Peace on Earth

SOLIDARITY FOREVER
Getting smarter, moving together—ILWU charts new course

Story by Marcy Rein
Photos by Tom Price

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ILWU International Vice Presidents Wesley Furtado and Bob McEllrath with AFL-CIO Organizing Director Stuart Acuff.

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age timely justice nor strong penalties to discourage violations. One-third of all workplace elections never get a first contract.

Unions simply have to refuse to play by rules "designed to make them lose," said Ken Zinn, director of the AFL-CIO's Center for Strategic Research. They can't just file for elections with random groups of workers who complain. Instead, they need to carefully choose targets that build power in their industries and offer opportunities for companies to benefit if they want to remain competitive. Most now have spin-offs that operate distribution centers, handle paperwork and planning, and even run trucking lines and airfreight services.

"I knew our employers have become diversified," said John Tousseau, Local 63 Secretary-Treasurer. "You can get into the weeds of this whole maritime industry is heading."

"The best plan Peter [Olney] can come up with will not be as good as what you can do as a group. Strategic organizing has to make use of the union's biggest resource—its members," he said. Task Force participants quickly ratted off some of the contributions members make to organizing. They furnish the power for actions, energy to add to limited staff, experience in the industry, connections in the community and the most credible voice possible to speak for the union. The ups and downs of the last several years have shown that today, effective collaboration will depend on the locals and the Organizing Dept. setting clear goals and commitments and keeping communication open.

Making strategic organizing work will require a vision of the union's future shared across all divisions.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY IN APPRECIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO HOTEL WORKERS' HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

O n behalf of the entire membership of the ILWU, this Inter-Union Executive Board wish-es to express its appreciation and admiration to the health care providers who have provided health care benefits for the San Francisco hotel workers who were locked out of their jobs for over two months. Led by the Kaiser Permanente Foundation, a health maintenance organization with which the ILWU has had a cooperative and constructive relationship for over 50 years, Chinese Hospital and PacificCare followed suit by continuing health care insurance for these workers who are engaged in a bitter fight over port security workers. The ILWU has always held that health care is a basic right to which all persons are entitled. The humanitar-ian act of these three health care organizations will allow the labor dis pute to move toward resolution without placing a strain and unfair burden on the health and welfare of these workers and their families.

Contributions to "From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks"

The Harry Bridges Project
P.O. Box 662018
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Peter Olney said the union needs to move on to a second phase of the program and figure out how to bring in more money for political action; how to look at what needs to be done for the mid-term elections in 2006; and how to get more members mobilized, going from the current 300 experienced activists to 1,000. We need to develop our own message and our own approach to the mid-term elections. We need to talk to Republicans and find some the union can work with. We'll need more out of the box thinking," Adams said.

**For organizing**
Season’s Greetings
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Have a Happy and Safe New Year!