

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Longshore, Clerk, and Walking Boss Caucus
Vancouver, British Columbia
May 22–26, 2005

M/S/C to adopt
5/25/06 a.m.

COAST EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Coast Education Committee remains committed to providing education programs for the rank-and-file. Following the direction of the April 2005 Longshore Division Caucus, the Education Committee, with Coast Committee support and participation, carried out the following programs and activities:

Health and Welfare Benefits Workshops, Coastwise

Brother George Romero, Coast Benefits Specialist, designed a program to educate the membership regarding their pension and welfare benefits, what they are, how they got them (especially in light of nationwide cutbacks and rising costs), and how to keep them. The Education Committee facilitated the workshops in the Puget Sound, Columbia River, Northern California, and Southern California. The program included a PowerPoint presentation and Benefit Plans forms for easy reference. The Committee opened up the program to actives, retirees, dependents, and survivors. Retirees constituted a large majority of the attendees, which was one of our goals, but the Committee would like to have seen greater participation by actives and their spouses.

The program was an overall success and well received by all participants. The Committee would like to thank George for his hard work, and for designing such an informative workshop.

George Romero will be giving a presentation at the Caucus, regarding M.O.B. The Committee recommends that we film this presentation.

The presentation, along with any information, including the U.C. Berkeley Study, will be used to help inform the rank-and-file regarding why we must protect our benefits and to make M.O.B. a priority in 2008 bargaining.

Pilot Program for Local and Area Education Committees

The Coast Education Committee is working on a Longshore Education Class that will be recorded and made available for local and area education committees to use as an example for designing local programs. The project will also start a catalog system so that the Coast, local, and area Education Committees can easily access education materials, including teaching techniques.

Coastwise Education Material

The Committee continues to review all educational materials from the local or area level that have coastwise value. We ask that locals submit these materials to the Coast

Education Committee and the Coast Committee for consideration of Coast funding and distribution of the materials coastwise.

Coast Funding of Local Education Material

The Committee continues to consider local and/or area requests for Coast funding of local education material for local educational purposes. We ask that locals and/or areas submit their proposals to the Coast Education Committee and Coast Committee for review and consideration for funding.

Other Caucus-Approved Education Programs Currently in the Planning Stages:

In the future, as approved by the April 2005 Caucus, the Coast Education Committee plans to hold the following important workshops:

International Relations and Solidarity, Coastwise

With the help of Brother Ray Familathe, ILWU Director of International Affairs, the Coast Education Committee plans to hold “International Relations and Solidarity” workshops to educate the rank and file on what in-roads the Employers have made overseas. The employers continue to restrict Dockers’ rights and eliminate union jurisdiction with the help of government worldwide. We want to educate the membership on the important role that international relations and solidarity can play in a campaign or dispute. Additionally, we will educate participants regarding major international Dockers’ and transport workers’ unions and federations, including the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) and the International Dockworkers’ Council (IDC).

The Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code (PCMSC), Coastwise

At these workshops, we will educate the rank-and-file regarding key provisions of the Safety Code and how those provisions relate to on the job safety matters. We will also include education regarding the Safety Code’s history, its relationship to the PCLCD, PCCCD, and the Pacific Coast Walking Bosses & Foremen’s Agreement (PCWB&FA).

Seminar on Contract Administration, Arbitrations, Grievance Procedures, Fair Representation

The goal of this seminar is to educate new union officers and future union officers, providing important information and skills to become an effective union representative.

The Coast Education Committee Recommends the following Program for Caucus Consideration:

2008 Contract Preparation Workshops, Coastwise

Under Coast Committee direction, these workshops will be held in all four areas of the Coast. This program will explain the difference between traditional bargaining and the type of bargaining situation that the ILWU may face in 2008, using the 2002 contract negotiations as an example. Reinforcing the importance of Maintenance of Benefits (MOB) will remain a top priority of the workshops, along with reinforcing the importance of mobilizing the ranks and clarifying the chain of command during contract bargaining.

History and Traditions Seminar

Our first ILWU History and Traditions Conference was held on September 26-30, 2004. This was a very important educational tool for our rank-and-file. We recommend holding another seminar.

Notes:

The Committee has been asked why more programs are not being done?

The present structure of the Coast Education Committee and the availability of the Coast Committee and International staff, due to their present workloads, limit the Committee's ability to plan and implement more programs.

Respectfully Submitted,



THE ILWU COAST EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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