



THE DISPATCHER

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Port security: TWIC cards aren't the answer

After working 36 years on the docks without any problems, Local 40 Marine Clerk Jim Hennessey didn't expect any trouble when he drove downtown to apply for his Transport Worker Identification Card (TWIC) in January of 2008. After all, he was applying much earlier than most of his co-workers, and while Jim wasn't thrilled about paying the \$132.50 application fee, he knew that there wasn't much choice because TWIC cards would soon become mandatory for all longshore workers. So Jim filled-out the application, forked over his money, and waited. After six weeks he figured the card would be ready, so he called the TWIC staff who told him to come down to the office.

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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 wrote the letter below to congressmen Kevin McCarthy this morning and wanted to share some of it with others. I'm hoping ILWU members will write their own letters to urge our representatives to vote for the *Employee Free Choice Act*. Writing a letter is one of many ways we can help in the struggle. We all need to stand together and do everything to get it passed.

Dear Representative Mr. McCarthy,

You are wrong to not support the *Employee Free Choice Act*. It does not take away our right to a secret ballot vote; it just give us the right to decide if we want to join by signing a union card instead of allowing employers to force us to hold an election th at they can manipulate.

I voted for you this last election on the rumor that you were for the working class. Now I am regretting my vote. I don't know why you Republicans keep lying about the Free Choice Act. If you read the law, you would know that the *Employee Free Choice Act* is just what it says: a free choice for employees to decide for themselves. Why is this so hard for you politicians to let working people have a choice in the workplace? Do you guys think that we are so ignorant that we don't know what's best for us and our families? You know the Act is about more than how we vote for the union, it's also about stronger penalties for employers who violate the law when employees try to form a union. I want to end by reminding you that CEO's and company executives have contracts; workers should have the same right to a contract and a voice on the job through our union.

I hope that you will reconsider your stance on the *Employee Free Choice Act*.

Sincerely

Mrs. Angel M. Warner
Rite Aid Distribution Center worker
Lancaster, CA

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

Dear Editor,

I moved this past year and wasn't receiving the *Dispatcher* for awhile. Thanks for updating my address and sending me a few back issues. As Bob Porter's widow (Local 40), I am a lifetime member of the ILWU and very proud of it.

I am also a political activist and registered lobbyist. These are volunteer efforts because I am a grateful retiree. Please renew my subscription with the enclosed donation. Thanks!

Verna Porter
Portland, OR

Dear Editor,

Last month's *Dispatcher* reported that I retired on April 1, 2009. In fact, I recently changed my plans and retired on May 1, 2009. I've been with Local 94 since 1992, and have worked on the docks for 52 years. It's been a great career for me and my family. I'm planning on some travel, some golf and want to be involved as a pensioner. Thank you.

Jerry Dowling, Local 94
Norco, CA

Dear Editor,

I wanted *Dispatcher* readers to know about a get-together of Northwest ILWU members that was hosted by Stephen and Lynne McManus at their home in Sun City West, Arizona in late March of this year. Those attending included: Dick and Idella Antel, John and Joan Barrett, Dave Bjornson, Ray and Lanny DeBacher, Earl and Mary Fritts, Gail and Kathleen Groves, Scott and Sharon Godfrey, Dave and Brenda and Ronda Golden, Mike Granger, Larry and Carol Hartman, Gary and Sharon Knutson, Dick and Anne Nelson, Frank and Diane O'Brien, Morly and Jolean Rohiser, Bob and Bonnie Seath, Jerry Storvik, Bob and Dale Taylor, Bill Tooker, Derryl and Patty Trainer, Rich and Cheryl Ulrich, myself and Jacque Vekich, John and Diana Vlastic.

Twice as many attended this year's get-together at the McManus' home. Next year Stephen says he will change the date so it won't conflict with Spring Break so it will be easier for the Palm Springs Area ILWU members to attend. It was great for old friends to meet and reminisce about past ILWU waterfront experiences.

Randy C. Vekich
Washington Area Arbitrator

California Special Election May 19th

ILWU's NDCD recommends:

- Prop 1A – NO
- Prop 1B – NO
- Prop 1C – NO
- Prop 1D – NO
- Prop 1E – NO
- Prop 1F – NO

ILWU's SCDC recommends:

32nd Congressional District:
Judy Chu

LA City Attorney:
Carmen Trutanich

LA City Council, District 5:
Paul Koretz



Please make sure to vote!



Just say "no" to the anti-union power grab in California: ILWU Northern California District Council members met in San Francisco on April 25th to discuss the May 19th special election that will include six ballot measures that resulted from a lengthy budget crisis, caused by a handful of anti-union legislators who demanded cuts in union and worker rights. NDCD members voted unanimously to oppose each of the May 19th ballot measures. Southern California District Council members will consider the same measures at their meeting in early May, but have already endorsed 3 candidates. NDCD members include L-R: Jose Nunez (Local 6), Everett Burdan (Local 17), Ron Zampa (Local 10), Herbert Johnson (Local 10), Cesar Garibay (Local 6), Damian Mooney (Local 14), Carey Dall (Local 6), Leroy King (Local 6 retired), Michael Terry (Local 75), Russ Miyashiro (Local 34), Fred Pecker (Local 6), Lawrence Thibeaux (Local 10), Marina Secchitano (IBU), Lee Sandahl (Local 34/ICA Leg.), Don Betz (Local 17), Rena Smith (Local 18), Laura Noteman (Local 18), Sala Naha (Local 75).

DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees
Editor and Communications Director

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Robert McEllrath, President
Joseph R. Radisich, Vice President
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ILWU members fight for good jobs in Stockton



Rockin' in Stockton: Over 250 ILWU and other union members converged on downtown Stockton in California's central valley on April 18th to speak out for good jobs – and nail the corporations who are standing in the way of progress for working families. Members gathered at ILWU Local 54's hall, then marched downtown for a rally in front of the Bank of America, where speakers criticized corporate greed that led the bank into a financial meltdown – and destroyed our economy in the process. After taking billions of taxpayer bailout funds, the Bank did little to curb predatory lending, hasn't done enough to help homeowners facing foreclosure, and is financing a lobbying campaign with other corporations to try and kill the Employee Free Choice Act. Members from Locals 17, 6, 54, and the IBU participated along with other unions from throughout the delta region.



Stockton picketers tell Port: "Don't fence us in!" Members from ILWU Locals 17 and 6 joined members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and other building trades for a 3-hour picket on April 20th against Yara Fertilizer, the company that's trying to run away from their ILWU contract with Local 17 members in Sacramento. Yara wants to operate in Stockton with non-union workers at a new warehouse being built by non-union contractors, including an electrical firm from out of state. Local 54 longshore workers unloaded the Yara ship when it arrived at the dock, but are outraged by a Port scheme to build a fence aimed at limiting union jurisdiction beyond the docks. "Historically, union members have worked all parts of Rough and Ready Island, so fencing us off from most of the island isn't going to happen," said Local 54 Secretary-Treasurer Gene Davenport. "And the real insult," he added, "is that the Port is using taxpayer dollars from the Homeland Security program to build their union-busting fence." Picketers plan to return for another round on Monday, May 4th, and will meet with Port Commissioners to demand accountability for the anti-union mentality that's afflicting some Port staff.

Longshore workers join forces in Longview, WA



Well over 100 longshore workers and supporters joined an "area standards" picket line in Longview, WA, on April 29. Their message to the community: Low-wage employers like the rogue dock at Chinook Ventures are driving down wages for everybody. "It's time to stand up to low-wage employers who march in, promise jobs to a mill town in crisis, then undermine local wages by paying half of what they should," said Dan Coffman, Local 21 president. The picket line dotted Industrial Way with yellow ILWU signs for a quarter-mile – a robust crowd for a town the size of Longview. Support came from across the region, and included members and pensioners of ILWU Locals 5, 8, 28, 40, and 92 from Portland, Local 4 from Vancouver, Local 50 from Astoria, and members of the Plumbers, Electricians, Pipefitters, Laborers, Communications Workers, Woodworkers, plus other unions. Jobs with Justice and Columbia Riverkeepers provided community support.

ILWU joins national effort to prote



Testifying in Los Angeles for 550 co-workers: Carlos "Chico" Rubio won a standing ovation from President Obama's new Secretary of Labor, Hilda Soliz (above, right) and Maria Elena Durazo of the LA County Labor Federation at a hearing in Los Angeles on April 24th. Hundreds of guests and dozens of reporters heard Mr. Rubio deliver a thoughtful and impassioned presentation on behalf of his co-workers at Rite Aid's Lancaster distribution center. He explained the positive steps that workers are taking to improve conditions and win a union contract – despite a nasty and often illegal anti-union campaign by Rite Aid officials.

East coast rally for



Supporting Rite Aid workers in Albany, NY



Taking a stand against union-busting at Rite Aid in Amesbury,



International Vice President Joe Radisich welcomed members and leaders of Locals 13, 26, 63, and 94, plus LA County Labor Federation President Maria Elena Durazo to the telethon for good jobson April 3rd in San Pedro, CA.



Community and labor support outside Rite Aid in Richmond



Telethon for workers rights: More than 100 ILWU workers in LA/Long Beach spent their lunch hours on April 3rd calling Senator Dianne Feinstein and urging her to support the Employee Free Choice Act, the law that would make it possible for workers to join unions without employer abuse. Calls were also made to Rite Aid CEO Mary Sammons, telling her to respect workers at the distribution center in Lancaster, stop the company's union-busting, and start negotiating a fair contract.



A big crowd and TV news cameras covered t

Protect worker rights

Employee Free Choice Act



Solidarity for Rite Aid workers in Silver Spring, MD



Rain didn't dampen their determination for justice in Somerville, MA



...nd, VA



A noisy New York crowd told Rite Aid to "Start Negotiating" with workers in Lancaster, CA.



...he event in Bangor, ME



MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

What should we do if the Employee Free Choice Act doesn't pass in Congress?



"We need to keep trying to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. If Congress doesn't pass it this time, that means we have to do more to get people informed on what they could have if more people had a union – like better wages, better benefits and a voice at work. It's amazing how much people care about it when they learn more, but they just don't know enough about it yet. We can talk to people in our communities, write letters to the editor, and work harder to at least get all of the Democrats in Congress on board."

**Rachelle Loomer, Local 21
Longview, WA**

"This is such a difficult question, because the bill is so important to me personally, and to all workers. It took us 2 years, 6 months to get a union contract. Union elections are nothing at all like state and federal elections; it's like comparing apples to spark plugs. Workers who want a union have to sign, file, campaign, wait, fight appeals, have the election, and then fight even more endless appeals. The employers love this, because it gives them time to divide and conquer. They're given free rein to single people out, hold them captive, and submit them to what I call psychological torture in regards to whether workers want to be represented by a union. The 'card check' part is paramount for workers to be able to circumvent a great deal of this employer abuse. Passing this law is so important that I'm willing to listen to anyone's proposal, like raising the percentage of signatures of the workforce to sign and say, 'I want to be represented by the union.' It would be difficult to make this change, but without this law, the employers will continue to outspend us, outlast us, and crush us. In the end workers will have no say."



**Klete Freudenstein, Inlandboatmen's Union
Seattle, WA**



"With Arlen Specter and Al Franken joining the Democrats, there's a better chance that the debate on the Employee Free Choice Act can come to a vote in the Senate. We should never again support any politicians who don't support us by voting for the Free Choice Act because, it's the most important labor law reform since the 30's. If we can't get this done in Congress now, then we have to escalate quickly. We can begin by mobilizing against the politicians and corporate interests who are against us. And all of us have to ask ourselves if we're willing to make the sacrifices needed to get this done."

**Carey Dall, Local 6
San Francisco, CA**

"The first thing we need to do is get Organized Labor organized. Unions need to start respecting other unions' jurisdiction. We must come together because today we are divided. I believe we need to educate people on the value of a good job. If the American people want EFCA, then we will get the 60 votes needed in the Senate. In the 1930s, FDR only gave unions what they made him give them. Why should today be any different? If we are waiting for EFCA to be handed to us, we have a long wait."

**Rich Dines, Local 13
San Pedro, CA**



An injury to one is an injury to all.



Local 10 member Lamont Kelly attended a public hearing in San Francisco on April 16th where he joined hundreds of citizens who criticized a plan by outgoing President George Bush that would expand offshore oil drilling along California's coast. Sent to the event by Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, Kelly questioned the need for more drilling, spoke in favor of good jobs from renewable energy, and developed closer ties with coalition allies. Kelly acknowledged that oil drilling has provided some work, including jobs for some ILWU members, but noted that global warming and pollution problems require the country to move toward wind power, solar energy, and other renewables – including tidal and wave power projects that could provide lots of good jobs for ILWU members. "I met all sorts of groups who want to work with the ILWU to fight for greener energy and union jobs."



Hawaii's Longshore Division invited International President Bob McEllrath to address a meeting on April 17th at Local 142's office in Honolulu. McEllrath outlined the challenges and opportunities facing longshore workers on the mainland, and answered questions from members and officers about issues facing the union. Seated are (L-R): Nate Lum, Chairman of the Longshore Division, William "Baba" Haole, Vice Chairman, Longshore Division, and Dustin Dawson, Vice Chairman for Hawaii Stevedores, Inc.



Solidarity gesture for human rights in Colombia: International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams presented an ILWU pin to visiting Colombian trade unionist and human rights activist Marinio Cordoba on April 9th who is campaigning against the U.S./Colombian Free Trade Agreement now pending in Congress. Thousands of trade union activists have been killed in Colombia where conservative governments and company-sponsored militias have colluded to allow attacks on union and human-rights advocates. Cordoba is a respected leader of his country's Afro-Colombian community who was forced to live in exile after receiving death threats and seeing fellow union leaders killed. Cordoba is concerned that U.S. business interest are spending heavily to lobby for passage of the trade pact, and are working with members of the Congress to get votes for the free trade pact despite opposition from the AFL-CIO and other unions including the ILWU. For more information about the human rights struggle in Colombia and the campaign to help workers and unions there, see www.usleap.org



Sierra Club President Allison Chin and Zeke Grader of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations. Both groups have a history of working with labor unions to fight for good jobs.



Surfers Kathleen Egan & Emilia Lipscei of the Surfrider Foundation & Save the Waves were among the groups that supported Local 10's call for more good-paying union jobs in alternative energy – instead of drilling more oil wells off California's beautiful coastline.

ILWU in Kauai is calling all golfers

Local 142 in Hawaii is extending an open invitation to all our brothers and sisters on the mainland and Canada to join our **56th Annual ILWU Mixed Golf Tournament** on September 5-6, 2009 at the Kauai Lagoons Golf Course. Deadline for entries is July 13, 2009. Please call Pamela at 808-245-3374 for more information.

Bay Area women wanted:

Are you a go-getter with ideas that you'd like to share with others? If you're a mother, sister, daughter, cousin, longshore-woman, or female in-law, ILWU Auxiliary 17 in Oakland is looking for you. Please consider attending one of our meetings to see what we're about. We meet on the 4th Saturday of each month from 12:30 until 2 pm at the ILWU #6 union hall all located at 99 Hegenberger Road in Oakland. We look forward to meeting you!

Port security: TWIC cards aren't the answer

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"When I got to the TWIC office, they told me there'd been a mistake, and my card wasn't ready after all," said Jim. So he kept waiting, calling the TWIC office, and returning nearly a dozen times in 2008, but by the end of the year he still didn't have a card.

And Fifteen frustrating months later, Jim still had no TWIC card.

"The only part that went smoothly for me was paying the hundred and thirty bucks that they took up front; it was all downhill from there," said Jim.

Over a year later, with the February 28, 2009, compliance deadline looming for Jim and other longshore workers in Portland who were told that they couldn't work without a TWIC card, Jim decided to call the officers at Local 40 to tell them about his situation.

"Martha Hendricks and Dawn Des Brisay at Local 40 got on it immediately and were like pit bulls when they heard what was happening," said Jim.

Low-wage, non-union temps at TWIC offices

When Hendricks and Des Brisay contacted the local TWIC office for an explanation, they didn't get very far. The TWIC office in Portland, like others around the country, aren't run by government employees – they're staffed by temporary workers who get no benefits and owe their jobs to a labor subcontractor.

"One day I was visiting the TWIC office to help Jim when I overheard one of the temp workers tell someone how excited they were to find another job that would provide some benefits, so I know the workers weren't being treated very well, and there's definitely no union for workers in the TWIC office," said Des Brisay.

Contracting-out to powerful corporations

The office staffing was just one symptom of problems caused by Congress and the Bush administration that allowed private contractors – instead of government workers with union contracts – to operate the TWIC program. The deal has been lucrative for the private contracts, with more than one million workers already enrolled, and expansion plans that will eventually require TWIC cards for employees at airlines, railroads, and other industries. The main contractor is Lockheed-Martin, one of the world's largest defense contractors with a history of cost-overruns, fraud, and executives who served time in prison for white-collar crime. On the surface, Lockheed-Martin was selected through a competitive bidding process, but the company reported spending \$16 million for lobbying in 2008 to make friends and buy influence.

Lockheed-Martin doesn't handle much of the actual program work at TWIC; that's been subcontracted to Deloitte Consulting, part of a multi-national corporation that's best known for accounting and tax work. In April 2009, Deloitte announced that they paid millions of dollars to settle a lawsuit involving their firm in a massive fraud scheme that's been characterized as "the largest criminal inquiry into abusive tax shelters in the history of the United States."

But Deloitte Consulting doesn't actually employ the hundreds of field staff who work at the TWIC office in Portland and elsewhere around the country. Deloitte subcontracts with Kelly Government Services, part of the firm once known as "Kelly Girl" that was described in a recent university study as one of the leading firms in the temporary employment industry that has "deliberately and strenuously worked against government regulators, unions and public opinion to divest business of its investment in permanent employees. In doing so, it has helped change the very meaning of work in America, undermining employment standards for all workers."

Deloitte officials show little respect for the temp workers hired by Kelly. A Deloitte company official told ILWU's Coast Committee that longshore workers couldn't use cash to pay for their TWIC cards "because we don't trust the office workers not to steal the money."



Ultimate responsibility for the TWIC program rests with Congress, which approved the scheme as part of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 following the 9/11 attack, when concerns about the Constitution and workers' rights took a backseat to fears about terrorism, sleeper cells, dirty bombs, and other nightmare scenarios that the Bush administration used to pass the new Maritime Act, USA Patriot Act, and Homeland Security Act.

By 2009, Jim still had no card and only a receipt showing that he had applied twelve months earlier. The receipt allowed him and other longshore workers to remain on the docks until March 27th, 2009, when new rules prevented him from working without a card and his receipt would no longer be accepted. In fact, Coast Guard rules allow companies to escort longshore workers through security so they can work on the docks without a TWIC card, but most are refusing to honor that provision and have enacted security plans that single-out longshore workers by denying them escort services that are available to other workers.

With time running out, Local 40 contacted Representative Peter DeFazio's office for help, and his staff expected the matter could be resolved quickly with a few phone calls to the federal Transportation Security Agency (TSA) that oversees the program and the private contractors who run it. After calling federal agencies for three days, DeFazio's office was unable to make any progress.

Fortunately, officials from ILWU's Coast Committee were meeting in Washington, D.C. during the first week in April to work on TWIC problems and other priorities. ILWU's Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin arranged for Coast officials to meet with key legislators including Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka from Hawaii, Representatives Laura Richardson (CA), and Neal Abernethy (HI). A breakfast meeting with Representative Loretta Sanchez (CA) who chairs the House Subcommittee on Maritime Security, resulted in her direct intervention with the Department of Homeland Security.

But by then, time had run out for Jim, who was now unable to work without a TWIC card. Suddenly however, due to Congressional pressure, TSA officials became somewhat more responsive and on April 10th Jim was notified that his card was finally ready at the Portland TWIC office.

After fifteen months of waiting, there was no apology from Lockheed-Martin or Deloitte. And none of the PMA member-companies came forward with a check to compensate Jim for the 15 days that he was denied work because PMA-member terminal operators refused to escort him through security to the docks, as they did for some truckers and other employees who needed access.

A conviction can cost you your job

If the current system isn't changed, some workers may never get a TWIC card, or be forced to wait to get one.



Local 40 Marine Clerk Jim Hennessey waited 15 months for his TWIC card.

That's because the law says cards will be denied to workers who are considered to be "security risks" because they were once convicted of a serious crime – even if they have served their time and now have clean records. Workers without immigration papers are also ineligible to get a TWIC card, a requirement that has impacted some ILWU members and forced thousands of port truckers to lose their jobs.

"Our first effort to try and deal with this problem was by reducing the list of crimes that could exclude someone from getting a card, said Ray Ortiz, Jr., of the Coast Committee. "For example, at one point they wanted to exclude anyone who'd been convicted of possessing a controlled substance, which was extreme, so we were able to get rid of that one, but we weren't happy with the final list of crimes that is still too long,"

"When we couldn't get Congress to cut the number of crimes that could exclude workers from getting a TWIC card, we pushed hard to protect members by strengthening their right to appeal with a guarantee of due process

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TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Ronald V. Hertz; Joseph E. Heasley; **Local 13:** Frank E. Scott; Manuel Falcon, Sr.; Carlos A. Hernandez; Robert D. Davie; Jesse C. Reza; Luis Gonzalez; Lionel R. Payares; John L. Volner; **Local 18:** John J. Tuck; **Local 19:** Dennis M. Bagwell; **Local 21:** Smokey F. Crews; **Local 29:** Joseph R. Vinole; **Local 34:** David Balladone; **Local 47:** Richard E. Long; **Local 63:** Richard H. Nervik; John P. Trutanich; Leon J. Lawler; Tony N. Nuno; Anthony C. Wells; Robert J. Oconnor; Larry E. Taylor; Richard Nervik; John Trutanich; Tony Nuno; Anthony Raquel; Leon Lawler; Anthony Wells; Robert O'Connor; Larry Taylor **Local 94:** Edward A. Hutchinson; David L. Owens

DECEASED & NEW SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Michael Ryan (Cindy); James Kopp (Sandra); **Local 10:** John J. Fugina Jr.; Carlos Sanchez; **Local 12:** John Hilding; Franz O. Shindler; **Local 13:** Thomas Montano (Carmen); Alejandro Damasco (Salome); Robert F. Jensen; Thomas L. Montano; Warren J. Bauer; Curtis T. Moore; Salome M. Damasco (Alejandro); Raymond Cusolito (Dorothea) Carlos Acevedo (Darlene) C. Acevedo; Anthony Mason (Katherine); **Local 14:**

Mats Klar (Anna); **Local 19:** Clifton Bass (Marcella) M. Bass; **Local 21:** James Hutchenson (Hendrika); Richard Birtchet (Betty); Danny L. Dunivan; **Local 23:** James Walls (Sharon); David G. Scherr; **Local 29:** Eugene Sanchez; **Local 34:** Arsenius Schoendaler (Marion); Ralph A. Bolton; **Local 40:** Norman H. White; **Local 50:** Gilbert Haglund (Vera); **Local 52:** Dwayne Wadlow; Donald A. Roll; Ronald M. Turner; **Local 54:** Paul E. Field Sr. (Vera); Luther Harrell; **Local 63:** Julio Saldana; **Local 94:** Frank Pacheco Jr. (Marcela); Joseph B. Stahl; **Local 98:** Robert Sherard (Waleda); Howard E. Kellogg.

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 7: Sally J. Brakefield; **Local 8:** Leona M. Homlitas; Delores Smith; **Local 10:** Gwendolyn R. Breves; Maria L. Curiel; **Local 13:** Jeanne M. Leonard; Consuelo Gutierrez; Dorothy Mitchell; Oneita Morrow; **Local 18:** Gloria S. Ridenour; **Local 24:** Beulah M. Longmire; **Local 26:** Kazuyo Kister; **Local 29:** Sharon G. Kuehne; **Local 54:** Nellie V. Rendon; Edna Starr; Irene D. Gross; **Local 92:** Carroll Baker; Roberta V. Pohl; **Local 94:** Maisie L. Rabjohn; **Local 98:** Viletta E. Johnson

Port security: TWIC cards aren't the answer

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and a fair hearing," said Leal Sundet of the Coast Committee

Those appeal provisions have already helped workers get cards who were initially excluded, and others are just beginning to use the appeal process. "We need to keep on top of Congress, TSA officials, and the Coast Guard to make sure people are getting fair hearings and have a chance to show that they're not security risks," said Sundet. To date, no ILWU member has lost their appeal.

"It's totally wrong to keep punishing workers who made a mistake, paid their debt to society, and now are losing their jobs and having their lives destroyed," said Sundet.

Was Jim's case exceptional or a sentinel event?

The TSA says that Jim Hennessey's case is exceptional, and that nearly 90% of TWIC applicants get their cards in a few weeks, with only 3 or 4% experiencing problems. But with more than a million applicants applying from a variety of industries, that could mean 30,000 or 40,000 workers and their families could have trouble with TWIC.

Agency officials note that they're only implementing a law passed by Congress and the Bush Administra-

tion, who bear primary responsibility for TWIC and other similar measures enacted after 9/11.

One point seems clear: More than a million TWIC applications have now been processed without a single "terrorist" having been discovered at the ports.

"It's time for Congress to face the fact that the TWIC program has nothing to do with improving security at the ports, said Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet. "TWIC was a political response to the 9/11 attacks that fails to address the fundamental problem of cargo integrity. Credentialing longshore workers at a modern container terminal has zero correlation with port security because all cargo is locked securely in a box that isn't accessible to workers. Any serious port security plan would require the inspection of goods moving in and out of the ports, and companies don't want that because it involves time and money - which are apparently more important to them than real security measures."

ILWU's Longshore Division has prepared a "white paper" report on problems with the TWIC program that was distributed to members of Congress last month. For a copy of the report, and a sample letter to send your member of Congress about the problems with TWIC, go to www.ilwu.org

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away.

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Jackie Cummings
 870 West Ninth St. #201
 San Pedro, CA 90731
 (310) 547-9966

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
 5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
 Portland, OR 97221
 (503) 231-4882

ADRP—Northern California
Norm McLeod
 400 North Point
 San Francisco, CA 94133
 (415) 776-8363

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
 3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
 Tacoma, WA 98424
 (253) 922-8913

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
 300 Pendleton Way
 Oakland, CA 94621
 (510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
 3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
 Vancouver, BC V5R 5W9
 (604) 254-7911

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union's library at discounted prices!

BOOKS

A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii. By Sanford Zalburg: A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii **\$13.50** (paperback).

Along the Shore/Por la Costa—ILWU Coloring Book. A bi-lingual English/Spanish coloring book about waterfront workers and their union. Originally developed by the California Federation of Teachers' Labor in the Schools Committee in consultation with member Patricia Aguirre and the ILWU Local 13 Education Committee. Meets K-3 classroom standards for History and Social Studies. Two (2) for **\$5.00**

The Legacy of 1934: An historical exhibit by the ILWU. Produced as a catalogue to accompany the new traveling historical art exhibit about the origins of the ILWU in the 1934 maritime strike, this brief but vivid publication stands on its own as a pictorial history of the coastwise strike and an account of the extraordinary sacrifices and democratic principles of the founding members of the union. **Two (2) for \$5.00**

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States. By Charles Larrowe. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. **\$10.00**

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