten young workers—all class B and casual longshore workers from Tacoma—to join several dozen more members of the ILWU and IBU for three days of workshops, classes, panels, and networking.

There were close to seventy members of our union there, alongside several maritime workers the ILA and MMP, among the more than 3000 other labor activists from across the country and around the world.

For most of us, attending Labor Notes in 2018 was our first time, but we were there with longtime veterans of these events, such as ILA Local 1422's Leonard Riley (of Charleston 5 fame) and many others.

This year, we're fundraising again to send five Young Workers in 2020. We're also asking our local to send a few members—and asking your local to do the same. We want to see you in Chicago to learn new skills together, to break bread with you and build the union with you.

At Labor Note's biannual conferences, or at local "Troublemakers Schools" like those in San Francisco and Seattle in recent months, rank-and-file activists, local leaders, and staff are given opportunities to brush

up on their organizing skills and learn creative tactics for everything from the bargaining table to the shopfloor, picket lines, and building community coalitions.

The emphasis is on rank-and-file power and learning from and alongside other working people just like us. Last time, we got to hear from fighting silver miners in Idaho, autoworkers organizing in the "right-to-work" South, West Virginia's striking teachers and more!

We also have a lot to teach and some recent wins to share as well. So we want to see anybody and everybody from the union there, but if you're an IBU ferry worker who recently struck in Alaska or one of many who helped win with Anchor Union last year, or who's fighting for a union at Tartine Bakery right now, we especially want to see you there, to learn from you, and organize with you.

For info on registration and hotels, go to labornotes.org/2020. And please continue to support our work by following ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee on Facebook, or Instagram and Twitter (@ilwu23ywc).

In solidarity,

Zack Pattin
ILWU No. 23 YWC

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

The ILWU will be holding a Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD VIII) in Sacramento, CA May 3-8, 2020.

The theme of this year's training will be: Educating Tomorrow's Leaders Today.

"Our union must continually educate new leaders in order to survive and grow. LEAD helps cultivate critical skills for activists and helps nurture a strong rank and file. Everyone has a role to play in our union and leadership training helps pave avenues for action on all levels," commented ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris. "Most of the leaders in this union—myself included—have attended LEAD. I value the education I received at the conference when I attended in 2010 and hope others will be inspired and engaged from this important program. Education is a critical tool for our union's future."

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;
- Inspiring young worker involvement;
- Internal and External Organizing campaigns;
- 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 and university labor centers.

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.

In cases where financial hardship is an obstacle to participation, a request for assistance should be submitted to the International along with a written statement about the circumstances involved and the amount of assistance requested.

Educational Services Director Robin Walker is also available to help answer questions.

Interested members should apply online through the ILWU website: www.ilwu.org/training.

Please submit applications no later than 5pm, March 27, 2020.

Local 23 2019 Toy Drive raises \$49,469

The 2019 ILWU Local 23 Toy Drive was the most successful year ever. Members and pensioners donated \$49,469 which helped over 960 children in need with two toys a piece.

The Toy Drive Committee purchased most of the toys, jackets and bikes from the local, union Fred Meyer store with discounts to make our donations go even further. There were also many other toys that members purchased themselves and donated. Longshore mechanics assembled several bikes so they were in good working order for the children. Under the leadership of our trustees, our toy drive committee members, Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burkes and Holly Hulscher along with many other Local 23 family, friends and ILWU Auxiliary 35 volunteers are proud to be part of such a generous membership making a difference in the local community.

Holiday gift cards for local schools

Local 23 purchases over \$32,000 worth of gift cards each year which are given to 158 schools. A student from a local elementary school is nominated by a teacher or school counselor for trying hard in school and being in need. Each student chosen



receives a \$200 gift card from a local union store. The program was started in 1999 with the Tacoma School District and Local 23 was able to expand to 17 different school districts.

St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen

During the holidays and year round, Local 23 members, pensioners, family and friends volunteer at the St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen serves food to community members in need. They volunteer the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Longtime volunteer, Byron Baydo said "I am so blessed for the ILWU and the life it provides for our families. Helping those in need is an honor for our union brothers and sisters and we're grateful to do it."

DISPATCHER

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The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/Aug 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.



Street and bench honors former ILWU International President Dave Arian

Former ILWU International President David Arian who also served as Vice President of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, was remembered one year after his passing with a ceremony that dedicated a street and bench in his honor on February 8th in San Pedro. The event was attended by rank-and-file ILWU members from all over Southern California, elected officials, friends, family and community members who were influenced by Arian's life and work.

Speakers included ILWU International President Willie Adams, Local 13 President Ray Familathe, Los Angeles City Council members Joe Buscaino and Mike Bonin, Los Angeles Supervisor Janice Hahn, Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka, Harbor Commissioner Diane Middleton, and Dave's daughter Justine Arian-Edwards. Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams also attended the ceremony.

On January 10th, the port approved the renaming of Miner Street south of E. 22nd Street, to be known as "Dave Arian Way." Before the renaming ceremony, a plaque naming a nearby bench in Dave's honor was also unveiled. The bench overlooks the Angels Gate Lighthouse where ships enter and leave the port. It was one of Dave's favorite

places to sit and reflect on the many issues facing the port.

President Adams described Arian as a maverick and visionary.

"Dave's legacy is felt worldwide," said Adams, who noted that the ILWU received condolences from Australia, New Zealand, and Europe.

"But Dave never forgot that he was a rank-and-filer. Dave represented the best of the working class and he fought for the people who couldn't fight for themselves. He was one of the last of the ILWU giants."

Familathe's remarks emphasized Arian's deep roots and history in San Pedro and his commitment to improving the port and investing in the workers who operate the docks.

"Dave was about labor and the community. He loved the ILWU but he loved this community," said Familathe. "Dave was about investing in human capital. And as we expand this port, we hope that human capital will continue to be invested in."

Dave's daughter Justine recalled how her father taught her to drive on the street that will now bear his name. It will be a great honor it to walk and bike along Dave Arian Way with my children," she said, adding that a committee is being formed to organize an annual march or political event to honor Arian's memory and legacy.



Dave Arian Way: (L to R): Coast Committeeman Cam Williams, ILWU International President Willie Adams, and Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon were on hand to celebrate the life of Dave Arian during the street naming ceremony in San Pedro.

Tartine bakery workers launch union campaign

A popular Bay Area bakery with loyal customers, delicious baked goods and dramatic expansion plans now has an overwhelming majority of workers organizing to join the ILWU.

Tartine workers kicked-off their union campaign on February 6 when employees at each of the company's four Bay Area locations asked management to recognize their new union. Goals include better pay, benefits, a voice in decisions and a written contract.

A healthy majority of the more than 230 Tartine workers have already signed union cards, but instead of recognizing their new union, management responded with a union-busting campaign. It began quietly with voluntary, informal chats led by the couple who founded the bakery, but quickly shifted to nastier "captive audience" sessions with a team of four professional union-busting consultants.

Workers say their employer no longer feels like the small, street corner bakery in San Francisco's Mission District that's now transformed into an international corporation with outside investors.

Veteran employee John Lapp from

Tartine's Manufactory, says union support has grown steadily – and is needed now to insure workers have a real voice. "Having a union contract with all the important things in writing is the only way for us to have accountability and rights on the job," he says.

He and other Tartine workers got an inspirational boost last year when workers at the nearby Anchor Brewery organized and joined the ILWU. Anchor workers also endured an anti-union campaign, but the brewery management took a more cooperative approach when it was clear workers were united and well-organized. That unity helped win an impressive contract with significant wage and benefit improvements.

Tartine workers have filed for a union election that will be supervised by the National Labor Relations Board. Workers in San Francisco will vote on Thursday, March 12; Berkeley workers vote Friday, March 13.

Employee Pat Thomas who works at the original Tartine Bakery in San Francisco says, "people say San Francisco is a union town and that's proving to be true. Many of my personal friends in the San Francisco music community have told me how proud they are of what we're doing. I think



Lots of community support: Tartine workers have a large and loyal customer support base that is supporting their effort to join the ILWU.

people are taking a lot of inspiration from our effort."

One group of Tartine workers at San Francisco's International Airport terminal are already covered by a Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union contract, one that covers most food-service workers at the airport.

The effort by workers at three other San Francisco locations and one bakery in Berkeley has received strong community support, including concern from local political leaders who

have criticized Tartine's union-busting campaign.

Employee Mason Lopez, who works at the Tartine Bakery in Berkeley, says support from customers has been impressive. "Customers see our buttons and tell us they're supporting our union. There's a lot of support out there to back us up, and not much sympathy for companies that try to bust unions," they said. Future issues of *The Dispatcher* will cover this ongoing story.

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2020

Profile in Courage: John Lewis

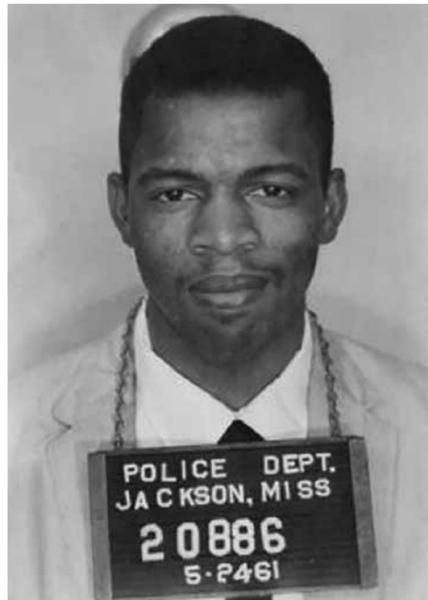
As 2019 drew to a close, U.S. Representative John Lewis of Georgia, released a brief statement that he had recently been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

"I have been in some kind of fight – for freedom, equality, basic human rights – for nearly my entire life," added the 80-year old Congressman and Civil Rights icon, who's now undergoing treatment near Washington, D.C.

The revelation triggered an outpouring of sympathy and support from across the nation, including a statement from ILWU International President Willie Adams, who said Lewis was "a part of our longshore family," and praised him for being an "unfailing supporter of the rights and dignity of working Americans."

ILWU connections

Lewis' longstanding ILWU connections were forged over many decades because of a shared dedication to racial and economic justice, lifelong support for unions and workers, and the fact



that his youngest sister, Rosa Tyner, was a member of ILWU Locals 10 and 91 for 23 years. As a young girl, Rosa recalled her oldest brother John coming home to visit the family and sharing stories about his struggles in the Civil Rights Movement. Their mother, Willie Mae, would always urge John to "stay out of trouble," to which the young man responded by promising to make only "good trouble." Rosa moved back to Alabama after becoming a pensioner, while her brother John continues serving in Congress where he represents much of Atlanta Georgia in the House of Representatives.

Memoir of the Movement

The story of how Lewis and a group of brilliant, courageous young women and men emerged to lead one of the great social movements of the Twentieth Century is captured in his fine autobiography: *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*. It begins with observations by the young boy who helped his family survive by raising chickens and picking cotton. Born in 1940, Lewis and his fellow activists were raised at the end of the Great Depression and beginning of the Second World War. Some, including Lewis, had great-grandparents who passed along stories of "slavery times."

Rural poverty

Lewis pulls no punches in describing the indignities and brutal oppression of racism that he witnessed while growing up, but notes that the poverty afflicted a majority of both whites and blacks around him. They were all burdened by debt and miserable pay that stemmed from the "tenant farming" system. He recalls that his mother and father once picked up to 400 pounds of cotton a day for a total of \$1.40. His parents continued working during his childhood, earning 50 cents a day for farm or domestic work. Lewis describes in great detail the backbreaking, miserable labor that he and others performed, explaining how it motivated him to attend school, which he did despite resistance from his parents who needed help in the fields.

Church lessons

Lewis was still a young boy when his parents nicknamed him "preacher," because he delivered sermons and conducted funerals for chickens that died in the family coop. He attended church each Sunday with his family and kept a sharp eye on the injustices that surrounded him: chain gangs of black men who labored under armed guards, miserable schools, atrocious roads, public exclusions and filthy restrooms that were part of the Jim Crow system. "I was obsessed with learning all I could about the world beyond the one I knew," explains Lewis, who visited the school library every day and devoured black newspapers and magazines that came from Chicago and other cities.

Key turning points

During his first year in the county's only high school for black students, Lewis recalled reading a newspaper story about the Supreme Court rul-



ILWU family member: This 2011 photo shows U.S. Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, surrounded by ILWU pensioners during their trip to Washington, DC. Lewis says he has devoted his life to building a "beloved community" where all people are respected and care for each other. Appearing in the back row are Don Hopkins, George Cobbs and Ralph Rooker. In the front row are Rich Austin, Congressman John Lewis, Verna Porter, and Lewis Wright.

ing in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which held that segregated schools were unconstitutional. The next year, in 1955, he heard a radio broadcast of the young Martin Luther King who was preaching from a church in Montgomery, 50 miles north of Troy. He said it "...felt as if King was "speaking directly to me...giving voice to everything I'd been feeling and fighting to figure out for years." A few months later, tensions increased as Southern politicians openly defied the Supreme Court's desegregation orders. By August, another shocking incident gripped Lewis and the nation when 14-year old Emmett Till was brutally murdered, causing a nationwide outrage.

Horror and a way forward

"I was shaken to the core by the killing of Emmett Till," says Lewis, who admits he was also consumed with anger and rage for months after the murder. He became frustrated with the church and his own parents, who he wrongly believed to be weak for not speaking up. As 1955 drew to a close, Lewis witnessed the bus boycott unfold in Montgomery, 50 miles to the north, "an event that changed my life more than any other event before or since," he said. The event was sparked by Rosa Parks, a domestic worker who received training in organizing skills at the Highlander Center in Kentucky. During the year that followed, Lewis followed the bus boycott that he described as "riveting," with 50,000 black residents of Montgomery refusing to ride on segregated buses. The 1956 protest was led by Martin Luther King, Jr., someone Lewis deeply admired for practicing the "social gospel" that connected bible teachings about justice with action against injustice in the real world. "More than ever I wanted to be a preacher too," said Lewis.

First Sermon

His chance to preach came quickly, a few days before his sixteenth birthday in 1956, making a big impression on the congregation and elders who

responded with shouts of "Amen" and "Praise the Lord." Two days later, an uncle who was active in the NAACP and spent a decade campaigning for black voting rights was murdered by a white man who admitted to the killing but was never indicted.

Lewis had his mind set on college, but lacked the money and grades to attend Morehouse where King had graduated. His mother brought home a brochure for the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, which charged no tuition and offered work-study arrangements for all students, "and that was all I needed to know," said Lewis. In a few weeks he was accepted and his life turned another corner.

Connections in Nashville

Lewis quickly connected with brilliant activists at his seminary and around Birmingham, as the city became a hotbed of organizing. James Lawson, who studied nonviolent action tactics in India, trained Lewis and other young activists in 1958, including Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette, Marion Barry. Across his dorm hallway was the charismatic James Bevel, who was worldly, wise, and totally devoted to scripture – while also proclaiming his intention to become "a chicken-eating, liquor drinking, woman-chasing Baptist preacher."

Sits-ins shock establishment

Lewis and other students organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville in 1959 and 1960. Their tactic soon spread to Greensboro, North Carolina and beyond. Lewis quickly became a leading figure of the Nashville Movement – a student-driven effort based on Gandhi's non-violent resistance. He participated in another tactic known as the Freedom Rides, first developed in the 1940's and resurrected in 1960 by courageous students who were trained to desegregate buses and terminals in the face of brutal violence and bombings. These cou-

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INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

ILWU Statement on John Lewis

On behalf of the members and families of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU), I wanted to convey our prayers and good wishes to civil rights legend and United States Congressman John Lewis as he takes on a new fight, this time against pancreatic cancer.

John Lewis has been fighting for equality for all Americans his entire life. The history books teach us that he was one of the original Freedom Riders in the summer of 1960 and a leading organizer of the landmark 1963 March on Washington that was capped by Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

As a young man, John Lewis knew that violating government authority illegally or intentionally is a threat to the liberty of all Americans. In 1963, he stood down such a threat from racist officials when he bravely led 400 peaceful marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma only to be violently attacked by the state police. Today Congressman John Lewis still stands strong for justice and against the abuse of government power.

Congressman John Lewis has been an unfailing supporter of the rights and dignity of working Americans. He has championed collective bargaining rights, raising the minimum wage to be a true livable wage, Davis Bacon and prevailing wage laws, and strengthening workplace safety standards. Rep. Lewis has also been a true friend to longshore workers, including his own sister who was an ILWU member in Locals 10 and 91 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Congressman Lewis is a part of our longshore family. In the words of the ILWU's motto, "An Injury One is an Injury to All." It is in that spirit that the ILWU sends to our friend and brother John Lewis, and to his family and constituents, our love and respect.

BEA/SPW
02/19/20

rageous nonviolent tactics embraced by Lewis, King and others were based on a broader strategy of winning public support and organizing political power to change the nation's attitudes about racial injustice.

Leadership positions

Lewis had become a prominent student activist in the early 60's and was elected to lead the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1963 – winning him an opportunity to speak at the historic March on Washington that same year. Years of intensive work by SNCC in the south helped pave the way for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, followed by the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Meanwhile, more blood was being spilled.

The bridge

In one of his most famous and terrifying experiences, Lewis and Rev Josea Williams led a nonviolent march in 1965 across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, headed toward Montgomery. Organized by SNCC and Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the pair led over 500 marchers into a line of violent racist police officers who attacked the group

while Lewis urged everyone to kneel and pray. Lewis was severely beaten in the "Bloody Sunday" incident – one that some militants later cited as a reason to abandon nonviolent tactics.

More bitter experiences

Lewis and hundreds of activists spent years doing patient grassroots organizing in the South with Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer and other unsung heroes of the movement. In 1964, these grassroots leaders were brushed aside by the the political establishment at the Democratic Party Convention who seated pro-segregation delegates instead of an integrated group organized by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Conflict with militants

These and other setbacks triggered angry militants who grew impatient with nonviolent strategies to win majority support in the fight against racism, for civil rights and dignity. Lewis, who continued to advocate nonviolence, was removed as SNCC Chair in 1966, when black nationalists emerged, led by Stokely Carmichael who replaced Lewis.

Surviving the darkest days

Within two years of Lewis leaving SNCC, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in April of 1968, while helping sanitation workers win a strike for justice. Robert Kennedy was assassinated the same year in June while campaigning for social and racial justice. Lewis and many political activists grew disheartened, but he never turned toward the violence and hyper-militancy that swept some others into political dead-ends.

Like a pilot light

Lewis, who has been arrested 40 times, says he views his contributions to the movement as a kind of "pilot light," that can remain lit for the long haul. He contrasts his approach with a firecracker – that's loud but leaves only ashes. His continuing belief in nonviolence and reconciliation to overcome race, religion and class conflicts, makes him a consistent voice for peaceful democratic reform.

Lewis was elected as the US Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district, a seat he won over fellow civil rights activist Julian Bond in 1986. He remains in that

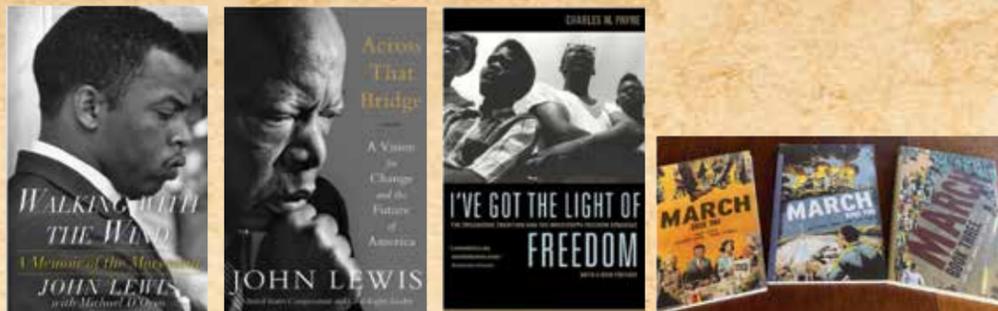
position today and holds several leadership positions.

Presidential Medal of Freedom

In 2010, President Barack Obama awarded Lewis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. During the White House ceremony, Obama said: "There's a quote inscribed over a doorway in Nashville, where students first refused to leave lunch counters 51 years ago this February. And the quote said, 'If not us, then who? If not now, then when?' It's a question John Lewis has been asking his entire life. It's what led him back to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma after he had already been beaten within an inch of his life days before. It's why, time and again, he faced down death so that all of us could share equally in the joys of life. It's why all these years later, he is known as the Conscience of the United States Congress, still speaking his mind on issues of justice and equality. And generations from now, when parents teach their children what is meant by courage, the story of John Lewis will come to mind — an American who knew that change could not wait for some other person or some other time; whose life is a lesson in the fierce urgency of now."

For more about the life of John Lewis and the Civil Rights Movement, consider his award-winning autobiography, *Walking with the Wind*, and a more recent book, *Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America*.

Readers of all ages can enjoy his 3-volume set of graphic novels, *March*, filled with exciting illustrations and action. For an excellent history of grassroots civil rights organizing in rural Mississippi, see *I've Got the Light of Freedom*, by Charles M. Payne.



ILWU locals turnout in force for 35th annual Kingdom Day Parade in Los Angeles

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Los Angeles. "The ILWU is well known in the harbor-area, but not a lot of people in this part of LA knows who we are," she said.

It was an early start for ILWU members who gathered at the Memorial Hall at 6:45AM for a 7:30 AM departure. Before boarding the bus, Local 13-member Reverend Henry Pollard Jr., led the group in prayer.

After a long wait in the staging area, the ILWU contingent started marching with Local 10's Drill Team delighting the crowd along the route. Spectators cheered at their performance and joined in with chants of "I-L-W-U."

Auxiliary 8 President Ida Taylor was honored by the Local at the march for her years of service to the Federated Auxiliary. Taylor served for two terms as the Federated Auxiliary President

and 11 years as President of Auxiliary 8. She rode along the parade route in a convertible Mini-Cooper.

ILWU Local 56 Dispatcher Antonio Andrade was among the contingent of 10 shipscalers who attended the march – about 20% of the small local's membership. Andrade said that more members would have attended, but everyone else was working.

"Its important that we show up to these events and show our support and solidarity with our fellow ILWU members," Andrade said.

Ceaser said that she plans on having the ILWU participate in the parade again next year.

"Eventually, I want us to have a float," she said. "Next year our presence is going to be even bigger and better."



Honoring Ida Taylor: Former Federated Auxiliary and Auxiliary 8 President Ida Taylor was the ILWU honoree during the march. Taylor served two-terms as Federated Auxiliary President and 11 years as the President of Auxiliary 8. She retired earlier this year.



March organizers: Local 13 member Geraldine Hecker-Popov (left) and Local 13 Executive Board member Melon Caesar were co-organizers of the ILWU march in this year's Kingdom Day parade. Both women said they want to make sure this is a regular event for the ILWU.

ILWU Canada backs workers in long, bitter lockout

Dozens of ILWU Canada members joined union and community supporters on January 24 who joined a mass picket line formed to support 800 locked-out refinery workers in Regina, Saskatchewan. They've been unable to work at their giant refinery complex since December 5, 2019.

The December lockout came after workers refused employer demands to cut retirement benefits. The company, who owns a national network of energy and ag resources plus retail outlets, posted record profits of \$1.2 billion in 2018. The company wants employees to assume greater risk and higher costs for retirement.

The company has also been hiring replacement workers, many of whom are thought to be unqualified and risking death or injury in the refinery. Unity on the picket line has been strong 24/7 – despite frigid near-zero temperatures – forcing the company to use helicopters

for shuttling replacement workers into the dangerous refinery. Outside, striking workers and supporters have organized a consumer boycott of the company's retail stores.

After enduring two months in harsh conditions on the Saskatchewan prairie, the lockout lines remain strong.

"When we heard about your struggle, we knew that we had to be here," said President Ashton.

"We came because the battle you're facing reminds us of our Battle of Ballantyne during the 1930's when employers used police to try and break our lines on the docks. Today, you're showing that unity of the labor movement across the country can allow us to hold any line and hold it strong."

– ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton



IBU workers fight for fair contracts in Columbia River warehouses

A year of difficult negotiations with a prosperous employer who keeps demanding concessions has left workers at the Kelly Point warehouse on the Columbia River with no choice but to organize and resist.

The Kelly Point warehouse, along with a nearby facility known as Front Avenue/Rivergate, are both owned by Georgia Pacific, a century-old pulp and paper corporation that generates annual revenues of \$22.5 billion. In 2005, Georgia Pacific was purchased by Koch Industries, the corporate conglomerate owned by the notoriously anti-union Koch brothers.

The list of concessions being demanded by Georgia Pacific would harm workers and their families in a variety of ways:

- Georgia Pacific/Koch want the right to abandon the defined-benefit pension plan at any time.
- The 401(k) savings plan that they're proposing to replace the guaranteed-benefit pension would be poorly funded with much less than they contribute now, and provide a lower retirement benefit.
- Their proposed wage increase won't keep up with inflation.
- They want to take away the right to use arbitration for settling disputes about new job duties and wages.
- The company want to destroy longstanding policies that set discipline for specific infractions.

These take-aways are just some of the reasons why the IBU decided the company's offer was not worthy of membership consideration or vote. The union notified management on February 14 that there would be no

vote renewed their demand for federal mediation.

The company has plenty of resources available for a fair settlement. In addition to Georgia Pacific's annual revenues that exceed \$20 billion, Koch Industries, had estimated revenues of \$269 billion in 2018. Like many corporations, they've used their wealth and power to take advantage of \$489.5 million in state and federal subsidies over the years, most of it during the past decade.

"In the last nine years, Georgia Pacific provided wage increases totaling 10% - but during that same time the cost of living increased 22.4%," said IBU President Marina Secchitano. "That adds up to a \$3.00 per hour shortfall in today's wages, which is unfair considering the profits and subsidies that GP has taken."

Secchitano added that Georgia

Pacific controls much of the lucrative paper-goods market in the country, including Bounty paper towels and house-brand items for Costco, Walmart and supermarkets.

On February 19th, workers met at their union hall to discuss the contract. They elected a new member to their Negotiating Committee and confirmed the decision to seek help from a federal mediator.

"In the past we've been able to organize and protect our pension benefits and other priorities, and this time is no different," said Becky Proux who's now a member of the Negotiating Committee and has worked in the warehouse for 10 years."

Workers at the nearby Front Avenue/Rivergate facility are now beginning their contract negotiations. Stay tuned for an update on both contract fights in future issues of *The Dispatcher*.

Biking the Coast for the Union's Cause

Local 13 members Paul Zuanich and Gabriel Zuniga will join Local 94 pensioner Victor Gallardo to ride electric bikes – not Harleys – down the West Coast on an adventurous 1,750 mile fundraising journey that is scheduled to launch on June 11.

Biking port-to-port

The trio, and all others who want to join this team, expect to depart from the Port of Bellingham and visit every ILWU local and port along the way before concluding in Los Angeles on July 5 – Bloody Thursday. Go to www.ilwuridethecoast.org, the site created by Local 63 Administrator Robert

Maynez, to see the exact date and time the ILWU team will be in your port. The team's goal is to gather donations from ILWU members and community friends while uniting the entire ILWU for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation – a charity that funds children's cancer research and family assistance.

About Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

When four year old Alexandra Scott was in the hospital, she told her mother that she would hold a lemonade stand to help other children. With her brother's support, Alex raised over \$2000, and that's how Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation was born. Before her passing at age 8, Alex raised more

than one million dollars. Childhood cancer strikes without regard to economic status, gender or ethnicity. Each \$50 raised equals one hour of important research. Alex Scott would have turned 24 this year. Supporters around the world are committed to continuing Alex's inspiring legacy. The Independent website Charity Navigator rates the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation ahead of both the American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, when it comes to high efficiency and low overhead. Last year ILWU Walk the Coast, with donations from ILWU locals, industry companies and community supporters raised \$110,000 for our Union's chosen charity – part of the \$630,000

total that's been raised since the ILWU Walk the Coast project began in 2012. Now Paul Zuanich's bold adventure has added new name to our fundraising effort: ILWU Ride the Coast.

A secret weapon and plenty of muscle

The trio of riders have embraced one piece of modern technology – the latest generation of electric bicycles. While these bikes can be a godsend on steep hills and against strong headwinds, the electric power only lasts so long and must be conserved – so plenty of peddling is still required. "The electric bikes are good for about 40 miles on flat ground, which is great, but there isn't that much flat ground where we're going and, on many days, we'll be ped-

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Alaska ferry fight continues

Ever since Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy slashed funding for the Alaska Marine Highway ferries last year, the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU), ILWU's Marine Division, has been organizing a fight-back campaign.

Coalition to fight back

The partnership with unions and communities throughout the state is called *Friends of Alaska Marine Highway*. The campaign's message is that Dunleavy's cuts are devastating dozens of communities where people and businesses exist along isolated stretches of Alaska's 33,000 mile coastline.

Empty store shelves

"These communities depend on ferry access for groceries and health care," said Trina Arnold, IBU's Alaska Regional Director. She says several towns in the coastal communities now face "urgent food shortages with empty store shelves."

Cuts hurt health care access

"There's also no practical way for people to reach clinics and hospitals," says Arnold, who's heard reports about patients unable to get care and family members being unable to visit relatives.

Native communities hit hard

The roughly 100,000 Alaska native people are being especially hard-hit by the Governor's ferry cuts. Many live in coastal communities, including Angoon, Hoonah, Kodiak and Kake where the ferry has literally provided a lifeline.

Mobilizing for more service

On February 11, IBU and ILWU members coordinated actions with partners in Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Anchorage, Petersburg, Dutch Harbor,



Rallying to keep Alaska's communities connected: Deep cuts to Alaska's public ferry system motivated many to attend a large rally in Juneau this February.

Cordova, Haines, Skagway, Wrangell and Kake. Several of the events attracted hundreds of community members, so the total turnout was over 700 in 10 different cities, towns and villages. The message at each action was the same: "Governor Dunleavy, restore ferry service, save our system and communities it serves."

Union & native leaders

Union leaders, including IBU President Marina Secchitano, IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast, IBU Alaska Regional Director Trina Arnold and ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris attended the event in Juneau at the state capitol building.

"It is absolutely immoral what is happening to the residents of coastal communities in the state of Alaska. The

Alaska Marine Highway System provides these communities with essential transportation services and convenient access to food and supplies. The State of Alaska needs to recognize that many of its citizens are suffering and put the ferries back into service immediately," said ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris.

The union officials were joined by Richard Petersen, President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Also participating was the Yees Ku Oo Alaskan Native dance group. Several state legislators came outside to join the rally in front of the capitol building. Leaders from other maritime unions belonging to the Maritime Labor Alliance also participated, including Pres-

ident Don Marcus of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, plus President Marshall Ainley of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.

Inside and outside strategy

After rallying outside the capitol, many union members and residents went inside to visit with legislators, part of an organized grassroots lobby effort planned well in advance with the Maritime Labor Alliance.

"The Governor's cuts are destroying hundreds of good ferry jobs and endangering dozens of communities – especially Native communities – so we have to keep fighting and organizing public support," said IBU President Marina Secchitano. "Fortunately," she added, "the response has been very positive."



President Adams speaks at Northern California Propeller Club: ILWU International President Willie Adams and PMA President Jim McKenna spoke at a meeting of the Northern California Propeller Club on February 4 in Oakland. Both leaders addressed the issue of competitiveness of West Coast ports. Adams and McKenna agreed on the need to press Union Pacific, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroads to reduce rates for transporting containers to and from West Coast ports. On average, rail companies now charge \$200 more per container on the West Coast than they do for similar services on the East Coast. Adams also urged the PMA to join the ILWU in a joint lobbying effort to end inequities with the federal Harbor Maintenance Tax. Funds collected at West Coast ports are now being used to subsidize infrastructure improvements at East and Gulf Coast ports. Finally, Adams and McKenna both pledged to oppose to the Oakland A's ballpark and luxury condominium development proposal at the Port of Oakland's Howard Terminal that will hurt longshore operations and surrounding neighborhoods.



Holiday giving in Seattle: For the 2019 Christmas Season, Local 19 joined with efforts from Local 19 Pensioners, Clerks Local 52 and Foreman's Local 98 to support ten agencies throughout King and Snohomish Counties. With just over \$21,000 in donations, Seattle-area ILWU members were able to bless a wide age-range of children in the Puget Sound area. They were also able to arrange a visit to the Harborview Trauma and Burn Center with Santa.

From left to right:
Rupinder "Ruval" Dhaliwal,
Inderpal Singh Hehar,
Kamal Singh Thabal,
Sukhbir Singh Hehar.



Local 502 members hold prayer service for longshore workers

A ten-day prayer for all longshore workers was held by members from Local 502. Longshore union locals and their families were invited to a reading of the scriptures, prayer and full, free, vegetarian buffet at the Sikh Temple. More than 600 people were served. The Temple is located next to the Fraser River which is close to the original base of Local 502. Some the terminals served by the local are located on the river.

Members from Vancouver's local 500 also hold an annual prayer at the Sikh Temple in Vancouver for all longshoremen. This event in New Westminster will be held annually on the Labor Day long weekend. Blessings will be sought for the well being, success, good health, and happiness of all longshoremen and their families in every local. Everyone is invited regardless of belief or no belief and encouraged to join their brothers and sisters for a meal.

— Bal Singh

A Helping Hand...

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

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Tamiko Love
29000 South Western Ave., Ste 205
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Northern California
Hunny Powell
HPowell@benefitplans.org
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8363

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION
DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5W9
(604) 254-7911

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Dewayne E. Haliburton; Steve L. Castro; **Local 13:** Gary R. Hill; Gary M. Bono; Pauline S. Moega; Nicholas Gonzales; Jimmy O. Martinez; Enrique P. Patron; Jose L. Garcia; Elizabeth A. Callies; **Local 19:** Tommy L. Brown; **Local 23:** Frederick A. Miller III; Joseph V. St Germain; **Local 26:** David Ortega; **Local 46:** Maria R. Barretto;

Local 63: William K. Gettman; Larry L. Kelley; Melinda L. Gould; Vince A. Mladinich;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Victor Riley; Greg A. Brown; **Local 10:** Theodore B. Gomez; Ibrahim A. Mahdi; Douglas W. Schmidt; Edwin D. Key; **Local 12:** Alex B. Palica (Donna); Charles M. Forbess (Gloria); **Local 13:** Willard Gray; Frank Bosnich;

James E. Moses (Patricia); **Local 19:** Richard A. Hopper (Joanne); **Local 21:** Roger D. Wuollet (Pamela); **Local 32:** Harold E. Robinson; **Local 34:** John P. Lucas; **Local 50:** Ronald Bergholm; **Local 52:** Sam M. Black; **Local 63:** William G. Magallanez; **Local 91:** Charles Boykins; **Local 92:** Dwain H. Olsen;

DECEASED SURVIVOR:

Local 10: Levator Mc Millan; Lorine Berry; Nellie P. Mc Culloch; **Local 13:** Josephine L. Watson; Betty Jean Cornish; **Local 19:** Myrtle Finne; **Local 23:** Bonnie L. Hawk; **Local 40:** Audrey M. Moses; Beverly Thomas; **Local 63:** Artie J. Hurd; **Local 75:** Millie Carhart; Faelina Scognamillo; **Local 92:** Janet L. Haugen

Biking the Coast for the Union's Cause

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...dying about 80 miles, so I'm getting in shape for the millions of peddle strokes that we'll make this summer," said Paul.

Going long distances

None of the three has ever ridden 1,750 miles in one stretch, so they're working-out and getting prepared for many long miles on some pretty tough terrain. "There's no way around those 1750 miles between Bellingham and Los Angeles except a lot of muscle power," said Zuanich, who gets credit for inspiring the trip. Paul rides about 75 miles a week to stay in shape. He is planning some port-to-port trial runs so the locals and communities might have an opportunity to meet the riders and hear Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's message.

Victor Gallardo once peddled from San Francisco to Port Hueneme — which he called a "piece of cake." Gallardo says, "This is much bigger and I look forward to the challenge." Local 13 Dispatcher "Big Gabe" Zuniga says, "Paul told me about this ride and I had to join. When he explained that I could help kids in need and meet my fellow

brothers and sisters in the small ports, I couldn't resist the opportunity."

Jessie "Nacho" Enriquez, Chairman of Local 13's Bloody Thursday Commemoration, where the journey will end, has canoed through the jungles of Belize and from Molokai to Oahu. When asked if he would include the bike team in the July 5 program, Nacho said, "Of course. That would be stellar. When they come riding in I'll announce what they have accomplished. That would be great." ILWU Credit Union V.P. Rob York said he is planning a fundraiser in the Bay Area and wants to encourage the credit unions in other areas to lend their support.

On-site support

The riders will need spare batteries, parts, food and extra clothing. These necessities will be provided from beginning to end by a supply "sag-vehicle" supported by their partnership with The Cyclist, a Costa Mesa-based bicycle company that has years of experience with electric bikes, GPS routing and long distance bike rides. Paul's sister-in-law, Ride Coordinator and Local 13 member Donna McNamara, is in charge

of logistics, lodging and food. If you want to join the team or support the ride on the road, she is the person to contact donna.mcnamara@zuanich.com.

Help always appreciated

1. ILWU locals and friends are invited to: join the ride, spread the word, contact the much needed local press, plan to make a donation and host the team when they arrive in your port. This tour will pass through or overnight in Bellingham, Everett, Anacortes, Port Gamble, Port Angeles, Seattle Tacoma, Olympia, Aberdeen, Astoria, Longview, Vancouver, Portland, Newport, North Bend, Eureka, Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, Port Hueneme with the 1750 mile finish on Bloody Thursday in Los Angeles.

2. Contact local authorities and inquire about any needed permits and possible escorts. Invite the police and members of the community — especially civic and social groups to JOIN the ILWU and ride with us. These groups love to support good causes.

3. To make a group or individual contribution visit www.ilwuridethecoast.org.

"I'd like to see this event unite every part of the ILWU. Everyone is invited to contribute any way they can - actives, pensioners, IBU, foremen, warehouse, longshoremen, clerks, auxiliaries, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, the community, family, friends, ILWU Credit Union members and other unions - including a union friend Paul invited - the Maritime Union of Australia - to bring awareness to our Union's fight against childhood cancer. This ride belongs to Paul and his team and I will support them in any way I can," says pensioner Dan Imbagliazzo, who isn't shy about sharing big ideas and helping them come to life. "I hope Dispatcher readers will pass the word, contact local newspapers, hold a small fundraiser, join ILWU Ride the Coast for a block, a mile, ride from one port to another or more." He urges those interested in joining this Union ride to contact Paul at: paul@zuanich.com. If you want date and time of visit information and simple fundraiser tips: email ILWU Credit Union V.P. Rob York ryork@ILWUCU.ORG or, for webpage and donation assistance, email: Robert Maynez robmaynez@aol.com.