



# THE DISPATCHER

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Photo by Jennifer Sargent

**Arrested fighting for good jobs:** ILWU Local 21 members and their supporters from other longshore locals defended their jurisdiction at the EGT grain facility in Longview, WA, July 11, 2011. About 100 members were arrested and loaded into law enforcement vans by the dozen, after protesting at EGT's Columbia River venture that isn't respecting the region's workforce and labor standards.

## ILWU members show solidarity as they turn up the heat on EGT

ILWU Local 21 members at the Port of Longview have gained coastwise solidarity as they've raised the stakes in the ongoing dispute with EGT Development, a multinational grain exporter who is trying to interfere with longtime union jurisdiction that's made the Pacific Northwest one of the most productive grain export regions in the world.

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More than 100 ILWU members

and supporters organized a picket line on July 21 that forced EGT to temporarily shut down their \$200 million grain terminal at the Port of Longview. On July 25, EGT reopened the terminal using scab labor that was escorted by police across picket lines, resulting in seven arrests. As The Dispatcher was going to press, grain shipments to the terminal remained suspended by the BNSF railroad.

### Opening with scab labor

Export Grain Terminal (EGT) began using non-union labor in July for the testing phase of its new \$200 million Longview facility, despite a contract with the Port of Longview that says it must hire Local 21 members to do the work. EGT is a joint venture of Japan-based Itochu Corp, South Korea's STX Pan Ocean and Bunge North America. Bunge alone raked in profits of \$2.5 billion last year.

### Union collusion

In an effort to circumvent the Port of Longview's contractual obligation to hire ILWU members, EGT announced plans on July 17 to hire an outside contractor that would employ members of the Operating Engineers Local 701. This collusion by Local 701 with EGT sparked widespread criticism from all segments of the labor movement including the area's Building Trades. A local official of the Operating Engineers even expressed concern about Local 701's behavior.

ILWU Locals and their supporters around the world have been closely watching EGT's hostile tactics in Longview. On June 3rd, longshoremen from Southern California, Northern California, the Oregon Area and the Puget Sound showed their support for Local 21 by arriving in busloads to

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Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



## LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

**Dear Editor,**

I have always been a Democrat and when Bush, Cheney and the rest of his group were in office, I fought hard to get Democrats elected.

Six years ago we had to take the House and Senate away from the Republicans and we did it, but we were then told that wasn't enough. We were told to keep donating to the Democrats because we still needed to take back the White House.

After eight years of the Republicans in charge, many people felt that Washington needed to change directions but what we got was a President who wants to make sure that we have a "bipartisan run government." Obama doesn't seem to understand that that was not why we worked so hard to elect him. He didn't know that the same Republicans that he wanted to find common ground with would filibuster every bill that they didn't like—which turns out, was every bill that was put forward in Obama's first two years. And all of those Democrats we elected to both Houses of Congress couldn't do anything stop them.

The American people were seemingly so impressed with the Republican's great courage and power that they gave the House back to the Republicans, and they will probably give them back the Senate and the White House next year as well. Meanwhile, I am getting plenty phone calls and letters asking for money and support from candidates or Democratic fundraisers who promise to "work for me."

I have been a member and now a pensioner of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union for the last 45 years. We have given lots of money and support to people who promised to vote and help labor, and then when the time came, they were afraid to stand up and be counted. Well, I am no longer willing to just give my hard earned money to anybody who just happens to have my address or phone number and is a Democrat; I now give a very healthy contribution to the ILWU Political Action Fund. If the Democrats want some of that money they should ask the ILWU for it. Hopefully with their hats in their hands and a little honest courage in their hearts.

**Mike Mullen, Local 14, (Ret.)  
Eureka, CA**

**Dear Editor,**

A longtime member of Local 22 (retired), Dorothy Pauley Niquette, passed away last month. She spent 27 years as the receptionist/switchboard operator at the Port of Tacoma and loved her job! She was always smiling and will be greatly missed by all.

**Candy Nigretto, Local 22  
Tacoma, WA**



**Solidarity for Japanese dockworkers:** ILWU President Robert McEllrath (Back row left) and ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe, (Back row, right) presented a check for \$65,000 to representatives of the National Federation of Dockworkers' Union of Japan (Zenkoku-Kowan) to assist in relief efforts in the aftermath of the March 11th earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan. The money was donated from the ILWU International, the Coast Longshore Division, Hawaii's Longshore Division and several ILWU Locals. In the front row of the photo from Zenkoku-Kowan are: Shinji Takagi (Vice President of Onahama Local), Jun Hakozaiki (Vice President of Onahama Local), Akinobu Itoh (President), Hideki Niiduma (President of Onahama Local), Nobuhide Sasaki (Deputy General Secretary of Onahama Local).

**Dear Editor,**

I would like to applaud the Local 32 pensioners who donated over \$10,000 to the ILWU's Political Action Fund that was reported in the May issue of the *Dispatcher*. I love the ILWU and would not be where I am today if it wasn't for our union. I recently had the opportunity to speak with International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams about the retirement benefits pensioners receive. We have these and other protections because of the union contract. And like it or not, the ability of our negotiating team to get the best contract possible is dependent on what happens in Washington. That is why I decided to follow the lead of the Local 32 pensioners and donate \$1,000 to our political action fund. I want to do my part and help keep the ILWU strong.

**Phillip Staab, Local 23 (Ret.)  
Payallup, WA**

**Dear Editor,**

Thank you for the excellent report on the June 3rd rally in Portland. I do have one small grievance concerning the omission of several locals that were in attendance. I don't usually care about small mistakes or who gets what credit, but the way that you definitively stated which locals came to the rally left the implication that those not listed did not participate. This simply was not the case as there was a good showing from locals 7 and 25. Local 47 had close to half of their members there and the very small local that I belong to, Local 51, had a 50% turnout also. I'm not sure about local 32 but I believe that they were in attendance. Our members were proud to go and hoped that they had an impact.

**Duane Johnson, Local 51  
Allyn, WA**

**Dear Editor,**

Federated Auxiliaries and Auxiliary 41 suffered the loss of Carol Nelson. She was a life member of Auxiliary 41. Her husband, D.J. (Duane) Nelson was a long time member and past officer of Local 30. She will be missed

Fraternally,

**Judy Rowley, Federated Auxiliary Treasurer & Secretary of Auxiliary 41  
Boron, CA**

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

### Local 63 elects first female business agent

In June, Rebecca Schlarb was elected as the business agent for ILWU Local 63. She is the first female to be elected to office at Local 63. She registered as a Marine Clerk under the "Child of Deceased" program after her father passed away. She has a diverse history as a clerk working every job category including Rail, Yard and Vessel Planner.



Photo by Robin Doyno

## DISPATCHER

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# Seattle Longshore celebrates 125th anniversary of union's founding

On June 14th, Local 19 celebrated 125 years of the Seattle Longshore Union. Over 200 people turned out to the event that was held at the SeaTac Doubletree. Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet attended the event along with representatives from ILWU locals throughout the Pacific Northwest. Local 98 pensioner Joe Torro emceed the event.

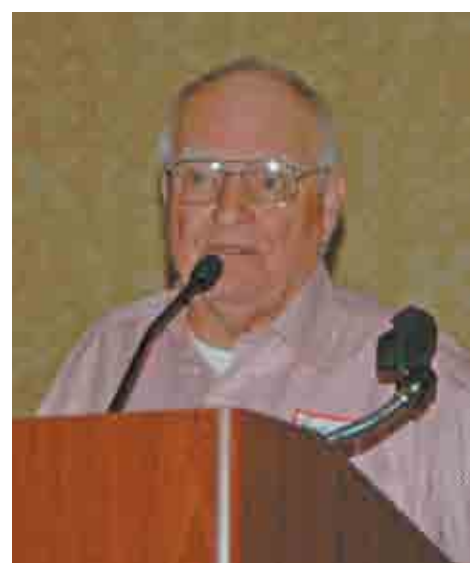
The highlight of the evening was a historical presentation on the Seattle longshore local by ILWU historian and honorary member of ILWU Local 23, Dr. Ron Magden. The talk was illus-

trated by a slideshow of historical photos that chronicled the union's defining moments and figures across its 125-year history.

Stevedores, Longshore and Riggers Union of Seattle (SL&RU) was founded on June 12, 1886 when all of the longshoremen on the ships the Lily and the Argile walked off the job. The strike was preceded by two years of stalled talks over the workers' demands for union recognition.

"The unionists sent A.J. Wilson and Terry King to see Pacific Coast Steamship Wharf Manager, William Van Waters. Wilson and King carried an ultimatum: grant a pay increase from 30 to 40 cents an hour, union recognition and control of dispatch by a man elected by SL&RU members," wrote Magden in a short history he prepared for the event. "When the wharf manager reneged on including Seattle dock hand truckers in the agreement, the Stevedores, Longshore and Riggers Union refused to work the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's 'Queen of the Pacific' and the 'Portland.' After three days, the bosses acceded to the demands of the unionists" wrote Magden.

Eighty-eight men hailing from all over the world—Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, South American and North America signed the union charter. Many of those original members are buried together in the Washelli Cemetery with a tall poplar tree planted at the head of each grave, noted Magden.



Dr. Ron Magden gave the keynote address for the event, chronicling the key events and figures in the local's 125-year history.



Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet (right) speaking at the Seattle Longshore anniversary event. Next to him is Local 94 pensioner Joe Torro who was the emcee for the event.

The event was an opportunity for Local 19 members to honor those longshoremen who fought for the wages and protections that benefit dockworkers today.

"It is easy for us who have been around awhile to take for granted the benefits and opportunities we enjoy on a daily basis. It is our responsibility and obligation to honor the men and woman who fought for us, fought for a strong union and good contract," said ILWU Local 19 President Cam Williams. "In the 125 years since the longshore workers first struggled to gain better wages, safer working conditions, and a fair and equitable dispatch system through a collective bargain-

ing agreement, a lot has changed in this world. Imagine what our founding fathers would think of the technology that links us to the dispatch hall and opportunity for work, the massive cranes and top-picks we drive, the volume and size of the vessels that call on the port—I think they would think we have it pretty easy. But I also think they would be proud of the fact that they set the table for us."

Traci Williams, a 16-year member of the ILWU came to the event to celebrate the anniversary. "I feel like I won the lottery by getting to be a member of this local," she said. "We are like a crazy dysfunctional family sometimes, but I wouldn't trade it for the world."

## PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### 44th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by Washington area ILWU Pensioners Clubs

September 18-21, 2011

#### Scheduled events

##### Sunday September 18, 2011

Registration 8:00am – 5:00pm NW Foyer  
Executive Brd. Mtg. 9:00am – 5:00pm Evergreen Room #1  
Hospitality Suite 1360 3:00pm – 7:00pm  
Reception Maxi Room 7:00pm

##### Monday September 19, 2011

Registration 8:00am – 5:00pm NW Foyer  
Hospitality Room Suite 1360 7:00am – 9:00am  
General Session 9:00am – 12:00 Northwest Room #1 and #2  
Excursions: 12:00 noon - 6pm  
Hospitality Suite 1360

##### Tuesday September 20, 2011

Registration 8:00am – 5:00pm NW Foyer  
Hospitality Suite 1360  
General Session 9:00am – 12:00 Northwest Room #1 and #2  
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00pm Evergreen Room #2  
General Session 1:30pm – 5:00 Northwest Room #1 and #2  
Banquet 7:00pm Northwest Room #1 and #2  
Hospitality Suite 1360 5:00pm – 7:00pm

##### Wednesday September 21, 2011

Hospitality Suite 1360 7:00am – 9:00am  
General Session 9:00am Northwest Room #1 and #2  
Hospitality Suite 1360 12:00 – 5:00pm

#### Double Tree Hotel Seattle Airport

18740 International Blvd. Seatac, WA 98188

For reservations call:

**1-206-246-8600 Use the group code PCA.**

Room rate: single/double \$145.00 plus tax.

Parking rates: day \$10.00, overnight hotel guest parking \$10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/friend \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number \_\_\_\_\_ Pension club \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival: Plane \_\_\_\_\_ Car \_\_\_\_\_ Train date & time \_\_\_\_\_

Total number in your party. \_\_\_\_\_

Those arriving by train please exit Renton (Tukwila) Wash. A club member will pick you up.

Free hotel/airport shuttle runs every 20 minutes, 24 hours.

#### \$40.00 Registration fee each person.

Please select your choice of meals for each member of your party for the banquet.

Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Please select your choice of excursions each member of your party.

#1 Museum of Flight & Hiram Locks (fish ladder) \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Snoqualmie Casino \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Labor History Tour \_\_\_\_\_ (limited to 50 people)

Mail this registration form and fee to:

ILWU Seattle Pensioners  
3440 E. Marginal Way S. Seattle, WA 98134

#### Please respond by August 1, 2011

Hotel has 11 handicapped rooms.

Questions about convention call: John Fisher 1-206-623-7461

# Remembering Bloody Thursday

**ILWU Locals remember the sacrifice and celebrate the legacy of the 1934 strikers on 77th anniversary of the "Bloody Fifth"**



**Remembering the fallen:** From left to right. ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 13 President JoJo Cortez and Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. at the gravesite of Dickie Parker before the Long Beach picnic.

ILWU members and their families up and down the West Coast gathered to remember "Bloody Thursday" and the martyrs of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront strike, a struggle that would give birth to the ILWU and radically improve wages and working conditions for dockworkers.

For those who don't know the history, the 1934 strike began on May 9th, as longshoremen in every West Coast port walked out; they were joined by sailors several days later. Violent confrontations between union dockers and police and private security forces took place in ports up and down the West Coast. Although "Bloody Thursday" marks the police killing of two strikers on July 5th, 1934 in San Francisco that sparked a general strike, the Bloody Thursday celebration honors the sacrifices of all the workers who gave their lives in the 1934 strikes in Wilmington, Seattle, San Francisco, Smith Cove and Hong Kong.

## Southern California

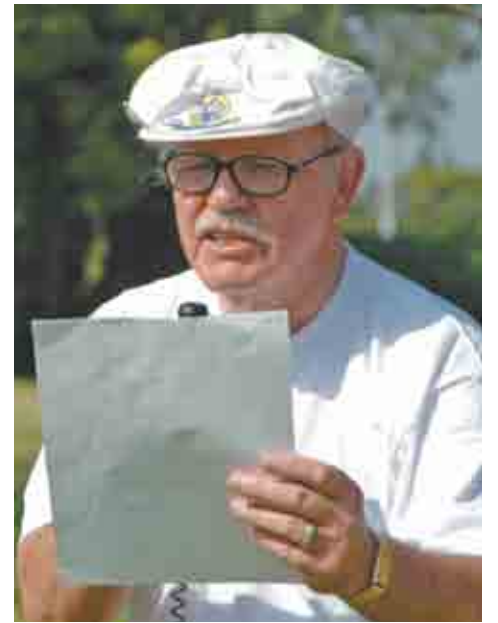
The Southern California Bloody Thursday celebration began at 9 am with a memorial service at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena, where Dickie Parker and John Knudsen are buried. Parker and Knudsen were the first dockworkers to give their lives for the union in 1934. At midnight on May 15th, 300 union strikers confronted a group of scab workers with the intent of evicting them from their encampment at Berth 145 in Wilmington. Parker and Knudsen were fatally shot in the altercation.

Local 13 Executive Board member Angel Blanco organized the memorial service which was attended by 100 ILWU members, pensioners and their families. Local 13 member and pastor, Leon Dool, gave the eulogy to honor the sacrifice of Parker and Knudsen. "There is no greater sacrifice then to give your life for your brother," Dool said. "This should not be a somber occasion. We are here to recognize the sacrifice of the '34 strikers and to celebrate the fact that generations of workers benefited from their struggle."

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams also spoke at the ceremony. "There is no union like the ILWU. What we have today we owe to the sacrifices of the 1934 martyrs. Parker and Knudsen weren't fighting for a bigger house; they were fighting for dignity and respect. Because of what happened on that night in Wilmington, a spark was ignited up and down the West Coast," Adams said.

Following the ceremony, a funeral procession of 60 classic cars and motorcycles made its way from Roosevelt Memorial Park to Long Beach for the Bloody Thursday picnic. An estimated 3,500 ILWU members, pensioners, casuals, friends and family attended this year's picnic which featured live music and special dance performances featuring Polynesian, Folklorico, Hip-Hop and Croatian dancers.

There was plenty of entertainment for the kids including a jump-house and slide, face painting, arts and crafts, games, cotton candy, sno-cones and free train rides. For the third year in a row, the Long Beach Fire Department cooked hotdogs and hamburgers for the event.



*Southern California pensioner Jerry Brady reads a poem about the '34 Waterfront Strike*

Speeches were kept to a minimum at the picnic. Local 13 President JoJo Cortez gave a brief welcoming and City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, who was elected to Congress in a special election on July 12th, presented Lifetime Achievement awards from the City of Los Angeles to ILWU pensioners Jerry Brady, Lou Loveridge and Steve Bebich.



*There were plenty of games and crafts for the kids at the Bloody Thursday picnic in Long Beach.*



*An aerial shot of the Seattle-area's Bloody Thursday picnic.*

Photo by Dean Wallace



Ten-year old Aaliyah Washington-Purry performed a flawless rendition of the National Anthem in San Francisco.



San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee (left) with Local 10 President Richard Mead



Kids and adults took in some beach volleyball game at the Seattle-area picnic.



Bay Area Pensioner President, George Cobb, was the Master of Ceremonies in San Francisco.

Pensioner George Cobbs served as Master of Ceremonies, introducing a dozen speakers. The ceremony began with the playing of "taps" by member Scott Barton, and was followed by a snazzy routine from Local 10's famous Drill Team. A delightful and flawless rendition of the national anthem was delivered by the talented 10-year-old Aaliyah Washington-Purry who warmed-up the mic for veteran crooner Paul "from da hall" Williams who sang his version of "Amazing Grace."

Local 10 President Richard Mead delivered a short but sobering speech that connected the "lessons of '34" with the urgent challenges facing longshore workers today – including automation of the ports and the need to expand jurisdictional thinking to include more types of port work. Vice President Mike Villeggiante thanked volunteers and highlighted the family activities that followed the ceremony – including a catered sit-down lunch plus events for hundreds of children that included magic shows, clowns, face painting and balloon animals. President Sean Farley delivered a heartfelt greeting from the Clerks at Local 34, as did Henry Graham on behalf of the Walking Bosses and Foremen at Local 91.

Emcee George Cobbs made a point of acknowledging other ILWU leaders including Fred Pecker of Local 6, Patric Kim of Local 75, and Marina Secchitano of the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU). A pantheon of respected pensioners were then invited to the microphone, including Cleophus Williams, Joe Lucas, Richard Cavalli, and George



Volunteers at the Portland picnic served food to ILWU members and their families.

## San Francisco

Bloody Thursday celebrations at Local 10 are always special because San Francisco is where two workers – Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise – were killed on July 5, 1934 during the waterfront strike that triggered a subsequent general strike. These events helped win a coastwide longshore contract and established the union which became today's ILWU.

Seventy-seven years after those seminal events in 1934, a contingent of active members, pensioners, family and friends gathered in front of Local 10 on the morning of July 5th to honor their fallen martyrs. Like previous Bloody Thursday events, the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association organized the activities.



## Golfing for a good cause

While many Bay Area ILWU members attended the Bloody Thursday events at the union hall, others hit the links for a special golf benefit to show support and solidarity for Natalea Abdin, the Local 10 member who lost both her legs in a tragic workplace incident on March 2, 2011 at the Ports America terminal. "We had 70 participants who came out to show support for Natalea," said Tom Villeggiante of Local 91 who organized the event along with co-worker Bobby Guldbeck, and Local 10 members Jack Salamy and Vince Lopiccolo. Items that were donated for a raffle and silent auction were hustled by a trio of family members including Tom's daughter and Local 10 member, Tiffany, his niece, Gina Rose, and sister-in-law, Cathy. After passing the hat during the Bloody Thursday lunch at Local 10, and combining all the proceeds for the golfing event, more than \$6700 was raised for Natalea. "We wanted Natalea to know that we've been thinking of her, and this seemed like a good way for everyone to express their heartfelt concern, prayers, and solidarity," said Tom.

Romero. Pensioner Ralph Rooker raised some eyebrows but won a solid round of applause after he criticized some Local 10 members for working double and triple-shifts while their co-workers went without work – a practice Rooker said was contrary to the goals of the 1934 strike.

After actor Ian Ruskin shared some highlights of his forthcoming play about the life of the American revolutionary Thomas Paine, an award was announced to Local 10 member Sheila Rischer, the local's first female lineman.

The event also featured two local political VIP's. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee presented an official proclamation recognizing Bloody Thursday and the ongoing contributions of ILWU members. David Chiu, President of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, was also on hand to thank ILWU members for their courage and willingness to fight for important social issues.

The day ended with a bay cruise – made possible in part thanks to labor that was generously donated by Blue & Gold crewmembers who belong to the Inlandboatmen's Union.

## Seattle

Hundreds of ILWU families gathered in Vasa Park. The picnic was sponsored by Locals 19, 52, 98 and the Credit Union. The family friendly event included plenty of entertainment for the kids including face painting and games. There was also live music, BBQ and free sodas provided. An estimated 1,300 people turned out for the celebration.

## Portland

ILWU families in Portland have a tradition of beginning their Bloody Thursday picnics with a ceremony to honor the 1934 martyrs by setting a memorial wreath of flowers in the

Columbia River that is carried by the current to the Pacific Ocean. The playing of "taps" at this year's ceremony was performed by Local 8 member and trumpeter Paul Brainnard; an invocation was provided by Vice President Barbara Lewis of the Columbia River Pensioners.

Officials at the Oaks Park picnic site estimated over 2,000 participants attended this year's ILWU event. The impressive turnout estimate was confirmed by the immense quantity of food that was consumed: 1 ton of watermelons, 42 gallons of chili, 1760 hot dogs, 48 cases of corn on the cob, 1900 ice cream bars and 75 cases of drinks.

Local 8 President Jeff Smith gave a short speech connecting the legacy of 1934 to present-day struggles including the fight for good jobs at EGT across the river in Longview. Local 8 member David Porter presented a plaque from the ILWU-sponsored softball team that finished their season with an impressive 13-0 record.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Rogue River Band, led by Local 8 member David Degman. Sr. Bingo games were provided by members of Auxiliary #5. A raffle held during the picnic gave out some impressive prizes including a Las Vegas trip for two, a 42" TV, a Wii game and other gifts.

Volunteers who helped make the day a success included John and Denise Miken, Tom and Penny Wehage, Nancy Doyon, Leah Dinsmore, Steffen Hill, Jim Burton, Joanne Gornick Bruce Holte, Ashley Hill, Shelby Palmer, members of Auxiliary 5, and many more.

# IBU members rise with Portland for justice at Georgia-Pacific

Late in the morning on June 30th, operations were moving along as usual at Georgia-Pacific's Kelly Point warehouse at the Port of Portland. Forklift drivers were moving loads of paper products at a brisk pace inside the warehouse, while the parking lot and loading docks were quiet as lunch break drew near.

Suddenly, a caravan of buses pulled up in front of the facility and released a wave of people, decked out in union colors, grabbing picket signs and coalescing around several leaders with bullhorns to the chant of "I...B...U!"

Proudly showing colors from IBU, ILWU, UNITE-HERE, SEIU, Jobs With Justice and other unions and organizations, the convoy participants were part of the newly-formed Portland Rising coalition, which came together last year in the wake of attacks on public employees and unions across the country—attacks largely funded by the billionaire Koch brothers who own Georgia-Pacific.

Within five minutes, almost 150 people had gathered with members of the Inlandboatmen's Union, including Jose Flores, who rallied the crowd and welcomed everyone to the front lines of the fight for justice at G-P.

The group moved forward into the parking lot and up to the front doors of the corporate office, waving picket signs and shouting in unison: "Oregon

families are in need—we won't stand for corporate greed!"

Meanwhile, at the Front Avenue G-P warehouse site across town, IBU members were marching outside their workplace offices, holding signs and wearing stickers declaring "IBU Front Ave/Rivergate stands with IBU Kelly Point!"

Encouraged by the powerful show of solidarity, members and supporters standing outside the Kelly Point office joined up with workers inside, who left the warehouse floor on lunch break to join the march on management.

They were met by G-P Supervisor Allen Dawson, to whom the group delivered a letter signed by Kelly Point members. Jose Flores voiced the group's demand: "We Georgia-Pacific workers at Kelly Point demand that G-P management bargain in good faith, immediately come back to the table and respect our basic right to retirement security. After our years of service to keep Kelly Point increasingly productive and profitable, we need to know our hard work has provided for our families' well-being. That's our message today."

Margaret Butler of Portland Jobs with Justice told Dawson that 90 different unions were committed to backing up the G-P workers at Kelly Point in their fight for a fair contract. She told the GP official, "we urge you to do everything possible in your power to get this contract settled as quickly as possible."

Then Dawson's phone rang with a call from G-P regional manager Derril Richards who wanted to know was going on. The G-P executive was quickly informed of the group's demand.



**Portland rising:** A coalition of labor and community groups rallied behind Georgia-Pacific workers at Kelly Point.

IBU members led the delegation back outside to rejoin the large number of union sisters and brothers who were waiting in the parking lot. The group then marched into the street where they met their co-workers from the nearby Rivergate G-P warehouse.

Jose Flores used a bullhorn to brief everyone about the contract fight and the response from G-P officials. "We just delivered our message inside. We told them we are fighting for our pension and medical benefits. That's our point here today. I hope they can hear us, understand us, and most of all, act on it. We need a response!"

Julia Longbrake, a union representative from Mt. Hood Community College Faculty Association, got up next and explained how she and her co-workers know what IBU members are going through because the teaching staff at Mt. Hood almost went on strike recently while bargaining for a new contract. "Without solidarity from Jobs With Justice and others, we would not have settled a fair contract," she said.

IBU member Shawn McClary provided the concluding remarks to the cheering crowd. "On behalf of all my brothers and sisters working here at G-P, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for showing up. The recession was not our fault and it's time for corporations to stop making us the scapegoats – and start providing good jobs with good benefits right now!"

As the group prepared to re-board the buses and travel on to six other solidarity actions at job sites throughout the Portland metro area, many voices joined together in a satirical rendition of the old Coca-Cola jingle that begins, "I'd like to teach the world to sing,"

"I'd like to buy the Kochs a world, so they'd leave ours a-lone,

then go back to Park Av-e-nue and crawl beneath their stone...

I'd like to teach the Kochs a-bout a true dem-oc-racy,

where work-ing class kicks corp-orate ass from sea to shining sea!

# Rite Aid workers call on company executives to support affordable health care and good jobs at Pennsylvania shareholder meeting

Rite Aid workers from seven states converged on the company's annual shareholder meeting in Harrisburg, PA on June 23 to oppose management's plan that would force employees to pay more for their health care – and show support for a 15-week "unfair labor practice" strike by Rite Aid employees at seven stores in Cleveland, Ohio.

Many of the national coalition partners who helped Rite Aid workers win their fight in Lancaster, CA attended the Pennsylvania meeting, including the AFL-CIO, Change to Win, United Students Against Sweatshops, Jobs With Justice and union members from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, SEIU 1199, and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

A spirited rally took place an hour before the shareholder meeting, hosted by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and Harrisburg Region Labor Council. After the

rally, the group marched to the site of the shareholder meeting where 15 Rite Aid workers and union reps got inside to voice concerns at Rite Aid's Board of Directors and top executives.

Rand Wilson of the AFL-CIO's Center for Strategic Research presented a shareholder resolution that would stop the company from paying outrageous tax subsidies – on top of their golden parachutes – to company executives. The measure won support from a majority of independent shareholders, but lost when company-controlled votes were counted.

Striking Rite Aid worker Christina Frymier from Cleveland was the first to address CEO John Standley: "I'm on strike because Rite Aid is trying to make our health care so expensive that nobody will be able to afford it. Rite Aid does most of its business with customers who are very much like me. When I talk to customers, and tell them what Rite Aid is doing, they are angry and upset. They take their prescriptions and their business to CVS and other pharmacies. If the people who shop at Rite Aid's 4,700 stores learn that man-

agement is trying to deny health care to its employees, Rite Aid's reputation will be harmed. Do shareholders really want management to continue on a path that will hurt Rite Aid's business nationwide?"

Donna Weber, a member of UFCW Local 1776 who works as a pharmacy technician at Rite Aid's Tobyhanna, PA store was the next to address the company CEO. Weber told him that the company has cut staffing to dangerously low levels. She compared the executive's huge salaries and benefits – including free use of a corporate jet for their personal use – to the challenging conditions in her store where she struggles to help customers with their prescriptions.

"It seems that if we can afford these high executive salaries and a free jet plane we should be able to adequately staff our stores," said Webber, who added: "We shouldn't have to choose between health care or food for our families."

The day before the annual meeting, Rite Aid union leaders convened a national summit to share information and develop common strategies



**United Students Against Sweatshops,** a nation-wide network of college students, rally in Harrisburg, PA before the Rite Aid shareholders' meeting.

for dealing with the company's plan to shift health insurance costs to workers and taxpayers. Summit participants also celebrated the first contract victory by Rite Aid workers in Lancaster, CA who formed their union with ILWU Local 26. ILWU Organizing Director Peter Olney reported on this victory.

In conjunction with the summit meeting, two leading workers' rights groups released an "Investor Alert" on the mismanagement and corporate greed that has led to Rite Aid's poor performance. The report is available from Jobs with Justice at [www.jwj.org](http://www.jwj.org) and United Students Against Sweatshops at [www.usas.org](http://www.usas.org).

## ILWU Local 10 member appointed to Oakland Citizens' Police Review Board

Local 10 member Derrick H. Muhammad was appointed to the Oakland Citizen's Police Review Board (CPRB) by Mayor Jean Quan. ILWU members played a crucial role in helping Mayor Quan win an upset victory over Don Perata, the heavily-funded establishment candidate.

The CPRB provides a forum for the community to voice their concerns to the police department, investigate police conduct, mediate disputes between the police and the community and make policy recommendations to the department.

"Oakland is a city where the majority of the population are people of color," Muhammad said. "The Oakland police department has not had a great relation-



ship with the community historically. By serving on the board, I can contribute positively by make the police more accountable to the people of Oakland."

Muhammad noted that the police have always been a defender of the status quo.

"The ILWU also has its own history of being subjected to police abuse and violence," Muhammad said referring to the 1934 West Coast strike. "As a member of the ILWU and as a person of color, I will bring an important perspective to the commission."

## In memory of John and Emma Ehly

John and Emma Ehly were stalwarts in ILWU Tacoma Longshore Local 23 and its Pension Club for sixty years. From the moment John became an "A" man on June 19, 1951, John and Emma were the heart of the Local's social and charitable activities. They never missed a meeting and were there to help with the Christmas Toys

for Kids and summer youth programs. John prided himself on being able to fix any gear used on the dock or ship. A vivid movie made by Harold Anderson in 1960 testifies to how hard John worked. He was running a balky old single wench. He never could just stand still. He had to keep busy.

John and Emma met in 1938 at a

## ILWU & IBU members in Southern California help take solidarity actions in support of supermarket workers

During the July 4th weekend, ILWU members in Los Angeles displayed their patriotism and solidarity at 13 local supermarkets. Teams of workers and officers from ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94 and the Inland-boatmen's Union (IBU) sent delegations to 13 Ralphs, Vons, and Albertsons stores in the Wilmington, San Pedro, and South Bay areas. Dozens of L.A. unions have "adopted" grocery stores to support as workers prepare for a strike. Local 26 members in Lancaster also adopted a store.

Delegations of 2-3 ILWU and Inland Boatmen's members went to their 13 adopted stores wearing union t-shirts. They asked to speak with the managers at the front of the stores



At end of July, Local 26 members at the Rite Aid distribution center in Lancaster adopted a local Albertson store.

where they could be seen. They told managers they wanted a swift and fair resolution in contract negotiations to avoid a strike. They also told the managers that if a strike happens, they will honor the picket lines and not cross.

## ILWU members show solidarity as they turn up the heat on EGT

continued from page 1

a spirited rally that drew 1,200 union workers and their supporters to EGT's headquarters in Portland. The rally sent a clear message that the entire West Coast was united behind Local 21, and that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

### Putting a stop to scab labor

On July 11th, bolstered by support from fellow locals, Longview dock workers took it upon themselves to put a stop to scab work taking place on their waterfront. According to police, a chain link fence surrounding the new grain terminal was pulled down, and approximately 200 longshoremen entered the EGT facility. About 100 ILWU members were arrested and cited for trespassing at the nonviolent action.

Law enforcement singled out Union officers for harsher punish-

ment: Jeff Smith, Local 8 (Portland) President, Brad Clark, Local 4 (Vancouver) President and Byron Jacobs, Local 21 Secretary-Treasurer, were targeted and charged with a misdemeanor "Obstruction of Law Enforcement." The ILWU officers were arrested outside of the facility and hauled off to a separate location for lengthier detainment. Since then, the charges have been dropped against everyone except Smith, Clark and Jacobs.

The July 11th action was called "one of the boldest labor demonstrations in recent memory" by the local newspaper, and "by far the most intense labor event that I can remember" by the local sheriff. But the action got bigger from there.

### Stopping a mile-long train

Two days later, on July 13th, approximately 600 Portland, Vancouver and Longview longshoremen responded when EGT tried to bring in 107 rail cars of grain in the middle of the night. Together the members formed a blockade more than 100 yards long on the tracks, harkening back to June of 1934 when longshoremen in Seattle blocked a train at Smith Cove during the union's formation.

Much like they did during the waterfront strike of 1934, police stepped in on the side of capital against the workers. In 1934, 250 police officers brutally broke up the Smith Cove longshore protest with sticks, batons and tear gas. In 2011, the City of Longview brought in officers from multiple jurisdictions

throughout Washington State, including Olympia and Vancouver, to monitor the longshoremen – essentially wasting taxpayer dollars to provide security for a private enterprise. This time, the longshoremen were effective in blocking the mile-long train from proceeding, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe indefinitely suspended all rail traffic to the grain terminal for safety reasons.

– Dr. Ron Magden

"We are fighting for our jobs in our jurisdiction," said ILWU 21 President Dan Coffman. "To have a rich multinational corporation like EGT come in here and turn their backs on the local men and women who have worked these docks for 70 years so they can pocket a bigger profit is a problem." Coffman said the ILWU members were united in this fight. "We are all standing together as a union on this. We will go to jail as a union."

EGT has refused to return to negotiations after contract talks with Local 21 broke down months ago. Instead of returning to the bargaining table, EGT is suing the Port of Longview in federal court to gain exemption from the area standards contract between Local 21 and the Port. EGT has stated it can save \$1 million a year in operating costs by using non-union workers and not paying area standard wages.

### EGT fails the community

"This new grain terminal stands to gain by playing by the same rules as the other grain operators that are making lots of money with productive union workers," Coffman said. The other grain exporters in the region have negotiated with the ILWU to create the Northwestern Grainhandlers' Agreement, which covers safety, staffing and compensation.



EGT has been undercutting the wages of local workers on the project since the beginning. The company built the grain terminal using mostly out-of-area construction workers who were not paid area wages, despite the high unemployment in Cowlitz County and the availability of hundreds of skilled union building trades workers.

If that wasn't bad enough, Washington taxpayers subsidized EGT's construction of the terminal. Under a special tax loophole, operators of grain elevators get a special state tax remittance for "one hundred percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying construction, materials, service, and labor." Port of Longview district taxpayers spent additional millions upgrading EGT's dock.

Cowlitz County Deserves Better, a community group including longshore workers, fishermen, business owners and others, placed a full-page ad in the local newspaper highlighting EGT's failure to do right by the community. The public's response was so strong that the port director published a defensive editorial response, and the newspaper censored subsequent advertising on the issue.

### "These are our folks"

The dockworkers struggle has drawn sympathy in the community, even among some law enforcement personnel who were called into to cite demonstrators who were engaged in civil disobedience.

"By far this is the most intense labor event that I can remember," Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson told the LongviewDailyNews. "Blesstheir hearts. These are our neighbors, too. These are our folks. This is our community."



Rallying for good jobs: ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe addressed the crowd at the June 3rd rally in Portland that launched the campaign for good jobs at the Port of Longview.

Photo by Michael Gutwig, Northwest Labor Press.

## Local 502 raises \$20,502 for Vancouver Children's Hospital



ILWU local 502 finally ended their fundraising drive for the Vancouver Children's Hospital. Their grand total was \$20,502. This successful drive was beyond expectation and was followed by a live presentation on TV in front of millions of viewers during prime time and an hour before the telethon came to a close.

Local 502 had set an initial goal to at least raise \$10,000. When this was met they kept going until they reached \$19,657. The membership engaged in this venture with great enthusiasm and commitment. There were individual donations of up to \$500 and over 80 donations of \$100. The fundraising effort "spread like wildfire" stated 502 President Chad O'Neal on live TV. "Our membership really took it to heart and fully engaged itself for this great cause", he added. O'Neal, along with the fundraising volunteers presented the cheque to the Children's Hospital on the yearly telethon.

Minutes before the live broadcast VP Dan Debruyne, Hardy Sidhu and other committee members huddled together and donated more funds to increase the \$19,657 total to make it \$20,502 to represent Local 502.

"This was amazing for a first time fundraising effort", stated Kitty Cheung the Philanthropy Officer for the Children's Hospital. Cheung will be making a visit to the local's next union meeting to make a presentation of appreciation and thanking everyone for their hard work.

There are already plans to make this a yearly event. "This was just a learning experience and we now know how to make it better, raise even more funds next year and do it more efficiently. Even the core group only expected to raise about \$5000. The input from everyone was very overwhelming" stated a member of the fundraising team. "People were leaving envelopes of money on a daily basis at the union hall." Dispatchers Rocky Thompson and Romeo Bordingnon had their hands full of cash every day along with their daily duties.

This collective effort by local 502 is a great representation of the ILWU. Local 502 was originally located in New Westminster and thus became known as the "New West" local and is still referred to by the same name. Local 502 services Fraser Surrey Dock, Deltaport, Westshore Terminals and various Automobile Docks.

— Bal Singh

## Northwest Oregon Labor Council honors ILWU and IBU at annual awards dinner

Gary Bucknum Regional Director of the IBU Columbia River Region, Steve Hammond, Business Agent for the Columbia River IBU, Steve Hanson, ILWU pensioner and President of the Columbia River Pensioners Association, ILWU Local 8 and the ILWU Local 8 Credit Union were all honored at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council's (NOLC) 14th Annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night dinner on June 4th.

The event recognizes people and businesses from the Portland metropolitan area for their efforts in helping better the lives of workers. It also serves as a fundraiser for Labor's Community

Service Agency. This year's event raised \$2,640 from raffle tickets.

When the nomination statement for the ILWU Local 8 and Local 8 Credit Union was read to the audience, they were given a standing ovation.

"In an overwhelming display of support for labor's unemployed families facing a bleak holiday season, this group came together in solidarity to donate truckload after truckload of toys to the 'Presents from Partners' Holiday toy drive," the nominating statement read. "Proving that labor leads the way in showing our communities how to 'live united', ILWU Local 8, and the ILWU Local 8 Credit Union helped create a labor of love that will become a legend in the hearts and minds of all those who benefited from their generosity."

— Verna Porter

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### ILWU CANADA

**EAP—British Columbia**  
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3665 Kingsway, Ste 300  
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR  
(604) 254-7911

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 7:** Michael A. Owens; **Local 8:** Robert H. Salgado; **Local 10:** Barbara M. Franck; **Local 13:** Ronald A. Armenta; O'Neal C. Baldwin; Robert L. Bailey; Cristy Salcido; Cleve Bragg; Roger Karen; Salaahuddin Ismael; David D. Peterson; **Local 19:** Evan A. Witzler; **Local 21:** Richard L. Viars; **Local 23:** Joseph Watts; William H. Macdonald; Dale W. Mc Carty; **Local 34:** Norman Strong; Andrew N. Walker; **Local 46:** Theodore H. Escoto; Stephen J. Garcia; **Local 63:** Angelo Amalfitano; Gilbert Ortega; Michael J. Gutierrez; Juanita Rosborough; Charles J. Patterson; Charles M. Trainotti; **Local 75:** Gary M. Brown; **Local 94:** John N. Carr; Paul F. Abshire; Larry V. Fugatti

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Paul Timmins; Robert S. Fambro; **Local 10:** C. B. Singleton; Alcapers Singleton; Patrick Ferrier; Charles V. Gambrell (Emma); John W. Doiron (Patricia); Melvin Henry; Ollie F. Banks; **Local 19:** Jack W. Mathews; **Local 23:** Dale K. Howdeshell; **Local 34:** Dan C. Kinghorn (Bonnie S. Anderson); Charles J. Casebeer (Karel); **Local 52:** Leroy H. Bishop Jr.; **Local 63:** Arthur Ornelas; **Local 92:** Norman L. Haugen; Gilbert L. Wika; **Local 94:** Howard L. Hopkins

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 4:** Margaret Meininger; **Local 8:** Leatrice Heyne; Christeen O. Smith; **Local 10:** Mary P. Phillips; Simone Jones; Eleen Capiti; **Local 12:** Joyce L. Hete; **Local 13:** Theresa Armstrong; **Local 19:** Ruby Williams; **Local 34:** Joyce M. Vierra; Linda Mehl

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