



THE DISPATCHER

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IN MEMORIAM



Remembering our brother Dave Arian: The entire ILWU family mourned the loss of former ILWU President Dave Arian. Dave mentored generations of longshore workers in Southern California and up and down the Coast. He is pictured here addressing a crowd in San Pedro on June 29, 2018.

Dave Arian: former ILWU President and Port Commissioner had radical roots

David Arian, a major force in the ILWU for four decades who identified with the rank-and-file membership, called himself a “radical” and rose to become International President, died January 2 at the age of 72, surrounded by friends and family in his hometown of San Pedro. Arian was diagnosed with an aggressive thyroid cancer last summer that failed to respond to treatment.

Humble beginnings, deep roots

Alan David Arian was born in 1946 and raised in a modest home in San Pedro by his mother Rose Shelton and Father Louis. Both parents came from Eastern European Jewish families who were politically active and sympathetic to left-wing causes – especially the labor movement.

His mother took him to picket lines as a child, including protests against the killing of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were executed in 1953 for espionage. His father was known on the docks as “Honest Lou,” and strongly supported Harry Bridges, the longtime ILWU President and co-founder who shared the Arian family’s left-wing political views and passion for social justice.

Early longshoring

Arian started working on the docks in 1965 while still in high school. He had mixed feelings about his first waterfront experiences, which included unloading heavy stalks of bananas arriving from Central America with hidden snakes and tarantulas that came alive after the creatures had been trapped for weeks in the cold, dark hold of a ship.

Arian’s dad tried to ease his son’s entry into the ILWU by offering him a valuable “sponsor” slot that would

have allowed Dave to quickly enter Local 13 as a “B-man and skip ahead of other Casuals. He rejected the “sponsor” offer, explaining:

“I had a very difficult time accepting my dad’s sponsorship. By then, I had become friends with other Casuals who were not allowed into the union simply because they did not have a relative to sponsor them.”

Fighting racism

Arian also knew that the sponsorship system had been abused by some and that it served to restrict the entry of African Americans and women into the union ranks. So he continued working as a Casual while becoming immersed in the exploding civil rights and anti-war movements. Before long, Arian was arrested during a sympathy sit-in at a federal building to support Rev. Martin Luther King’s non-violent fight against Jim Crow segregation. He joined a New Left political group and

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ILWU members help LA Teachers win strike to improve public schools

Los Angeles teachers won a carefully-organized six-day strike in January that will deliver smaller class sizes, more nurses and counselors, and greater accountability of private charter schools in the nation's second largest school system.

Early challenges

Organizing for the successful strike began long before April of 2017, when bargaining officially started. The process was extra difficult because a majority of school board members had won their seats with backing from private charter school advocates who are funded by wealthy, anti-union business interests. These Board members then hired a Superintendent to negotiate with the union who had no educational experience

or training – and strongly favored private charter schools.

Contract goals help the public

The union was open from the beginning about their bargaining goals because four out of their five goals were designed to improve the quality of education for students by reducing class sizes, increasing the number of nurses and counselors, adding funds for classroom supplies, placing a cap on the number of private charter schools and holding existing charter schools more accountable. The only pocketbook issue for teachers was their effort to secure a 6.5% raise.

Saving public education

The struggle by 55,000 teachers, nurses and counselors who care for 550,000 students in Los Angeles was initially discussed within the union ranks as a battle to pro-



Supporting quality public schools: ILWU members participated in a solidarity campaign organized by the Southern California District Council that helped teachers in LA win a six-day strike for smaller class sizes, more nurses and counselors, a cap on new private charter schools and greater accountability for existing charters. The community-wide effort involved hundreds of volunteers who "adopted" 63 public schools during the strike

tect public education. Union members then worked hard to spread the word about how smaller class sizes and more school nurses and counselors would benefit students. This slow, patient outreach work to talk with parents paid-off when fami-

lies backed the striking teachers – because they realized that a win for the union was a win for students.

History lessons

Many of us today take public education for granted, but it only

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Celebrating a new Bay Area ferry route: Hundreds of community members and elected officials came together on January 10 to celebrate the opening of the new ferry route from Richmond to San Francisco. The ferry service is operated by Blue and Gold and staffed by deckhands from the Inlandboatmen's Union, the marine division of the ILWU. Ridership on Bay Area ferries has steadily climbed in recent years as commuters seek to avoid congested highways and crowded BART trains.

In recent years, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) has invested \$465 million in new terminals, maintenance facilities and vessels to support its mission to expand regional ferry service in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Officials have plans to expand the region's ferry network and expect to quadruple the number of daily commuters who use the ferries by 2040.

In the photo: IBU President Marina Secchitano (left) and San Francisco Regional Director Robert Estrada celebrated the opening of the ferry terminal in Richmond.



First woman: Christine Semenero of Local 91 became the first woman to serve as Vice President of a Walking Boss/Foreman local on the West Coast. She was sworn into office by President Fred Gilliam on January 17.



Volunteering to save lives: Volunteers from Northern California's Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program (ADRP) gathered at Local 10 in San Francisco on November 26. Nor Cal's ADRP Director Hunny Powell explained: "We hold this event each year to thank our volunteers, actives, retirees and their spouses for the incredible support and outreach work that they do." Volunteers also hear from presenters who cover new developments from the field of addiction and treatment. Standing (L-R) are Local 10's Geoffrey Simpson, Presenters Raynard & Sandi Anderson, Local 54's Ernie Aguayo and Eric Linker, pensioner Clarence Lewis, Local 14's Lee Bransetter, Local 10's Kelly Kane, Local 34's Henry Pellom, Sr. and Bill Aviles, Local 10's James Curtis, Kirk Allen, Eric Sanchez, pensioner Herbert Burnley, Local 10's Vincini Norris and Tyrice Powell. Sitting (L-R) are Nor Cal ADRP Representative Hunny Powell, Local 10's Stanley Scott, pensioner Norman McLeod, Shirley Aviles (spouse), Marlene Allen (spouse), and Georgette L. Cobbs who is Director of Adolescent Services for the New Bridge Foundation. Kneeling is Sanjeshni Sen who was a presenter, along with Ms. Cobbs.

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ILWU Locals show holiday spirit with generous toy drives

ILWU members along the Coast organized events to bring a happier holiday season for thousands of families who are struggling to make ends meet. Local unions partnered with charity groups to donate toys, money and time to their communities.

Southern California Children's Christmas Party

Now in its 18th year, the 2018 Southern California ILWU Children's Christmas Party helped approximately 3,000 kids have a happy holiday season. Over 100 volunteers made this year's event possible. The ILWU committee reached out over 35 local non-profits that identified families needing assistance.

The effort was made possible by Locals 13, 26, 63, 94, the Federated Auxiliary 8, Southern California Pensioners, Longshoremen Memorial Association and the Local 63 Memorial Association. The Holiday Events Committee works year-round to plan and organize the holiday project.

Bay Area toy drive

Toys for Tots donations were gathered at Local 10's hall before Christmas. The success of the event was made possible from contributions by members of Local 10, 34, 75, 91 and Bay Area Pensioners.

Local 19's Christmas for Kids.

Generous contributions from Local 19 members allowed the 2018 Christmas for Kids committee support 10 different agencies in the greater Puget Sound area. The Committee's budget of almost \$23,000.00 was enhanced by discounts provided by Fred Meyer stores. The combined effort yielded a huge amount of clothes, toys, games, sleeping bags and bedding as well as gift cards that agencies distributed to needy families and individuals.

Presents from Partners in Portland

ILWU Locals 8, 40, 92, the IBU and Portland Local 8 Federal Credit Union, held a toy drive that worked with "Presents from Partners," a program of Labor's Community Service Agency. The toys were distributed at a labor-sponsored luncheon for working families who have been affected by unemployment and temporary hardships.

Local 4 Bike Drive

For the 10th year in a row, Local 4 members raised money to purchase and assemble 106 bikes for children served by the Children's Justice Center, which assists children who are victims of criminal-level abuse.

Tacoma toy drive

This year's Local 23 Toy Drive was the most successful so far. ILWU members and pensioners from Locals 23, 35



Tacoma Toy Drive: ILWU members and pensioners in Tacoma raised over \$48,000 for this year's toy drive to help over 940 children this season.



Local 4 Bike drive: (From left to right): Levi Green, Greg Hayden and James Hoffman were among the many Local 4 volunteers who helped to purchase and assemble of 106 bikes to benefit the Children's Justice Center.

and 98 donated \$48,834.35 and that enabled the committee to help over 940 children with two toys each this Christmas. The Toy Drive committee purchased most of the toys, jackets and bikes from the local union Fred Meyer store with added special discounts to make the donations go further. The Toy Drive Committee was headed by Trustee Kyle Copeland and members, Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burkes and Holly Hulscher along with many other Local 23 members, family and friends who also volunteered to be part of making so many local children's

St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen

Local 23 has supported the Hospitality Kitchen since its beginnings in 1984. During the holiday season, Local 23 volunteers have a fundraising drive to help raise monies needed to help the St. Leo's purchase necessities they need to keep the kitchen running. Longshore, pensioners, family and friends have the opportunity to serve year-round and at both the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to people in need at the Kitchen. Byron Baydo, a longtime volunteer and Local #23 Clerk said "I always like to say that at Local #23 we are grateful for the opportunity to help others so that they can help themselves."



Presents from Partners: ILWU members in Portland teamed up with the Local 8 Federal Credit Union and the local labor community for a toy drive to benefit families affected by unemployment.

ILWU members help LA Teachers win strike to improve public schools

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happened a century ago after decades of struggle – much of it led by the labor movement that battled to move children out of factories and off the streets into classrooms. The belief then – and now – is that quality public education helps give every American a better opportunity to succeed in life.

Protecting public schools

Several months ago, the ILWU's Southern California District Council (SCDC) learned that another private charter school was planning to open in Wilmington. Like all private charters, they would be funded with dollars diverted from public schools. SCDC leaders immediately contacted their union brothers and sisters at the

teacher's union, the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). The SCDC then participated in public meetings that were organized to educate and inform parents about the latest threat to public education. The *Dispatcher* featured a report about this meeting at the Harry Bridges Span School that included union members, parents and students. The problem with charter schools draining public resources and failing to be accountable was addressed – along with the need to support teachers in their contract negotiations.

Second meeting builds support

A few weeks later the SCDC sponsored a town hall meeting at the ILWU Memorial Association building in Wilmington, with a panel that pro-

vided an update about the teacher's contract negotiations and efforts to cap the number of charter schools in Los Angeles. Once again, an appeal was made to build community support for the teachers' contract bargaining. Unions "adopt-a-school"

Once teachers voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike, the SCDC began mobilizing ILWU locals in the Harbor Area and reaching out to other nearby unions. The goal was to have union members join the "adopt-a-school" program by helping at their local school during a strike. In practice, this meant picketing with teachers and ensuring that an ILWU members or other union volunteer was always on the picket line so the teachers would

know that "we have your back." It also meant bringing them food when they were marching on the picket lines. ILWU members worked with teacher union Chapter Chairs and Picket Captains to make sure picket line were staffed, fed and emotionally supported. In total, the SCDC effort resulted in 63 schools being "adopted" in the cities of Carson, Gardena, Harbor City, Lomita, San Pedro and Wilmington. Hundreds of ILWU members participated, as did officers from Locals 13, 20, 63, 65, 68, 94, Auxiliary, Pensioners, and the SCDC – along with officials from the Marine Firemen and Steelworkers Union. The SCDC also provided signs declaring that "The ILWU supports teachers," which were produced

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Dave Arian: former ILWU President & Port Commissioner had radical roots

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attended frequent meetings. He studied the writings of Karl Marx and other revolutionaries while traveling across the country to support labor and community protests involving other unions in different industries.

Early leadership & lessons

In 1966, Arian and friends opened a Community Action Center in a garage where young people came to learn about the farmworker grape boycott, civil rights movement and growing opposition to the Vietnam War. The project expanded and attracted many followers - but also angered some community members who eventually burned it down. Arian later worked with those responsible and became friends with them while working together in the union.

Devouring books

During this four-year period in the late 1960's, Arian wore long hair and a beard, attended hundreds of meetings and devoured dozens of books a year - receiving the equivalent of a college education that shaped his political views for life, including the idea that working class people and unions could play a key role in driving positive social change.

Falling in love

During this time of intense learning and growth, the young leader maintained his roots in San Pedro where he fell in love with Roxanne Nielsen, got married and had two children; their son Sean and daughter Justine. The new responsibilities at home sparked an important talk with Dave's father.

"That's when my dad sat me down and said, 'you have a family now. It's time to go to work.' Soon after, he found me a sponsor, an old time sailor named Walter Harris, who said to me on the day I was registered, 'We need more kids like you in this union.' So in 1969 I became a full-fledged member of Local 13."

Opposing discrimination

Although Arian ultimately benefited from the sponsorship system that helped him enter Local 13 more quickly, he remained troubled by the policy's unfairness. After becoming a registered member of the union, Arian continued to help casuals organize, eventually resulting in a "casual hall" with a rotational dispatch system that assured equal opportunity for everyone, including women and African Americans. Almost 40 years later in 2008, he devoted space in his book, *The Right to Get in the Fight*, where he explained his feelings and described the different actions that he and others took against all forms of discrimination on the job.

1971 strike

Arian was involved in the controversial ILWU longshore strike of 1971 that was backed by 96.4% of workers - and was especially popular with younger workers who were worried about the difficult transition underway from "break-bulk" to containerization. In 1969, Arian joined those who criticized Harry Bridges for negotiating contracts in 1960 and 1966 that provided terms for the transition to containers. The criticism of Bridges triggered a strong response from "honest Lou," who told his son to show more respect toward the ILWU President.

The 1971 strike became the longest in ILWU history at 134 days, but it won little more than what had been on the negotiating table before the walkout. Most importantly, employers won the right to increase the size of a "steady" workforce, allowing them to pick only workers they wanted and bypass the hiring hall dispatch system for key jobs at Local 10 and 13.

As Arian grew and gained more experience, he came to appreciate the difficult decisions that Bridges had made years before to help longshore workers cope with new technology. After Bridges retired, he asked Arian to represent him at a meeting of foreign union officials in Vienna - a gesture of respect that Arian never forgot.

Rising through the ranks

When Arian became a registered longshore worker in 1969, the radical young critic of the establishment continued his activism and organizing - while also running for union office. He started with a slot on the Local 13 Executive Board - where he was soundly defeated. He ran again and won a seat on the Southern California District Council (SCDC), the ILWU regional body that coordinates political activity. Two years later he became President of the SCDC, where he promoted voter registration, political action and solidarity efforts with other unions.

President of Local 13

In 1979 he was elected to serve as a Relief Business Agent during weekends and won races for the Local 13 Executive Board. The following year he was elected as a delegate to both the Longshore Caucus and International Convention. And five years later, in 1984, he was elected President of Local 13 - the largest and fastest-growing ILWU local on the mainland - where he served two terms and kept an eye on higher office.

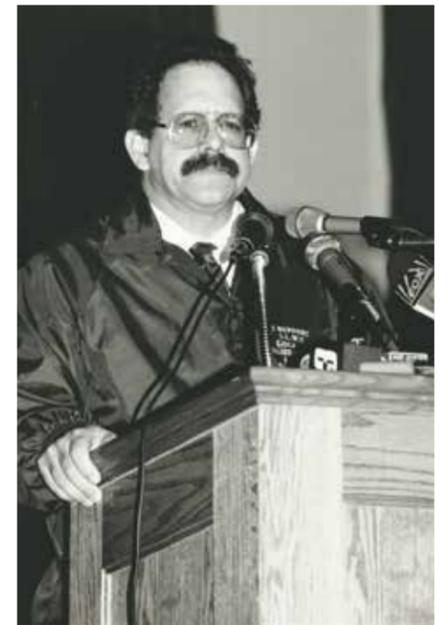
Established leadership

Top positions at the ILWU International had changed little from 1934 to 1977. President Harry Bridges and Secretary Lou Goldblatt were both popular leaders who won elections every three years without much opposition until they retired together in 1977. Local 34 President Jimmy Herman won the next election for International President with backing from Bridges and remained there for 14 years until retiring in 1991.

Changing industry & demographics

Arian and many around him thought the next generation of ILWU leaders had to fully understand and address the dramatic changes underway in the logistics industry caused by globalization - including an explosion of container traffic and jobs at the mega port of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Arian had recently won two terms at the ILWU's largest longshore local that was ground-zero for globalization - while leaving him well-positioned to run for International President.

Beyond the docks, membership in the Warehouse Division was declining as shops moved inland or fled offshore to Mexico and Asia. Another change underway was the demographic shift in the ILWU's ranks, with an older generation of workers represented by Harry Bridges and Jimmy Herman (who remained in office until they were 76 and 67) being replaced by younger members. Arian felt the time was right to run, and began assembling a team of supporters to win the 1991 election.



Contested election

Arian knew his competitor would be Randy C. Vekich, the union's International Vice-President for the Mainland. Vekich was a seasoned member of the Longshore Negotiating Committee and leader of Local 24 in Aberdeen, Washington - the nation's largest log exporter at the time. Vekich was 52 years old, just a little older than Arian who was 45, and he enjoyed respect from many ILWU officials who saw him as a steady leader who would maintain the legacy of Bridges and Herman. Arian, by comparison, was seen as a risky, radical outsider who some believed was "too young."

A radical runs for president

Arian's self-proclaimed radical political views and outspoken nature made many ILWU leaders uncomfortable, and terrified many employers. The *Journal of Commerce* labeled him a "fiery radical" who "sees the world through the eyes of a socialist and activist." Arian confirmed those fears by telling the *Journal* that he had "no love for the employers or the capitalist system. I don't believe in it. I don't believe it benefits the interests of the working people. It never has." Those views sounded a lot like former ILWU President Harry Bridges, who was also a lifelong socialist and made no secret of his contempt for capitalism and belief that workers would be better off owning the means of production and controlling what they produce. And yet Arian, like Bridges, also had to work with those capitalist employers while he was President of Local 13, where he "earned a grudging respect from management," as the *Journal* put it. The Pacific Maritime Association's Vince Maestra, who worked with Arian in Southern California, told the industry newspaper: "He means what he says and says what he means - he's a straight shooter." Other industry officials weren't so generous and privately derided him as a dangerous communist - the same label that had once been pinned on Harry Bridges.

An insurgent campaign

Arian gladly embraced the role of an insurgent. He pledged to shake things up and questioned the status quo - while pledging to maintain the ILWU's best traditions of militancy and solidarity. His promise to make changes worried many union officials - and also

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Taking the oath: Dave Arian was sworn-in as ILWU International President in 1991 by outgoing President Jimmy Herman.

longtime ILWU staffers who sought and received protection in case Arian won and wanted to “clean house” at the International headquarters. ILWU union staffers in San Francisco quickly formed staff unions and secured contracts signed by outgoing President Jimmy Herman. Beyond the headquarters, Arian also faced an uphill battle, with officials from 49 of the 52 existing locals already endorsing Vekich. That meant Arian had to shore up his base in Southern California, then appeal directly for votes from rank-and-file members in other areas.

Different views

Some differences between the 1991 candidates were subtle, others more substantive. Vekich was a Vietnam vet who opposed the war, while Arian was a militant anti-war activist. Vekich emphasized the traditional reliance on defending longshore jurisdiction, while Arian wanted an ambitious organizing program and “top to bottom” approach to jurisdiction on the docks that included helping port truckers and other workers to organize and join the ILWU. Arian also broke ranks with tradition by reaching out to workers in Hawaii with a network of local activists who contacted workers in sugar, pineapple, hotels and general trades – something that hadn’t been done on a similar scale by previous International Presidents. Arian’s message and outreach effort was well-received by many on the islands, allowing him to win Hawaii by a narrow margin.

Narrow victory

When the ballots were counted in August of 1991, Arian had won overwhelming support from his home Local 13 and most others in Southern California, along with the slim majority at Hawaii’s Local 142. Most other locals, except for 6 and 10 in the Bay Area, voted heavily against Arian – an outcome that signaled difficult times ahead. Arian won the first tally by a razor-thin 100 votes. Election protests required re-voting 11 units of Local 26 that was led by Arian ally Luisa Gratz. When those ballots were tallied, Arian won by 248 votes and was sworn-in October 8, 1991, by outgoing President Jimmy Herman.

Rocky start

Following the election, Arian published his first “President’s Report” in the ILWU *Dispatcher*, but it did little to calm his critics. His editorial was headlined “Time to Move On,” and reflected the outlook of a brash new leader. It began by declaring, “The future of the ILWU depends completely on the willingness of the members to join with the new leadership in a process of rebuilding.” After several paragraphs about his campaign, Arian extended an olive branch to the opposition, saying, “All of us are ready, I believe, to put behind us the struggles of the last few months,” then called for unity within the ranks and among elected officers. He went on to declare that workers all over the world, including those in the USSR, Poland, Central America and the US, were being hurt by the same systems. He concluded the report with a gesture of reconciliation and open-

ness, explaining that he was establishing an “open-door policy” for all members who wanted to talk. He listed his phone number and closed by saying, “I’ll be more than glad to sit down with you to hear your ideas on the future of this union.”

Idealism meets reality

The next three years were difficult, often marked by internal conflict as Arian tried to implement his programs in the face of growing resistance. In his next *Dispatcher* report, Arian showed a more pragmatic side. His account of a recent AFL-CIO convention that he attended with other ILWU leaders, included some well-deserved criticism of the body’s bureaucratic and undemocratic procedures, while also noting many of the resources, relationships and alliances that could benefit the ILWU.

Softer tone

In the coming months, Arian’s reports to the membership became softer and humbler, especially when it came to his ambitious organizing program that was frequently criticized by opponents.

“We don’t have all the answers at the International,” he said. We don’t have any magic formula.”

Arian explained that the union had just finished a series of organizing conferences in each region, in order to gather ideas from members and officials and spark interest in organizing. He said the new effort would begin slowly.

“We are taking the first small steps in what will be a long process. We’ll make mistakes. We’ll try things that may or may not work. But we are determined that the organizing of new members into the ILWU will be the International’s top priority.”

Asserting jurisdiction isn’t enough

Arian emphasized that the organizing work could only succeed with enthusiastic support from local officials and members, adding that the traditional policy of “asserting jurisdiction” wasn’t enough to protect the union from a growing non-union workforce on the docks and throughout the logistics chain.

“For decades, we’ve thought that our coastwise jurisdiction would insulate us from the transfer of work to low-wage, non-union environments. But the situation has changed,” he said. “Our right to strike has been systematically eroded. Our labor laws have been routinely violated.”

Organizing plan hit snags

The organizing program was hobbled from the beginning by disagreements about its cost and viability. In January of 1992, a scaled-down version of the program was rolled-out, with funds coming from voluntary contributions made by locals in each region to support organizers in their area – matched with funding from the International. Arian tried to put the best spin on the compromised program, but in the end, it never received the funding, staffing or widespread support he hoped for – and the program required to make progress.

Challenges appear early

A host of other problems beset the new administration from the beginning, including 340 members at Local 13’s Allied Division who learned just before Christmas of 1991 that their jobs were being terminated by Southern Pacific Railroad at the gigantic LA/Long Beach Intermodal Container Transport Facility. Built in 1987 with \$57 million in public funds and support from the ILWU, it was the nation’s largest off-dock rail operation. The company’s announcement that they were dumping ILWU-represented workers was delivered with help from heavily-armed railroad police who carried sniper rifles and machine guns into the yard. Arian and others responded with an aggressive campaign that included rallies attended by thousands and efforts to coordinate stop-work meetings at California ports, but employers secured a federal court injunction that nixed the port action. A valiant effort continued with picketing and leafleting, but eventually ended.

Fighting NAFTA

Another issue that Arian tackled was the NAFTA agreement initiated by George Bush, backed by corporate America and championed by Bill Clinton. Arian made the fight a priority and led a delegation to Mexico to observe elections and discuss NAFTA with local and national labor leaders. At home, the U.S. Presidential primary election left the ILWU with little choice but to endorse Bill Clinton who was better for workers than George Bush, although both men had a history of catering to business and Wall Street while largely ignoring the plight of workers and unions.

Successful longshore contract

Arian headed up the 1993 Longshore Contract negotiations, which he hoped could get control over new technology, including computer work that was increasingly being done by non-union workers away from the docks. There was also a push to claim jurisdiction over new maintenance and repair work. Another goal was improving pension benefits – including increases for pensioners. The contract was settled with modest but positive movement on technology and maintenance issues and modest wage increases – but dramatic pension increases. The contract called for boosting the benefit from \$39 to \$69 per month for each year of service for active members – an increase of more than 43%. The new contract also provided sizeable increases for pensioners. The union’s excellent health plan was also maintained without any cuts for active members or pensioners.

Bridges Institute

After the longshore contract was settled, the Harry Bridges Institute became the next controversy. The Institute had been Arian’s idea for an educational, cultural and research effort that would include community leaders and sympathetic faculty from universities who wanted to help the union. The effort won support from the Executive Board, but it was attacked by others for



a variety of reasons and became a lightning rod for his adversaries.

Growing internal differences

Arian’s final months in office became more difficult as the internal political tensions increased and embroiled almost every issue in conflict. International solidarity visits were criticized as wasteful and excessive. A lengthy struggle at Peavy Grain in Kalama, Washington, dragged-on without a resolution in sight. Divisions and rancor were already intense when International Vice President Brian McWilliams announced he would run against Arian.

Loss & graceful departure

McWilliams won the race in 1994 by almost 1500 votes. Arian retained support in much of Southern California, but lost in most other locations, including Hawaii, where McWilliams won by 200 votes.

After losing, Arian addressed members of the International Executive Board in a respectful and conciliatory tone: “I have always accepted the decisions of the membership. Even when I disagreed with them. You’ll not see from Dave Arian attacks on this leadership. What you’ll see is support for the Convention programs of organizing, internationalism and member education.”

His last official duty as International President was to administer the oath of office to his successor, Brian McWilliams, on July 30, 1994.

Back home to Pedro

Defeated but undaunted, Arian returned to San Pedro and went back to working on the docks. He put energy into his family, the Harry Bridges Institute and other educational projects. Ten years after his 1994 defeat, Arian ran and was elected President of Local 13. He also returned to the Southern California District Council where he once again became President of the coordinating body and helped guide political action and voter registration efforts, including an all-out push to recruit ILWU volunteers to work in Nevada for Obama in 2009. At home, Arian was constantly courting and supporting a slew of local progressive leaders to run for City Council, Mayor, County Supervisor, State Assembly, Senate, and Congress. He worked with the his longtime friend and political comrade, Diane Middleton, to help run

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a foundation that made grants to union and community organizing projects.

Harbor Commissioner

In 2006, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed Arian to serve on an air pollution advisory board, a position which led to his 2010 appointment as Harbor Commissioner. When Mayor Eric Garcetti took office four years later, he replaced all the Commissioners except Arian – making him one of the Port's longest-serving and best-informed representatives.

Finding the right balance

Serving on the Port presented Arian with new challenges and opportunities. He worked hard to address the needs of port workers and nearby residents – while recognizing the need to keep the port healthy. The biggest and most difficult issue Arian faced on the Commission was how to manage the port's long-term competitive edge – which included the inevitable adoption of new technology – while also meeting the needs of workers and the community.

Taking a more active role

"It's all about thru-put and efficiency in handling containers," Arian would say, outlining his vision that balanced the needs of industry and workers. He argued that a large, trained workforce was an asset to the Port – and one that should be backed by strategic and prudent infrastructure investments. He believed this combination could keep the port efficient and increase volumes – which in turn would generate revenues for the Port and jobs for workers. Under his nine years of leadership, Arian encouraged the Port to shift from being a relatively passive "landlord" that left most decisions in the hands of terminal operators – to a more activist, "hands-on" role that required the Port to become an active manager. Arian argued for and won support for this vision, that included partnering with workers and community, and the approach scored consistent increases in container volumes during his tenure.

First automation arrives

When TraPac announced plans to automate their terminal at the Port of Los Angeles, it was the first on the West Coast. He saw TraPac's proposal as relatively small in scale compared to others being contemplated, and felt it would help LA compete with ports in Canada and the newly expanded Panama Canal. Arian read the studies, including one done by the Port which concluded that the new project would eventually replace hundreds of longshore jobs. After considering all options, Arian and his fellow Commissioners voted to spend \$460 million in public funds over five years to support the project. In the end, Arian said there was no viable alternative that could keep the Port competitive and maintain container volumes. It was similar to the kind of adjustment that fellow radical Harry Bridges had made a half-century earlier, when the revolutionary new technology of containers transformed the industry. Like Bridges, Arian used his position of power to get as much as possible for workers.

Lasting legacies

Besides his steadfast commitment to family and extended family, which provided him with immense comfort and meaning throughout his life – especially during his final months and days – Arian's legacy includes many enduring contributions to the ILWU.

Mentoring new leaders

Arian was a mentor and trainer of past, present and future ILWU leaders. The number he influenced amounts to dozens if not hundreds, and includes International President Willie Adams, and former Vice President Ray Familathe, who both credit Arian with encouraging and supporting them at critical times, beginning decades ago when they first ran for office. International Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr., also credits Arian for helping him grow as a leader, as does longtime former Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. Local 142's Donna Domingo says she benefitted from Arian's help. Former Local 13 leader Greg Mitre, who now



Building Bridges: As a young man, Arian once criticized Harry Bridges, but later apologized and the two became friends.

presides over the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, and his brother, former Local 13 President Mike Mitre who recently passed, were both helped by Arian. Others include Southern California District Council President Cathy Familathe, Local 26 President Luisa Gratz, Long Beach Community College Board member Vivian Malauulu, Local 13 leaders Sunshine Garcia and Shannon Ross, Local 13 Secretary Irene Huerta, Local 65 Port Police officer Glen Twardy and Longshore Education Committee Chair Patricia Aguirre. Local 13 President Mark Mendoza and Vice President Gary Herrera were also encouraged by Arian. Former International President Bob McEllrath served his first term as Coast Committeeman because Arian appointed him to the post. Former International President Jim Spinosa says he benefitted enormously from Arian, beginning in 1969 when both worked as terminal warehousemen. Arian continued impacting the lives of new activists such as Anthony Loy up to his final day.

"Dave has been mentoring me since I was a casual for the past 7 years," said Loy who is now an ID Casual. "He helped me study every contract since 1934 and we talked about lots of history. I've volunteered for the Labor Day Parade, Feed the Community Day, phone banked for ballot measures and politicians who support our union, and now I'm working on a video project at the Harry Bridges Institute called *Great unions make great families.*"

Legacy of radical politics

Arian's embrace of a radical political vision, combined with his ability to take pragmatic steps that helped the ILWU and labor movement endure, places Arian in the company of Harry Bridges and other radicals from the "Old Left" generation who built the ILWU on a foundation of internal democracy, militancy and vision of a better world. Like Arian, they believed workers should have power on the job and a democratic say in economic decisions.

Faith in education

Arian's commitment to developing new leaders was closely tied to his belief that education can inspire a sense of solidarity, hope and way forward within the ranks of the working class. The man who once read 50

books a year and became a working-class intellectual, believed in the power of ideas and shared experience among co-workers. That vision was behind the Community Action Center, the Harry Bridges Institute, his support for trade schools and apprenticeship programs – all part of his faith in rank-and-file education and training to help ILWU members learn about history, leadership skills and political theory.

Organizing until the end

It's no accident that Arian's final months looked and felt more like a successful organizing campaign than a vigil. His team produced communications that informed the community, provided opportunities for everyone to get involved, and created emotional links that made people feel connected to a man who touched so many in the working class.

Celebrating Arian's life

Local 13's massive new dispatch hall was filled to capacity on Sunday, January 27, for a celebration of Dave Arian's life that was staggering in both numbers and diversity. Hundreds of rank-and-file members filled seats on the floor and bleachers in the back, while others stood at the sides wearing safety vests because they were taking a break from work. Outside on the docks, giant cranes up and down the coast stood in the "full-up" position, in honor of the former President.

A total of 26 speakers began with Arian's "best friend," Norm Tuck. Each speaker told brief but touching stories about Arian's impact on their lives. Music by John Tousseau and Rocky Quintana along with poetry from Luis Rodriguez and Zeek Green added to the remarks, as did short videos of Dave Arian telling stories about his life. International President Willie Adams and former President Jim Spinosa both spoke on stage, and were supported in the audience by former President Bob McEllrath, current Hawaii Vice President Wesley Furtado, and all the ILWU International officers including Vice President Bobby Olvera Jr., Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris, and Coast Committeemen Cam Williams and Frank Ponce De Leon. Members and officers from locals up and down the coast also attended, as did a delegation of Austra-

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HBI honors: Arian was honored by the Harry Bridges Institute in 2014. He is pictured here with current PCPA President Greg Mitre and Diane Middleton.

Longshore historian Dr. Ron Magden passes at 92

Ron Magden, labor historian, teacher, and beloved member of the ILWU family, passed away on December 31 at the age of 92. Magden is known for his research and writings on longshore workers in the Pacific Northwest. During his decades of research on the working waterfront, Magden forged close ties with ILWU members up and down the coast – but especially in Northwest locals where he was affectionately known as “Dr. Ron” and held an honorary membership in the Local 23 Pensioners Club.

He will be remembered for his scholarship on the Pacific Northwest’s

working waterfront, his efforts to help document and preserve the history and stories of longshore workers, his significant contributions to the archive collections at the University of Washington and his role in establishing the UW’s Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies. To the ILWU members who knew him well, he is remembered as a friend, colleague, mentor and master story teller whose influence spanned across several generations of longshore workers.

Magden grew up in a working-class household in Idaho. He loved history at an early age and remembered teaching history to his classmates in third grade. It was at his mother’s insistence that Magden went to college. Ron had planned to get a job after gradu-



ating high school to help support his mother, but she wanted him to study.

He began teaching at 21, and three years later entered a graduate program at the University of Washington where he received his PhD in history. In 1964, Magden began teaching at Tacoma Community College just after it opened and kept teaching there for next 35 years.

In 1982, he co-authored a book, *The Working Waterfront: The Story of Tacoma’s Ships and Men*. Magden later expanded that book and published *The Working Longshoreman* in 1991.

A memorial was held to honor Magden on January 15, at the Foss Waterway Seaport museum in Tacoma. The event attracted hundreds and the location was fitting. The museum houses exhibits on Tacoma’s maritime history and Magden played an important role in helping to create the museum. Attendees included ILWU International President Willie Adams, ILWU Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr., IBU Secretary Treasurer Terri Mast, Local 23 President Dean McGrath, Local 19 President Rich Austin Jr., IBU Region 37 Regional Director Richard Gurtiza, ILWU Puget Sound District Council President Dan McKisson and ILWU International President Emeritus Bob McEllrath.

Mike Jagielski, President of the Tacoma Pensioners and friend of Magden, served as the Master of Ceremonies. After delivering a heartfelt eulogy, Jagielski invited friends and family to share their remembrances. Jagiel-

ski recalled Ron’s positive nature and how every time he spoke to him on the phone, “Ron would spend the first few minutes with praise to lift my spirits. He never had a bad word to say about anyone,” Jagielski added. “and no one ever said a bad word about Ron.”

Michael Honey, history professor at the University of Washington, called Magden a “people’s historian” because he told history from the point of view of the working class and because he preferred the company in the ILWU hiring hall over the halls of academia.

Ron remained active on several ILWU related projects until his death. He was a fixture at Pacific Coast Pensioner conventions, using them as an opportunity to meet pensioners and record oral histories. Magden undertook the project with ILWU historian Harvey Schwartz and labor archivist Conor Casey from the University of Washington. Magden also regularly attended pensioner club meetings at Locals 19 and 23, where he worked closely with Local 23’s Young Workers’ Committee along with other members of the Pensioners Club on a weekly basis. Magden was also nearing completion on a history ILWU Local 19.

“Ron went out on his shield, juggling multiple projects and working with the Local 23 Young Workers’ Committee right up until the very end,” said Schwartz. “That speaks to his character and his love for the ILWU. You really wouldn’t have expected anything less from Ron.”



Outstanding labor activist: Dr. Ron Magden (right) received the Jesse and Lois Stranahan Award for labor activism at the Pacific Coast Pensioners Convention in 2016. Tacoma Pensioners Club President Mike Jagielski presented him with the award.

ILWU members help LA Teachers win strike to improve public schools

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with donations from Locals 13 and 63. Teachers and ILWU members stood together on those picket lines during heavy rains that fell during much of the strike. Members dug into their own pockets to donate food, ponchos and other items to help the striking teachers.

After six days of striking, the United Teachers Union reached a tentative agreement with School District Officials and quickly ratified the new contract on Tuesday, January 22, by an overwhelming margin.

Solidarity works

It was the first teachers strike in 30 years, so most participants had no experience on a picket line, and weren’t sure how to organize community support. Because the SCDC has done this many times in past, they reached out to involve other unions in the Harbor Coalition and partnered with community groups such as LAANE, which pro-

vided staffer Albert Ramirez to work with SCDC in the Harbor Area. Other groups included Reclaim Our Schools, A Needy Wilmington and South Bay Community Coalition/Thrive LA. These groups have partnered with SCDC in the past and joined this effort.

Many UTLA members expressed their gratitude to the ILWU by posting their feelings of solidarity on social media.

UTLA member Michael Gearin, who teaches at the Harry Bridges Span School, said, “Thank you SO, SO much for everything you did during the strike. The ILWU kept us afloat.” He went on to say, “We were honestly just hitting our stride. I realized that the strike is only partly about the contract. I learned how valuable an opportunity it was to do community organizing and coalition building with other unions.”

Lisette Rodriguez, a California Faculty Association member at Cal State

Dominquez Hills said, “You all have done an amazing job of supporting our teachers and families! Thank you for inviting me to adopt a school, I had a great experience and I’ve made friendships that will continue to grow.”

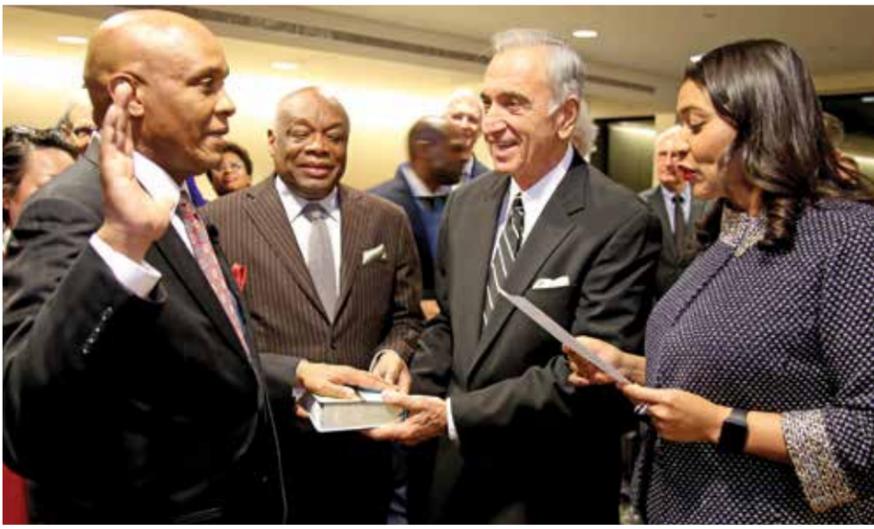
When Monica Rodriguez heard a tentative agreement had been reached, she wrote, “Thank the Lord, educators, counselors, nurses, students, parents, ILWU members and our community who stood together and supported each other. I am beyond blessed and thankful as a parent of two LAUSD students, a wife of an ILWU Local 13 member and a community volunteer.”

As an ILWU member and President of the SCDC, I want to thank all our officers, members, and community groups who stepped up to support our teachers and students. In addition, I want to thank Shannon Ross, wife of ILWU Local 94 member, Marcel Ross. She coordinated the collection and dis-

tribution of food to help the 80% of students in LA schools who are low-income and depend on food provided at schools. Thanks to Shannon and other volunteers, many of these children in the Harbor Area were fed during the strike.

It wasn’t hard for us to support this teacher’s strike and struggle. This is what we do – we help other unions and union members. Second, this is not the first time and it won’t be the last time that we come together to support our working families in our community. And finally, defending our public schools is one of the most sacred and important things we can do as union members and citizens. Thank you everyone for all that you did to help. AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL.

*Cathy Familathe
SCDC President
ILWU Local 63*



Oath of office: ILWU International President Willie Adams (left) took his oath of office for the San Francisco Port Commission on December 12. He was sworn in by San Francisco Mayor London Breed (right). Also present were former San Francisco Mayors Willie Brown (second from left) and Art Agnos. Adams was first appointed to the Port Commission in 2012 by Mayor Ed Lee and currently serves as the Commission's Vice President.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Robert M. McEllrath;
Local 10: Willie J. Swanson;
Local 13: Hilario M. Mendoza; Pete Palacios; Thomas H. Laurenzana; Leo S. Lorenzana; Salvatore Pilato; Lari A. Matulich; Domenic J. Iacono; Rafael P. Gutierrez; David H. Jones; Edward R. Pacheco; Charles A. Azar; Eliseo Aguirre; Robert A. Briggs; Valerie R. Lopez; Joseph T. Barker;
Local 14: Damien J. Mooney;
Local 19: Herbert Munson; Harold A. Ross; Patricia L. Scribner;
Local 21: Donald L. Rutherford; Dennis O. Stephenson;
Local 23: Robert E. Vigil; Cynthia Kanu; David W. Rowe; Harvey R. Anderson; Roger S. Cordiner;
Local 25: Kenneth L. Kanarr;
Local 34: Jong B. Lee;
Local 46: Timothy P. Chacon; Jess J. Ramirez; Juan L. Perez;
Local 52: Edward C. Best; Johnny N. Edwards; **Local 63:** Tomaline A. Herrera; Teresa M. Word Kenneth K. Swanson; Virginia Rossi;
Local 94: Luis C. Carreon; Michael C. Gregory; Anthony J. Guerra;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Jimmie L. Rickey (Nellie Ann); Kenneth D. Karschney (Linda);
Local 8: James W. Montgomery; Joe J. Willis; Edward H. Johnston;
Local 13: Marijon Ancich; Tony P. Apodaca; Dennis Fitzpatrick; Stanley Smith; John A. Mahon; Emilio V. Acosta; John T. Ledonne;
Local 19: Gerald Bowers; Joe Yasuda; Stanley C. Fortier; **Local 34:** Albert Nealey; Desmond J. Ooghe;
Local 52: Samuel Rosenberg;
Local 63: Helen M. Sloan; Keith J. Cliburn; **Local 91:** Sam H. Allie;
Local 98: Edward G. Kampanos

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Virginia M. Benson;
Local 10: Arkadelphia Cherry; Ethel J. Rampone; Murle Jimmerson; Jeannette Torres; **Local 12:** Shirley Smith; **Local 13:** Eartha Slater; Madalena M. Branning; Marcella M. Karmelich; Mary F. Robinson; Linda L. Bachelier; Jean Qualls; Socorro Castro; **Local 19:** Marian Summers; **Local 23:** Violette Reopelle; **Local 26:** Beverly Rodriguez; **Local 50:** Yvonne Weygandt; **Local 54:** Sakhannary Bono; **Local 63:** Evelyn Tietsort; **Local 98:** Doris A. Hansen;

Dave Arian: former ILWU President and Port Commissioner had radical roots

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lians led by Paddy Crumlin, President of both the International Transport Workers Federation and the CFMMEU union from down under. Political leaders included members of Congress, state legislators, and a slew of city and County officials led by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Janice Hahn and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Port Director Gene Seroka praised Arian's abilities and the section concluded with an overview by Arian's longtime friend and comrade Diane Middleton. The final and most touching remarks came from Arian's family, including five grandchildren plus daughter Justine and son Sean, who along with their mother Roxanne, offered remarks that brought tears of joy and sadness to many in the audience. The entire

event was skillfully emceed by Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin, who is married to Sean Arian.

"We all owe Dave an enormous debt of gratitude," said President Willie Adams. "Dave was a working class hero who's legacy will live on forever. Rest in peace, brother Arian."

Arian is survived by his son Sean and husband Mike Bonin of Los Angeles, and their son Jacob; his daughter Justine Arian-Edwards and husband Ethan of Huntington Beach, and their children, Jady, Destan, Aneka and Keira; his sister, Laraine Arian, of San Pedro; his ex-wife and close friend, Roxanne Arian of San Pedro; and dozens of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and extended family members including longtime comrade, Diane Middleton. He is predeceased by his brother Arthur, who died in 2006.

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