



THE DISPATCHER

www.ilwu.org

VOL 72, NO 6 • JUNE 2014

THE INSIDE NEWS

LETTERS TO DISPATCHER 2

MUA's campaign to counter Chevron labor attacks goes global 4

'Fight for 15' wins historic wage increase in Seattle 5

Sculpture honoring former ILWU President Jimmy Herman moves forward 6

TRANSITIONS 8

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEO 8



Local 13 member Alberto Bonilla passes [page 7](#)



Serious about saving lives: ILWU Safety Sub-Committee members are pushing for improvements in the Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code in order to help save lives and prevent serious injuries on the waterfront. (L-R): Ray Benavente of Local 13, Committee Chair Ed Ferris of Local 10, Vice Chair Mike Podue of Local 63, Luke Hollingsworth of Local 13, Tracy Burchett of Local 53, Ryan Whitman of Local 23, Adam Wetzell of Local 8, and Paul Weiser of Local 98.

Longshore Safety Committee is negotiating for more protection against deadly hazards

While the ILWU's Longshore Negotiating Committee continues meeting with Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) officials to reach terms on a new Longshore & Clerks Contract that will replace the one expiring at midnight on June 30th, eight members of the ILWU's Safety Sub-Committee are also trying to negotiate new ways to protect workers from dangerous hazards and deadly injuries.

"We opened our safety negotiations by telling employers that we need a stronger Safety Code to

protect everyone on the docks," said Local 10 member Ed Ferris, Chair of the Safety Sub-Committee. "Our goal is to improve safety on the waterfront."

The "Safety Code" is a 168-page document formally known as the *ILWU-PMA Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code*.

"It's our bible," says Local 98 member Paul Weiser, a veteran dockworker with over five decades of experience who knows the risks involved. "This job can kill you in a second – before you even know what hit you."

Weiser serves on the Safety Committee with seven co-workers: Ray Benavente of Local 13 representing Maintenance and Repair; Tracy

Burchett of Local 53 representing Small Ports; Committee Secretary Luke Hollingsworth from Local 13 representing the Southern California Region; Committee Vice-Chair Mike Podue of Local 63 representing Marine Clerks; Adam Wetzell of Local 8 representing the Oregon/Columbia River region; and Ryan Whitman of Local 23 representing the Washington/Puget Sound Region.

Local 63's Mike Podue agrees the work is dangerous. "The last time we crunched the fatality numbers, it showed West Coast longshore workers had higher fatality rates than police officers and fire fighters," he said. "That leaves a lot of room for improvement."

continued on page 5

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



LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see that Local 13 members John Espinoza, Jr. and former International President Dave Arian were both honored at the Harry Bridges Institute's 20th Annual Cesar Chavez Labor Tribute Banquet, with photos that appeared on page 6 in the May, 2014 issue of *The Dispatcher*. However, I didn't see former Local 63 President Mike Podue, who was also honored at the event for his many years of leadership and service to our Union. Brother Mike Podue continues to serve our great Union as Local 63's Labor Relations Committee Representative, Coast Legislative Committee member, Coast Safety Committee member and negotiator for the Coast Safety Code. I would like to correct the record and make sure that we recognize Brother Podue's important contributions to our Union.

Sincerely,

**Joe Mascola, Vice President, Local 63
San Pedro, CA**



Mike Podue (left) with Local 63 President Joe Gasperov at the Cesar Chavez Labor Tribute banquet.

Dear Editor,

In March of 1970, we were members of ILWU Local 35 who worked at Kerr-McGee's American Potash and Chemical plant in Trona, a small town located in California's Mojave Desert. That same year, we joined forces with workers from two other unions to organize a four-month strike that involved 600 employees.



Clarence Kramer, Jennifer Stanley, author Paul Abram and John Roloff.

During the early days of our bitter and sometimes violent struggle, Clarence Kramer was shot in cold blood by a Wackenhut guard.

John Roloff was attacked on the street by San Bernardino County Sheriffs, then taken home and forced to let them search his home. His legally-owned long guns were confiscated, but later returned after legal action was threatened.

Ed Goode was another union member who was shot in cold blood at point blank range. Like Clarence, he was shot by a Wackenhut guard.

Jennifer Stanley is the daughter of our now deceased President of Local 35, Chuck Stanley. She remembers the strike and her father's heroic leadership. The things she can't recall come from other sources, including an excellent, newly-published book by Paul Henry Abram, who served as one of our lawyers during the 1970 strike.

Abram's non-fiction book is called "Trona, Bloody Trona," and we think the title is fitting. One TV news anchor who covered our strike called it a "revolution in microcosm," and compared what happened to us with events in John Steinbeck's book, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

"Trona, Bloody Trona" also tells how we received important help from nearly 40 ILWU locals, along with support from Pensioners in California, Oregon, Washington and Canada. Five different Women's Auxiliaries gave us donations and volunteered to help our families. This and other support was needed because we were up against the Kerr McGee Corporation, one of the largest conglomerates in the world at the time.

The book explains what it's like for a family to strike for basic human rights. We weren't fighting over wages. The company was trying to take away our vacation time, through a "use it all at once or lose it forever" policy that would have prevented us from using one day of vacation for something like getting a driver's license – which required a 300 mile, all-day trip because of our remote location. They also wanted to eliminate all skilled craft jobs at the plant, forcing all the trades to work under one classification.

Although we didn't win the strike, our struggle wasn't in vain, and some of us lost everything, including our homes. But because of this book, what happened in Trona will be preserved for present and future generations who can learn about unionism and why unions are so essential for protecting democracy in America. We thank Mr. Abram for recognizing our efforts, writing "Trona, Bloody Trona," and we encourage all union members to read his book. You can order it or read a selection on the author's website at www.paulhenryabram.com

Clarence Kramer, John Roloff, Jennifer Stanley

Dear Editor,

We would like share some solidarity activities proposed by Bay Area Pensioners to support the Coast Longshore Negotiating Committee as they work to secure a good contract.

Earlier this year, at the request of the SF Pensioners Executive Board, officers were invited from Locals 10, 34, and 91 to discuss how they thought pensioners could be of help during negotiations. A central theme throughout this discussion was the hope among the local officers that pensioners would engage the active members in educational conversations about what it took to prepare for a strike in 1971 (and, for those who were there, in 1948), and what are the core principles of the ILWU embodied in the coast contract that may be in jeopardy in 2014 as the employers move to reduce work, bypass the hiring hall and longshore jurisdiction, and reduce or eliminate health and pension benefits. In response, the Bay Area Pensioners on May 6 formed an Education Committee for 2014 Negotiations, and in June will begin attending local membership meetings to distribute a handout (attached) and initiate conversations with active members about how and why we can pull together in support of the Coast negotiating team. Future activities will be determined by the course of negotiations and the wishes of local ILWU officers. Pensioners on the Education Committee include George Romero (10), Norman McLeod (10), Ralph Rooker (10), John Fisher (34), and myself.

In solidarity,

**Gene Vrana
ILWU SF Bay Area Pensioners
Chair, Education Committee for 2014 Negotiations**

A Solidarity Message from ILWU SF Bay Area Pensioners: Negotiations 2014

Get ready: Unify. **Save your money** in case of a work stoppage or suspension of benefits. **Be informed:** Know your contract and follow Negotiating Committee and Coast Committee reports and updates. **Ask us:** We are standing by to help in any way we can.

80 Years later – The Struggle Continues – Guiding Principles 1934-2014

- We are an industrial union: All the work in the longshore industry to load and unload ships' cargoes is ours-- including the operation and maintenance of the cargo handling equipment and technology. We must defend and shore up our jurisdiction,
- Our founders fought and died to defend our right to work safely and without discrimination through the hiring hall. The hall is where earnings and work opportunity are equalized and jobs are distributed in a fair and democratic system without prejudice or favoritism. Today the employers continue to seek to automate the dispatch system and do away with the hiring hall— in the name of "controlling hiring". The hiring hall is the cornerstone of our unmatched wages, benefits, working conditions, and rank and file democracy—we must defend it at all cost.
- The two pillars of the strength of the ILWU's Longshore Division are the hiring hall and the coastwise contract: the coast contract stabilizes work opportunity and employer profits through uniform wages, benefits, and grievance procedures among all ports. It wasn't always this way. Before 1934, employers tried to play off workers in one port against another by competing for work with lower wages and higher productivity through unsafe conditions—and they would shift work around, as they sometimes still do, to reward one port at the expense of another.
- Before the 1930s, retired workers received nothing for their retirement. After the 1930s they only got Social Security. In 1949 the ILWU negotiated the first medical welfare package for longshore workers—and two years later the first longshore pension was negotiated—a package that today can support a retired longshore worker's family at a decent standard of living. Today's active workers and their families need and deserve the same protection.
- Labor unity & worker solidarity on and off the waterfront: Powerful economic interests stand against us and workers everywhere. We need allies in the community, along the Coast, and around the world. That kind of support, and the united commitment of each member, brought us victory in 1934, 1936, 1948, 1971, 2002, and will again in 2014-- Let's talk about it!

"An injury to one is an injury to all"

Labor donated/ILWU SF Bay Area Pensioners Education Committee for 2014 Negotiations

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*,

1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees
Communications Director and Managing Editor
Roy San Filippo
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Robert McEllrath, President
Ray A. Familathe, Vice President, Mainland
Wesley Furtado, Vice President, Hawaii
William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined September issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. *The Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



2014 "Walk the Coast" fundraising events



Last year's 2013 "Walk the Coast" fundraiser in San Pedro attracted hundreds of community volunteers.

SoCal Poker Tournament

This year's fundraising effort in Los Angeles—The 3rd Annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament—will be held on August 14th. It is being sponsored by the ILWU Southern California Pensioners and hosted by ILWU Locals 13, 63, and 94. To pre-register and for more information, please contact Sidro Felix (Local 13) at (310) 972-9772 or sidro13@live.com. 6 p.m. registration; cards in the air at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Normandie Casino, 1045 W. Rosecrans Avenue, Gardena, CA 90247. More info will be added to www.ilwuwalkthecoast.org as it becomes available. The first 100 registrants will receive a free event t-shirt.

Port Hueneme Walk

ILWU Local 46 will hold its Walk the Coast event in Port Hueneme on Saturday, August 9, 2014. The event will include an ocean-view walk that begins at 10:00 a.m., starting at the Dorrill B. Wright Cultural Center, Oceanview Pavilion, 575 Surfside Drive, Port Hueneme and ends at the historical lighthouse on the Promenade. At the end of the walk, there will be a BBQ and live entertainment. A hand-constructed wooden lemonade stand will provide lemonade at the beginning and end of the walk. Registration for the walk is a \$25 donation to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. Registration covers the walk, the BBQ, the entertainment, and event t-shirt. Pre-registration is preferred. Please register by clicking the yellow "donate now" button for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation at www.ilwuwalkthecoast.org or contact brother Jesse Ramirez for more details at (805) 490-1678.



Tacoma memorial service: ILWU Local 23 held its 29th Annual Memorial Day service to remember members and pensioners who have passed away within the past year and to pay respects to the 23 founding members buried at the Old Tacoma Cemetery.

On March 22, 1886 Tacoma Longshore's founding members loading the Ivy lumber ship struck and won recognition of the newly formed Tacoma Stevedores Longshoremen and Riggers Union. At that time, they were prohibited from forming a union so they started out as a benevolent association. The association bought plots for the men who worked the Ivy so they could remain together in solidarity for eternity. Over time the original 23 grave markers for the founding members disintegrated. In 2011 for the 125th Anniversary, Local 23 raised \$18,000 to replace the markers and erect a large stone depicting the Ivy with names of the longshoremen and pensioners who donated to the cause engraved on the back.

ILWU International Vice President Wesley Furtado appointed to Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources

Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie announced the nomination of ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii), Wesley Furtado, to the state's Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). This is an interim appointment subject to state Senate approval. Furtado's at-large BLNR seat is effective immediately.



Governor Abercrombie said that Furtado was a proven leader with extensive knowledge and background to bring to state government. "I am confident that Furtado's experience and skills will be vital in serving the people of Hawaii," said Abercrombie.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, headed by an executive

Board of Land and Natural Resources, is responsible for managing, administering and exercising control over public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas (except commercial harbors), minerals and all interests therein within the State of Hawaii, as well as 750 miles of coastline.

80th Annual Bloody Thursday Picnics Saturday July 5th

LA/Long Beach Area

9 am

Memorial & car procession

Roosevelt Memorial Park • 18255 S Vermont Avenue
Gardena

10 am

Picnic

Peck Park
San Pedro

San Francisco

10:00 am

Memorial

Noon

Lunch

ILWU Local 10 Hall • 400 North Point
San Francisco

Seattle Area

10 am

Memorial Service

11am-5pm

Picnic

Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish

Portland

11am-5pm

11:30 Memorial Service

Oaks Amusement Park

MUA's campaign to counter Chevron labor attacks goes global with help from ILWU & other allies

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) is working closely with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the ILWU and other allies on a global education campaign to show why Chevron – not workers – is responsible for bloated budgets and growing delays on a massive natural gas project in northwestern Australia.

Blaming workers

Chevron triggered the campaign by blaming members of the Maritime Union of Australia for self-inflicted problems with the company's "Gorgon" project that intends to develop, produce and ship natural gas in liquefied form (LNG) from offshore locations. The project's initial price tag of \$37 billion has since swollen to \$54 billion.

Lawsuit and threats

When the MUA tried to negotiate an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for maritime workers in the offshore oil and gas sector, Chevron rejected the union's proposals and dug in their heels. Despite repeated efforts by the union, Chevron stopped talking. Following a legitimate health & safety dispute that briefly delayed the departure of a barge, Chevron declared war on union members by filing a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against the MUA. Chevron then upped the ante with an expensive and deceptive public relations campaign to smear the union by claiming that workers were making unreasonable demands for hundreds of dollars an hour, thus jeopardizing the project and causing cost-overruns.

Exploiting foreign workers

Chevron and other corporate investors in Australia have been testing the waters with a strategy to lower labor costs and destroy unions. The scheme involves importing contract laborers from low-wage countries to work on projects in Australia – paying the immigrants half or less of the Australian union rate – with no worries about unions, safety complaints or other problems. Dave Noonan of Australia's Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) says his union has filed complaints about foreign worker abuse since 2010, but little has been done by the Australia's anti-union government. "Australian workers are telling us they are applying for jobs on these projects and don't even get a call back," he said.

Mega-profits & dangerous blunders

Chevron, like other oil companies, has enjoyed massive windfall profits in recent years with earnings further enhanced by huge taxpayer subsidies. The Northern California-based corporation reported profits of \$21.4 billion in 2013 and \$26.2 billion in 2012. Once seen by investors as the hottest growth prospect among major oil companies, Chevron has stumbled recently in the wake of a refinery explosion and fire in Richmond, CA that nearly killed a dozen Chevron workers and sent over 10,000 residents to local hospitals with concerns about respiratory problems.



Community solidarity: Last month, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin from Richmond, CA. (center) welcomed Will Tracey, Assistant Secretary for the Maritime Union of Australia's Western Branch (MUA) and Shannon O'Keefe (left), Campaign Director for the International Transport Workers Federation in Australia. McLaughlin was accompanied by longtime union member Mike Parker (right) who is now running for Mayor to replace McLaughlin who will seek a Council seat due to term limits. Richmond is the city where Chevron's refinery exploded in 2012 - nearly killing a dozen union members and sending 15,000 residents in search of treatment. Tracey and O'Keefe learned that Chevron's behavior towards residents of Richmond is similar to problems facing workers and the community in Northwest Australia where a mammoth offshore energy project is underway without a contract covering MUA members.

Support to set the record straight

In early May, 2014, Will Tracey, MUA's Assistant Secretary for the Western Australia Branch and ITF Australia Campaign Director Shannon O'Keefe arrived in California to conduct research and establish new contacts. They were assisted by the ILWU and the United Steelworkers Union, which represents refinery workers in many Northern and Southern California sites – including Chevron's refinery in Richmond, CA where the 2012 explosion nearly killed a dozen of their members.

After meeting with the ILWU International Executive Board, who pledged their solidarity and support, Tracey and O'Keefe met with other unions, community and environmental organizations that monitor Chevron's behavior in Richmond and around the world. The whirlwind tour included interviews on a local radio station, briefings with Richmond City officials who are trying to hold the company more accountable, and discussions with key environmental leaders from Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Movement Generation, Amazon Watch, and others.

"We learned a lot from our visit, including the fact that Chevron's disrespectful behavior in Australia is similar to how they seem to operate in Richmond and around the world," said O'Keefe, who ventured with Wil Tracey to Chevron's headquarters in the pristine suburb of San Ramon, CA to inspect the corporate campus.

Lessons learned from the MUA's California visit include:

- Chevron has cut corners on safety by avoiding preventive maintenance & repairs;

- Chevron has been charged with serious violations by state a federal safety inspectors;
- Chevron had 5 significant accidents at their Richmond refinery in the past 10 years;
- Chevron admitted committing six criminal charges at their Richmond refinery in 2013;
- Chevron received Cal/OSHA's highest safety-related fines in history in 2013;
- Chevron has committed 169 air quality violations during the past six years; and,
- Chevron plans to increase cancer causing chemicals and greenhouse gas released in Richmond;

Meeting with Wall St. analysts

Armed with new information and contacts from their California visit in early May, the MUA team returned to Australia for some catch-up and preparations. But within two weeks, O'Keefe and the campaign were back in the United States in late May. Their first stop was a New York City meeting with Wall Street analysts who closely follow Chevron's operation in order to alert investors of potential problems ahead. Analysts were interested in hearing more about the Gorgon gas project, especially details about the delayed timelines, budget problems and company's provocative labor posture that includes growing litigation expenses.

Texas shareholder meeting

The next stop on the campaign trail was Chevron's annual shareholder meeting on May 28, where investors are allowed to ask top management questions about company policies. Previous Chevron shareholder meetings have

taken place in the San Francisco Bay area, near the company's headquarters. But this year, Chevron tried to hide from critics and the media by moving the shareholder meeting to Midland, Texas. The MUA team and their allies weren't subdued by Chevron's last-minute switch and came prepared with proof of their shareholder status. The campaign delegation included MUA National Secretary and ITF President Paddy Crumlin, Western Australian Branch Assistant Secretary Will Tracey and ITF Australia Campaigns Director Shannon O'Keefe. The trio listened patiently until the floor was opened for questions.

Counterpunching

Then they set the record straight about the real reasons why Chevron's massive Gorgon project had gone off the rails in Australia. They explained how the company wasted money on expensive public-relations and lobbying consultants who unfairly blamed the Gorgon's bloated budget and tardy timelines on the MUA.

"Gorgon is an important project for both Chevron and the Australian national interest in the development of our nationally-owned resources," said MUA National Secretary and ITF President Paddy Crumlin. "We've been trying to reach a reasonable agreement with Chevron for years, but each approach has been firmly rebuffed by the company. Chevron should sit down with the unions to develop a sustainable and functional relationship with its workforce."

Crumlin noted that the Gorgon is one of the largest LNG (liquefied natural gas) projects in the world – and

continued on page 6

'Fight for 15' wins historic wage increase in Seattle

The Seattle City Council voted unanimously on June 2 to raise the city's minimum wage to \$15 hour. The minimum wage ordinance, which more than doubles the current federal minimum wage, was an important victory for labor activists and puts Seattle in the forefront of national efforts to address income inequality by raising the wage floor for the city's lowest paid workers.

The "Fight for 15" was a major campaign platform for both Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and Council member, Kshama Sawant. Sawant's election received national attention because she ran her campaign as an openly socialist candidate.

The ordinance was passed with several concessions to businesses that have been criticized by labor activists. The

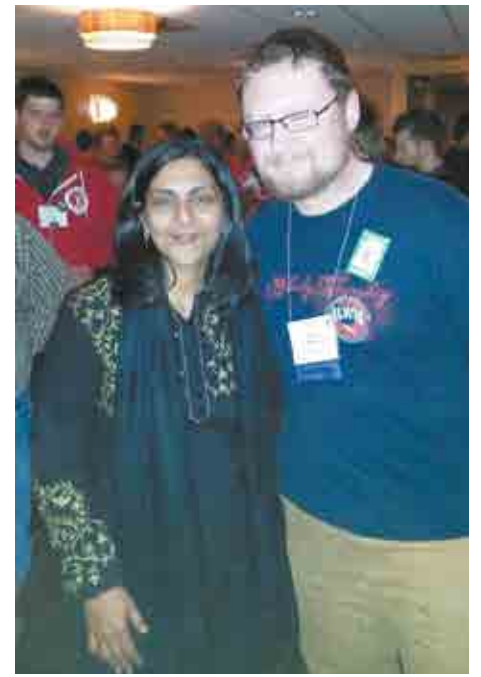
wage increase will be phased in over seven years, with different schedules for small and big businesses (defined as more than 500 employees) and for business that provide health care coverage or where workers receive tips.

In another concession to business, upon the approval of the state Department of Labor and Industries, employers will be allowed to pay a wage lower than the city minimum—but higher than the state minimum—for the employment of "learners, of apprentices, and of messengers employed primarily in delivery of letters and messages," and "individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury." The ordinance also contains a provision for a sub-minimum wage-rate for teenagers. Employers will be allowed to pay 85% of the minimum wage to workers under the age of 18.

Despite these compromises, Seattle's minimum wage ordinance is a historic

victory for activists. At their May membership meeting, ILWU Local 19 members voted in favor of a resolution supporting the minimum wage increase. Even though longshore workers will not be directly affected by the ordinance, Local 19 President Cameron Williams said that it is important to help the City's lowest paid workers. "The seventh guiding principle of the ILWU reminds us that unless workers organize, wages, like water, will flow to the lowest level," Williams said. "Wages in the country have been a downward slide for decades for most workers. It's time to turn the tide on that trend."

Local 19 Executive Board member Justin Hirsh said the final ordinance was not perfect and he acknowledged the leadership of Councilmember Sawant. "Kshama and her team fought up to the last minute to make this ordinance the best it could be. This is a precedent-setting victory and we move forward from here," Hirsh said.



Local 19 Executive Board member Justin Hirsch (right) with Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant.



ILWU vets honored: The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) held their first Veteran's Breakfast to honor union members who formerly served in the military, including five ILWU Local 13 members. LULAC was founded in the early 1930's to advocate for Civil Rights and oppose segregation. The event honoring vets took place during LULAC's 67th Annual California Convention on Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach. Attendees were treated to a special performance of a new award-winning play, "Veteranos: A Legacy of Valor." The bilingual production included live music, dance, drama and archival military video. The play tells the story of four Latinos who were awarded the Medal of Honor, including California native Eugene Arnold Obregon, a Marine who received his award for using his own body to protect a fellow soldier from enemy machine-gun fire during the Korean Conflict. Pictured (L-R): Local 13's Paul Sanchez (USMC Staff Sergeant, 1978-86), niece of Medal of Honor recipient Eugene Obregon, Local 13's Bryan "Sarge" Zardeneta (USMC, E5, 1989-93) and Local 13's Larry Toledo (USMC, Lance Corporal, 1989-93). Not pictured but also attending was Melvin Barber (US Army, Spec4, 1966-68)



ILWU women on deck at LULAC: Local 13 women attended the California LULAC Convention including the five "night-siders" pictured here: (L-R) Monique Anglada, Vivian Malauulu, Yvonne Sanchez, Paz Lizarraga, and Judy Williams. Also participating were Cathy Familathe and Ida Taylor who staffed an ILWU exhibit for the Southern California District Council. Vivian Malauulu welcomed delegates at the opening session at the request of Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr. She emphasized the need to build bridges between unions and community-based groups like LULAC in order to secure and protect good jobs for working families. The following day, Malauulu was a featured speaker at the Women's Leadership Luncheon where she delivered a 20-minute address about the importance of encouraging women – especially Latina "working moms and single moms" – to volunteer for leadership roles in their unions and community groups.

Longshore Safety Committee is negotiating for more protection against deadly hazards

continued from page 1

Local 8's Adam Wetzell says he's seen what can go wrong when companies cut corners on safety and maintenance. "Our container terminal operator in Portland is ICTSI, and they've been cited by OSHA for putting workers at risk. Our jobs are already dangerous enough without employers who make it worse."

The Safety Committee has been meeting steadily since May 12 and aims

to make improvements in the Safety Code. "We've got work to do that can save lives, but every bit of progress requires a real struggle with the companies," said Ray Local 13 member Ray Benavente.

"I've been through this before and know how hard it is to strengthen the safety rules," said Tracy Burchett of Local 53. "The employers always have some reason why they resist improving the Safety Code – but it

usually comes down to saving time and money."

Ryan Whitman of Local 23 says the Safety Committee's work is important, "but it's only half the battle, because we need every longshore worker to respect and understand the rules – and feel comfortable pushing back when corners get cut."

Safety Committee members intend to keep working down to the June

30th wire – and beyond if necessary – to reach agreement on a revised and improved Safety Code.

"Almost all injuries are preventable," said Local 13's Luke Hollingsworth, "and we shouldn't have to wait for the next tragedy to make things safer."

Tribute sculpture for former ILWU President Jimmy Herman at SF's Pier 27 moves forward

On June 10th the Port of San Francisco was presented with a gift agreement for the James R. Herman Tribute Sculpture that will be placed at the Pier 27 cruise ship terminal. The terminal is named in honor of former ILWU International President and former San Francisco Port Commissioner, Jimmy Herman. The gift proposal, valued at \$250,000, must now be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The sculpture will be a wall-mounted, interactive audio-visual installation measuring 10-feet high by 15-feet long. The sculpture will resemble the waves of the bay. Housed within it will be a touch screen that will allow visitors to scroll through biographical information about Herman and will also include a directional sound system that will allow visitors to hear highlights from Herman's speeches. The installation is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Sean Farley, ILWU Local 34 President and Chair of the James R. Herman Memorial Committee, said that the purpose of the sculpture is to commemorate Jimmy Herman's contribution to the labor movement and to the San Francisco waterfront.



Local 34 President, Sean Farley, (third from right) with staff members from the SF Port Commission, the James R. Herman Memorial Committee, the sculpture artists and the project management firm.

"We wanted to reflect what Jimmy was about—his history, his legacy, his commitment to social justice movements and his contributions as a Port Commissioner—all the facets of who he was in his life. We also had to take into account what Pier 27 is—a world-class cruise terminal facility. We wanted a tribute that is commensurate with that facility and we think we've done that."

"Jimmy was a true working class

hero. He tried to make everyone around him better," said ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams. Adams also serves as a Port Commissioner and Vice President of the San Francisco Port Commission. "The cruise ship terminal and this sculpture will be a great tribute to his legacy."

ILWU members along with other members of the local community including former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos and Congresswoman Nancy

Pelosi formed the James R. Herman Memorial Committee to raise money for the creation of the sculpture and its maintenance for the next 20 years. The Committee is still \$120,000 short of its goal. If you would like to contribute, please contact Sean Farley or Allen Fung at ILWU Local 34: (415) 362-8852. The committee has applied for non-profit status and is awaiting final approval from the IRS.

MUA's campaign to counter Chevron labor attacks goes global with help from ILWU & other allies

continued from page 4

that those energy resources belong to the Australian people. He said Chevron should develop a good relationship with workers on the project and maintain community support. So far, he said, it has been a dismal failure.

Crumlin concluded with some colorful Aussie language that may have baffled Chevron's top brass: "The company needs to get a grip, cop its stuff-ups on the chin and return to a mature and balanced industrial relations model, more suited to Australian values underpinning economic and commercial success."

Chevron CEO backtracks

Crumlin's comments drew a response from Chevron's top dog, CEO John Watson. Their exchange was covered in a Reuters news report about the shareholder meeting. Unlike Chevron's strategy in Australia that scapegoated the union, Watson was careful to avoid any suggestion that labor costs had contributed to the Gorgon's busted budget. Instead, the CEO mentioned bad weather, a rise in the valuation of Australia's currency, and increasing material prices. He added that Chevron is committed to using union labor in Australia and closed with a clear statement that amounted to a welcome and refreshing flip-flop: "We have no intention of blaming organized labor for cost overruns or delays at Gorgon."

Business school exposé

In addition to verbal sparring with company officials, the MUA team used the shareholder meeting to release a research report about the Gorgon project conducted by the University of Sydney Business School, which offered a thorough analysis of the project's problems.

Authored by Professor Bradon Ellem, the report titled, "What is Happening on Chevron's Gorgon Project?" concluded that delays and cost problems were due to logistical challenges and poor management decisions – not unions and labor issues which played a negligible role.

The report noted that wages are only a small part of the project's overall cost, with maritime labor estimated to be only 1%. He also found that most of the financial figures used in public debates were misleading, and suggested that Chevron should engage workers in a more cooperative approach to increase efficiency.

'Wealth of untapped worker experience'

The report suggested Chevron should utilize workers' "untapped wealth of experience and ideas about how to deliver the project on-time and on-budget," and encouraged Chevron to rethink the issues and stop blaming workers. The report also chided management for shifting responsibility from themselves to workers, noting that "neither Chevron nor the partners



Getting the word out: Will Tracey from the Maritime Union of Australia's Western Branch participated in an hour-long radio show on May 1. He told listeners about Chevron's massive offshore natural gas project in northwestern Australia that is harming workers. During his Bay Area visit, Tracey gathered evidence from Bay Area activists who provided many details about Chevron's bad behavior toward workers and communities around the globe.

and contractors appear to see themselves as in any way accountable for the failings on their project. In short, both the evidence presented here and the pattern of blame-shifting raise questions about management practice and management accountability."

MUA WA Branch Secretary Christy Cain welcomed the report as a "wake-up call" and hoped it would influence much of the Australian media that has blamed workers for the Gorgon's problems.

Western Australian Branch Assistant Secretary Will Tracey praised

the report for showing how time and money could be saved through closer engagement with union workers who want the Gorgon project to succeed.

"There's a lesson in this report – not just for Chevron, but for the media commentators pushing for lower labor standards as some sort of economic panacea. The real key to unlocking Australian workplace productivity is through better engagement and cooperation between management and workers – not screwing down wages and eroding conditions in an adversarial environment."

IN MEMORIUM

Loss of a talented young leader: Alberto Bonilla

The ILWU lost a kind and energetic young leader on May 17 when Alberto Bonilla passed with his family by his side, following a cardiac arrest that left him in a coma for almost a week. Bonilla was 43 years-old.

"Berto," as he was affectionately known, was very active within the union as both a rank-and-file member and officer. He held numerous leadership positions at Local 13 including Dispatcher, Business Agent, Caucus Delegate, Executive Board member, and Coast Education Committee member. He became known to many beyond Local 13 because he served as Sergeant-At-Arms at many sessions of the Coast Longshore Caucus and was often involved in solidarity efforts to

help others. He shared his love for the union with his twin brother Alonzo, and other brothers Nickolas and Jose Luis Rigo.

"Alberto Bonilla was truly a member who embodied everything we aspire to be in this union," said Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr. "His spirit was bound in brotherhood and his contribution of countless hours towards the benefit of the union and his community is unparalleled. As a member he was exemplary, and as an individual he was a humanitarian. He will be missed by all of us at Local 13."

Berto was extremely well-liked and respected, qualities that drew hundreds to his funeral. Among those attending were International President Bob McEllrath, International Vice Presidents Ray Familathe and Wesley Furtado, and International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams.

ILWU members attended from locals in Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and Hawaii.

"Alberto was a great friend of mine and he was always willing to volunteer and step-up for his union," said President McEllrath. "We need more young leaders like him, and his loss was felt far and wide."

"Berto will be missed as a friend and as a union brother," said Vice President Furtado. "He embodied so much of what the ILWU is about. He fought to keep this union strong and was always there to lend a hand to those in need."

"I think my husband always had a premonition that something was going to happen to him," said Marla Piceno Bonilla, Berto's widow and high-school sweetheart. "He would always tell our son that 'someday



this will be yours' and he often took Junior with him to union activities."

"My father named me after him for a reason," said Alberto Bonilla, Jr., "I will keep his name going and his legacy continuing down on the docks. When I work there someday, I hope to be as good as my dad was because I have big shoes to fill."

Written by Local 13 member Vivian J. Malauulu

IN MEMORIUM

Yuti Tuvalu: quiet leader of "Gang Uso"



Less than one month before Bonilla's passing, another union brother, Yuti Tuvalu, passed on April 21 due to natural causes. Yuti was a member of the unofficial "Gang Uso" which is comprised of longies of Polynesian descent working on the docks. "Uso" is the Samoan word for brother.

While he never held union office, Tuvalu often helped the leadership with security or chauffeuring for union events. Tuvalu was also one of the Gang Uso brothers who most often provided the volunteer "muscle" behind operations such as HelpSamoa.com, which provided containers filled with relief goods for the tsunami-stricken islands in 2009, as well as other events like "Bloody Thursday" that honor our union's fallen martyrs from the 1934 strike.

"Yuti paved the way for many of us Usos to get involved serving the local," said Tony Luafalemana, fellow Gang Uso member. "He wouldn't think twice about calling a 'reap' (replacement worker) if one of the officers asked him for any kind of help. Luafalemana added that many of the gains won by lashers on the southern California waterfront are due to the solid reputation Tuvalu helped to establish for workers.

"This is really hard for us because we lost two good union brothers back to back," said Sam Moega, Executive Board member and former Chief Dispatcher of Local 13. "Berto was my best friend and Yuti was my uso. I consider both of them my brothers and we could always count on them to do anything for our union. Berto was on the frontline and Yuti was the quiet guy in the back. We are really going to miss them."

Written by Local 13 member Vivian J. Malauulu



Fond farewell to a friend of working families: ILWU International Vice President Hawaii Wesley Furtado (left) and International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams (right) and Lindsay McLaughlin, ILWU Legislative Director, (second from right) visited California Congress member George Miller on May 29 in Washington, D.C. to thank him for helping workers during his 40 years in the House of Representatives.

"Too many members of Congress don't stand up for workers but George Miller was always strong and willing to help the labor movement fight," said Vice President Furtado.

The painting of Miller will hang in the Education and Workforce Committee hearing room where he once served as Chairman. In 1997 and again in 2007, Republicans removed the word "Labor" from the Committee title because they found it offensive; re-naming it the Education and "Workforce" Committee.

Miller was never shy about supporting workers and sponsored many bills, including ones to raise the minimum wage and make it easier for workers to join unions. He also served on the Resources Committee where he battled powerful agribusiness corporations who demanded lavish taxpayer-subsidies for their public water projects but perpetuated brutal working conditions for farm laborers.

Miller broke ranks with corporate-backed political leaders in both parties when he strongly opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993. He opposed similar corporate-sponsored trade deals including the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and now-pending Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

George Miller and Henry Waxman are the last pro-union House members to retire after coming to Washington in 1975 as reformers following the Watergate scandal.

"George Miller was an exceptional politician because he wasn't afraid to fight with workers," said Secretary-Treasurer Adams. "We desperately need more people in Congress like him, and contributing to our ILWU Political Action Fund can help make it possible."

ILWU members can contribute by visiting the website at www.ilwu.org and choosing the Political Action Fund button on the top right of the screen.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Ward J. Hust; **Local 10:** Noble L. Harris; Martin H. Carrillo; **Local 12:** Douglas M. Matson; **Local 13:** Elijah N. Hall; Kurt Ellis; Isabel G. Saenz; Roosevelt L. Johnson; Wayne L. Jensen; Charles L. Boulden; Bronson B. Johns; **Local 19:** William W. Thorpe; James D. Mc Kinnon; M. Jose Obra; **Local 21:** Richard G. Fisher; **Local 40:** Robert L. Carson; **Local 52:** Jim F. Mallou; Charles D. Tom; **Local 54:** Tony L. Ferreira; **Local 63:** Constance L. Chaney; Charlie Phineas; Libby C. Esparza; Lee R. Mc Innis; Thurston J. Schultz; Robin K. Bryce;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Fred N. Emry; **Local 10:** John Unini; **Local 12:** Leo O. Kiander; Raymond Hopper; Ronald G. Johnson; **Local 13:** Juan F. Herrera; Albert Lopez Jr.; Joseph F. Donato; Stephen M. Bush; Alvino A. Campos; Richard C. Powell Jr.; Terry L. Taylor (Maria); David L.

Mitchell; **Local 21:** Bill L. Brister; **Local 23:** Ronald D. Darrell; Gary V. Deinas; **Local 24:** Martin D. Moir; Edward C. Norman; **Local 32:** Darrell M. Sampson; **Local 34:** James F. Donohue; Gary F. Colacicco (Kathleen); **Local 54:** Albert M. Nunes; **Local 63:** Richard Suarez; Jack R. Harris, Jr; Ronald C. Tobin; **Local 91:** Clarence Carr;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 10: Ella Mae Barganey; Alberta Guess; Thadene Martin; Leontine Hebert; Sarah M. Stephens; Nancy Harriss; Shirley Ann Garrett; **Local 13:** Rose M. Mendoza; Angie A. Wiley; Josephine Zamacona; Juana G. Rodriguez; Hope Lara; Louise Caserma; Alvino A. Campos; Freida Masing; **Local 23:** Lois J. Pratt; Beverly Ginnis; **Local 24:** Helen J. Kaiyala; **Local 40:** Jeanne T. Poole; **Local 94:** Esther M. Luz; Theresa Macon-Toliver;



facebook

gives the employer the upper hand.

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR JOB.
DISCUSS UNION BUSINESS AT THE HALL ... NOT ONLINE!**

Remember: The employer, the government and the media will use your words against individual members and your Union. Let's protect ourselves and each other by discussing Union business at the Dispatch Hall and at meetings... and keep job-related photos, videos and posts offline!

An Injury to One is an Injury to All.



Grain lockout solidarity from down south:

(Photo left) Local 10 members Frank Gaskin and Jerry Gatine (far left) flew up north on June 13 and 14 to support members from Local 4 and 8 on their lengthy lockout picket lines. Marubeni/Columbia Grain in Portland and Mitsui/United Grain in Vancouver, Washington, are both foreign-owned corporations that have locked-out ILWU workers since May and February 2012, respectively. A previous support visit by Local 10 and Local 13 members happened in May and included Local 10 President Melvin Mackay and Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Farless Dailey and Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr. As was reported in previous issues, members from Local 13, 63 and 94 have been making regular trips up north, including a visit on June 19. In the photo on the right a delegation of Local 13 members joined the lock out line with Local 4 members on June 19.



ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS

Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU. By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. \$17.00.

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).

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**

The ILWU Story. This book unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. **\$5.00**

The Big Strike. By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. **\$9.00**

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront. By David Wellman. The important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. **\$20.00** (paperback)

The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938. By Harvey Schwartz. A new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. **\$9.00**

VIDEOS

"Eye of the Storm: Our Fight for Justice and a Better Contract." A 58-minute DVD feature documentary film produced and directed by Amie Williams, Eye of the Storm tells the story of the 2002 longshore lockout on the West Coast. DVD Version **\$5.00**

"We Are the ILWU." A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version **\$5.00**

"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges." A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD **\$5.00**

ILWU BOOK & VIDEO ORDER FORM

ORDER BY MAIL

___ copies of **Solidarity Stories** @ \$17 ea. = \$ _____

___ copies of **A Spark Is Struck** @ \$13.50 ea.= \$ _____

___ copies of **The Legacy of 1934** @ two for \$5 = \$ _____

___ copies of **Harry Bridges** @ \$10 ea.= \$ _____

___ copies of **ILWU Story** @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

___ copies of **The Big Strike** @ \$9.00 ea. = \$ _____

___ copies of **The Union Makes Us Strong** @ \$20 ea. = \$ _____

___ copies of **The March Inland** @ \$9 ea.= \$ _____

___ copies of **Eye of the Storm** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

___ copies of **We Are the ILWU** VHS @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

___ copies of **A Life on the Beam** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

No sales outside the U.S.

We regret that U.S. Customs and postal regulations create too great a burden for our staff to maintain book sale service to our members and friends outside the United States.

Name _____

Street Address or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order (U.S. Funds) payable to "ILWU" and send to

ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Prices include shipping and handling.

Please allow at least four weeks for delivery. Shipment to U.S. addresses only