

Second International Pacific Rim Mining to Maritime Unions Seminar

Workshop 4 Veterans/Pensioners Issues –Report to Conference

The Veterans and Pensioners want to thank the leadership for inviting us to this important conference. We very much appreciate the opportunity to participate and the respect you've shown for the valuable role Veterans and Pensioners play in support of our unions. We look forward to our continuing participation in future international conferences and expansion of international Veteran and Pensioner solidarity.

Veterans and Pensioners representing various branches of the Maritime Union of Australia and the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association participated in our Workshop along with actives from New Zealand who are moving to establish Pensioner groups. ILWU Local 13's Benefits Officer, and the ILWU Longshore Division's Coast Benefit Specialist also participated. Discussions covered the importance and role of Veterans and Pensioners groups as keepers of our history and traditions providing support and guidance for actives of the union and especially the need to unify Veterans and Pensioners worldwide. Discussion was also had regarding pension and health care security.

Current activities include supporting members, spouses and widows, working on community and political activities in support of unions and working people, cooperation with national retiree organizations including serving in leadership positions, fund raising, and encouraging more participation in Veterans and Pensioners groups.

Our discussions focused on the need to build our present Veterans and Pensioners Groups, help establish new groups around the world in all unions covering all crafts and occupations, encourage recent retirees and actives soon to retire to join and participate in their Veterans or Pensioners group or help start a group. Everyone must understand that only lifelong commitment to the strength of our unions will secure their lives in retirement. Most important for this conference is the need to build international solidarity.

Our Workshop adopted both the Pacific Coast Pensioner Resolution titled World Retirees Solidarity Conference and the National MUA Veterans Association's letter regarding Veterans and Pensioners Participation in International Mining and Maritime Conferences.

Based on our discussions we request that this conference adopt as part of a statement of policy a position in support of Veteran and Pensioner Worldwide Solidarity, the establishment of Veterans and Pensioners groups in every union and that Veterans and Pensioners groups be included as invitees and participants in all future International Conferences.

Fraternally Submitted, Co-Chairs Jim Bray, Veteran Maritime Union of Australia, Arne Auvinen, President, Pacific Coast Pensioner Association; and George Romero, ILWU Coast Benefits Specialist. George Kuvakas, President, Southern California Pensioners; Al Perisho, Southern California Pensioners; George Gornick, Columbia River Pensioners; James Davison, South West Oregon Pensioners; Hugh Hunter, Southern California Pensioners; Barrie Hounslow, MUA South Australia; Nick Kriticos, MUA South Australia; Jim Bray, MUA West Australia; Buddy Durand, MUA West Australia; Len Meneghello, Vancouver B.C. Canada; Bill Duncan, Vancouver Island, B.C. Canada; Lewis Wright; Southern California Pensioners; David Beeman, ILWU Local 13 Benefits Officer; Kenny Rohar, ILWU Local 23 Pensioners; Terry Ryan, Maritime Union of New Zealand; and John Murfitt, New Zealand Rail and Maritime.