



THE DISPATCHER

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United team: Local 8 member Creg Carse, casual Nichole Bosler-Lenhart, members Matt Theisen and Barry Price joined a Portland protest against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on March 9th. The latest free trade deal is being promoted by corporations and their friends in Congress. ILWU convention delegates voted to oppose the TPP in 2012, and members have participated in many protests since.

Portland ILWU members march against "Fast Track" and the TPP

ILWU members in Portland joined other union and community activists on March 9 to protest the latest "free trade" agreement, called the "Trans-Pacific Partnership" (TPP). Corporate interests are trying to ram the deal through Congress using a process known as "Fast Track" – the same tactic used to streamline passage of the NAFTA with Mexico and subsequent deals with Colombia and Korea.

Fast Track farce

To pass the controversial "free trade" deal, corporate-friendly legislators are proposing the Fast Track maneuver that was originally created during the Nixon-era to expand Presidential powers and weaken Congressional oversight of international agreements. While the U.S. Constitution gives Congress authority over trade legislation, and it makes sense to delegate some power to the President to negotiate new

deals, it makes no sense to allow the President to do so in secret, without any accountability for meeting negotiating goals set by Congress. Under Fast Track, Congress must limit debate to just 90 days and then conduct a simple majority, "yes" or "no" vote without allowing any changes or amendments.

Corporate goodies

Like NAFTA, the TPP is being sold with claims that it will expand trade, create jobs and include "labor and environmental protections" in order to win votes from Congressional Democrats. But unions say these claims amount to little more than window dressing, and fail to address all of the corporate deals concealed inside the secret pact. These include generous patent and intellectual property protections that generally benefit the 1% at the expense of everyone else, especially the working class.

Keeping secrets

The actual TPP agreement is cloaked in secrecy. Even members of Congress who wish to view the text are required to read it in a secure

room, are not allowed to take notes, and cannot bring a staffer with them. The secure room is filled with "experts" from the U.S. Trade Representative's office – the agency responsible for negotiating and promoting the agreement.

Threat to U.S. laws

The TPP includes provisions for bypassing national sovereignty – allowing U.S. laws to be challenged by corporations who claim our laws amount to unfair trade barriers. This can be used to file claims against environmental protection laws, "Buy American" contract preferences, and public investment programs to promote new energy and transportation industries. Such claims would be reviewed by a three person binding-arbitration panel. The ramification is that a multi-national corporation could sue for damages if they believe a U.S. law is cutting into their profit margin.

Money & politics

Corporations hoping to benefit from the TPP have been making campaign

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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,

In the early 1960's, brother Bill Kanui and other longshoremen transferred from Hilo, HI to Local 12 in North Bend, OR. Being an avid bowler, Bill soon started the ILWU bowling league at a local bowling center with about 12 teams.

In 1965 the league decided to host a regional invitational bowling tournament. Notices were sent to every ILWU local from Eureka, CA to Ladysmith, British Columbia. I believe there were 14 teams in the first tournament.

Since then, there has been a tournament every year in various ports. In the last few years, the tournament has been held only in Longview, WA and North Bend, OR due to a lack of interest.

We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the tournament on June 19th and 20th this year.

I am the only one left that I know of who bowled in the first tournament, and sadly, this will be my last one. I believe I have only missed 6 or 7 during the last 50 years.

If any member of the ILWU would be interested in joining us in this tournament, please contact my by email at PatC53@gmail.com.

**Pat Richardson, President, Auxiliary 1
North Bend, OR**

Dear Editor,

I had the pleasure and honor to work with Brother Frank Billeci during the time I served as Chairman of the Local 34 Delta Unit, the largest Clerk Unit on the Coast.

The numerous conversations Brother Billeci and I had regarding how we would protect our jurisdiction and jobs is a memory I will always cherish. When a problem in the Delta Unit surfaced and the Unit was gearing up to protect Harry's Union, before any action was taken, I would call brother Billeci for advice. There was no one better to listen to a problem, analyze what he was just told and set the strategy on how we should proceed. If the decision was made to go to war, Brother Billeci would always tell me before he hung up: "Greg, keep me out of arbitration." I remember most of the time the Unit was able to do just that, but there were a few occasions we were not successful. Brother Billeci would then take care of business.

Brothers and sisters, when Brother Billeci presented a Delta Unit dispute to the Area Arbitrator he had the remarkable ability to present our case with such knowledge and skill it was a pleasure to observe. I can't remember a time when Local 34 Delta Unit had an issue that Brother Billeci was not there to help us solve a problem. With his guidance, knowledge and unwavering support along with the participation of Delta Unit members, we did not lose very often.

Brother Billeci was not only respected in our area, but because of his leadership and integrity, he had the respect of longshore workers and clerks up and down the Coast. I am proud to say, Frank and I became friends over the years and I will never forget him. I will never forget what he did for Local 34, Local 34 Delta Unit and Harry's union.


In closing: May God Bless the Billeci family during these trying times and may God bless the greatest union on this planet, the ILWU.

**Greg Delucchi,
Local 34 (Ret.)**

Dear Editor,

The members of Auxiliary 1 asked that this letter be sent to you for publication in the *Dispatcher*.

**Marilyn Richards, Secretary, Auxiliary 1
North Bend, OR**



**INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S
UNION LOCAL 12**

2064 SHERIDAN AVENUE NORTH BEND, OREGON 97459
PHONE: 541-756-4188 • 541-756-4189 FAX: 541-756-3851

December 17, 2014

Dear Ladies' Auxiliary,

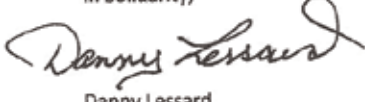
ILWU Local 12 members would like to thank you for the wonderful Christmas Party. The hall was festively decorated and the food was delicious. We received numerous positive comments from guests who had not attended celebrations in the past. We truly appreciate all the work and planning it takes for the Ladies' Auxiliary to host Local 12's annual Christmas Parties.

We also would like to thank you for the donations to the Toy and Food Drive. The North Bend Fire Department was thrilled with the amount of toys we were able to provide and wanted to send along a big thank you. They already had purchased food for their Christmas dinner baskets so we donated all the food we collected to the Maslow House.

Program Manager, Patty Sanden, of the Maslow House was grateful to receive what she called "high quality" food donations in addition to the skateboards, books, and toys. She especially wanted to thank the ILWU Ladies' Auxiliary for your generous donation of Fred Meyer gift cards.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support on the picket line. Picketing barges is difficult because they are hard to track, entering and exiting a port quickly. Pat Richardson braved the dark and cold to meet an empty parking lot at the boat ramp but Racheal Crawford was able to picket at Southport's front gate. We apologize for any miscommunication but organizing is difficult when the circumstances are constantly changing.

ILWU Local 12 would like to express our deep appreciation for all that the Ladies' Auxiliary does for Local 12 during the holidays and throughout the year.

In Solidarity,

Danny Lessard
President
ILWU Local 12

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

ATTENTION: LOCAL 10 MEMBERS

Trustees of the Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund are prepared to accept applications for scholarships for the academic year 2015-2016. Now is the time to indicate your interest. **June 1, 2015 is the application deadline.**

Victor Smolin and Carlton Melin were long time members of Local 10. They left a sum of money to establish the scholarship fund. They specified that scholarships were to be available to children of Class A Local 10 members to further their "collegiate" education. Trustees of the Fund interpret "members" to mean **active members in good standing at the time of disbursement of scholarship funds**, deceased members and retired members. The Trustees interpret "collegiate" to apply only to **full-time** study (at least 12 units per semester or quarter) at either a four-year college or an academic junior college.

The Trustees have agreed that (1) no applicant will be awarded more than four scholarships, (2) a fifth scholarship would be considered after careful review of the applicant's record and if circumstances warrant and (3) in no event would an applicant be considered for a sixth scholarship.

Based always on available assets, the Fund historically has awarded scholarships in a range from \$1000 to \$2500 for full-time students at four-year colleges or universities, and from \$750 to \$1750 for full-time students at two-year colleges.

Trustees are Beth Ross, counsel for ILWU Local 10, David Erkkila, a retired member of Local 10 and a friend of Victor Smolin, and Eugene Vrana, retired Director of Educational Services and Librarian for ILWU.

If you have a son or daughter who is applying to enter college next fall, or is already a college student who is planning to continue, and the above requirements are met, you might want to apply for one of these scholarships.

To request an application, simply call Nicole Bridges at (415) 771-6400 or email her at nbridges@leonardcarter.com. She will then send you the application form with the necessary explanatory materials.

DISPATCHER

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Portland ILWU members march against “Fast Track” and the TPP

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donations to Senate and House members in order to influence votes on the trade pact. As with previous “free trade” agreements, this deal has exposed a fault-line in Congress that pits corporate-friendly Republicans and Democrats against progressives and labor allies. Groups outside Congress that oppose Fast Track include National Nurses United, the Sierra Club, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Public Citizen and the AFL-CIO. Leading proponents include anti-union business lobbies such as the National Retail Federation, Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers.

Friends & foes

Last year, 152 House Democrats, including James Clyburn (the third most powerful Democrat in the House) and former California representative George Miller signed letters opposing fast track. Senate minority leader Harry Reid has independently expressed his opposition to Fast Track. House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi has avoided taking a clear position, in the same way she

did before backing NAFTA in 1993, but she recently expressed concerns about Fast Track when speaking to members of the Steelworkers Union. Pelosi’s second-ranking House Democrat, Steny Hoyer of Maryland, also claims to be “undecided” but tipped his hand in late January by declaring that Fast Track could pass despite opposition from many fellow Democrats. He went on to assert that previous free trade deals have been “good for the country and for workers.”

Former Clinton Labor Secretary and NAFTA booster Robert Reich has flipped sides and now opposes Fast Track and the TPP, which he calls a “corporate Trojan horse.” And two famous Nobel Prize-winning economists, Paul Krugman and Joseph Stiglitz, recently announced their opposition, as did prominent free-trade economist Jeffrey Sachs.

ILWU Opposes TPP

At the 35th International Convention of the ILWU in 2012, delegates passed a resolution opposing the TPP, and this resolution continues to guide ILWU policy.

Horrors in Colombia

The passage of the Colombian Free Trade agreement in 2012 has been devastating for longshoremen in that South American nation. Public docks have been privatized and union workers bypassed. Labor provisions in the free trade agreement were supposed to protect workers’ rights, but have proven ineffective. Assassinations, death threats and anti-worker paramilitaries continue to operate in Colombia with impunity. Port operators have bypassed the union in favor of hiring directly off the street. Workers have been forced to live inside containers on the docks when they aren’t needed to load or unload vessels. Union members who resist these abuses have been blacklisted and union officials are receiving death threats. Some longshoremen have been forced to sign letters promising that they won’t join the union.

More nightmares?

The proposed TPP provides a “docking mechanism” that allows additional nations to join after the deal is enacted. Vietnam is of particular concern

because it is illegal in that country to form an independent union, and persons who do so can be imprisoned. Similar concerns could apply to other nations, including Burma – renamed “Myanmar” by the military dictatorship that ruled the country from 1962 to 2011.

What we can do

To help stop Fast Track and the TPP, call your Senators and Representatives by dialing 855-712-8441 and let them know:

- The TPP is bad for America.
- Fast Track authority should be opposed.
- You will not re-elect any politician who sells out workers and our country.

Many members of Congress are already doing the right thing by opposing Fast Track and the TPP, such as U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Peter DeFazio. More grassroots pressure can help others make the same choice. An injury to one is an injury to all.

– Matt Theisen, Local 8

SF approves redevelopment of historic 1930s-era longshoremen’s hall

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on January 27 to approve the proposed redevelopment of the historic building that served as the longshoreman’s hall during the 1934 waterfront strike. The building located at 110 The Embarcadero on the City’s waterfront will become the permanent headquarters of The Commonwealth Club of California. The 112-year old public affairs forum bought the building two-years ago but the project has been delayed by a neighborhood group that opposed the project.

The building was the headquarters for the longshoreman during the

City’s historic 1934 waterfront strike and was the site of pitched battles between workers, police and private security forces. Two workers, Nicholas Bordoio and Howard Sperry, were shot and killed by police on Bloody Thursday—July 5th, 1934. Their bodies laid in the longshoremen’s hall until their funeral. The deaths of Bordoio and Sperry rallied public support for the strikers and eventually sparked a four-day general strike in San Francisco.

The building has been vacant for years. A previous development project, which was ultimately rejected by the Board Supervisors, proposed tearing down the building entirely and replacing it with a high-rise condominium project. The ILWU passed a resolution at its convention in 2009 opposing that project.

The Commonwealth Club reached out to the ILWU from the outset of the new project and wanted to ensure that the building’s history would be appropriately honored. The façade on Steuart Street, where the longshoreman occupied the building, will be restored to its original 1934 appearance. The building’s history will also be commemorated with a plaque on the outside and a historical exhibit inside. The side of the building facing the Embarcadero, which no longer bears resemblance to its 1930s character, will be replaced with a modern curtain-wall façade.

Local 10 member Felipe Riley, Bay Area pensioner John Fisher and ILWU historian Harvey Schwartz spoke in favor of the project because of the Commonwealth Club’s commitment to honoring the history of the ILWU and



The Men Along the Shore: Local 10 member Felipe Riley presented the San Francisco Board of Supervisors with materials on the history of the ILWU published by the union.

the important role the 1934 waterfront strike played in the City’s history.

The Commonwealth Club will be working with the ILWU to design the marker and exhibit detailing the building’s history that will be seen by thousands of people attending the Club’s events every year.

IN MEMORIAM



Frank Billeci, former Local 34 President passes

Former ILWU Local 34 President Frank Billeci died on February 1 at the age of 79. Frank was a member of Local 34 for 42 years and served his local in several positions starting in 1969 when he was elected to the Local 34 Investigating Committee.

In 1971 he was elected to the Local 34 Labor Relations Committee and in 1973 was a delegate to the Longshore Caucus and Convention. He also served on the International Executive Board and the ILWU Container Freight Station Committee. In 1977, Frank was elected

Vice President of Local 34 and after six months, he assumed the office of Local 34 President when Jimmy Herman was elected ILWU International President. He served as Local 34 President until 1989 when he took a break from elected office to return to the docks and work on projects with the International. He was again elected Local 34 President in 1994 and served in that position until his retirement in 1999.

After retiring, Frank spent time with his wife and family. He enjoyed following his favorite teams, the San Francisco Giants and San Francisco 49ers, camping on the Sacramento

River, fishing with his son and being a grandfather.

“Frank’s dedication to his work and the ILWU family was unsurpassed,” said Local 34 Secretary-Treasurer Allen Fung. “He never made himself the spotlight; instead he was always the one to give others the opportunity to shine. If there is one word that can be used to remember Frank, that word would be ‘integrity.’”

Frank is survived by Joan, his wife of 44 years, his daughter Tina, his son, Roger, his sister, Rose, and four grandchildren: Peter, Nathan, Lauren and Caroline.

Recycling workers celebrate two years of success



Pledging support: ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe pledged to continue supporting the Campaign for Sustainable Recycling.

Hundreds of Alameda County recycling workers filled the Local 6 union hall on March 1 to celebrate two years of hard work that yielded dramatic improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions – and opened the door to helping new workers organize and join the ILWU.

Like the historic “Alameda County Recycling Workers Convention” held in the same location two years ago, the room was filled again with family members, community supporters and political allies who came to celebrate the string of remarkable organizing victories by workers at the largest recycling operators in Alameda County.

Recycling worker Alejandra León co-chaired the event with fellow recycling worker Pedro Sanchez. Both did an excellent job and conducted most of the event in Spanish – the language preferred by a majority of recycling workers – but simultaneous professional translation services were offered with headphones to everyone attending.

Blessings

Monsignor Antonio Valdivia provided an inspirational blessing to begin the event. He started by recalling that his own father had been a longtime member of Local 6, and used to bring home copies of the ILWU’s *Dispatcher* newspaper, which little Antonio would read out loud for his father who was unable to read. Monsignor Valdivia concluded by speaking to all the children in the room, asking

them to respect how hard their parents are working at difficult jobs in order to provide bread for their families.

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker added his welcome, thanking workers and special guests. He recounted the many accomplishments made during the past two years, explaining, “you’ve done so much good work to make life better for hundreds of workers employed in this industry – but many more recyclers are still suffering, and we’re now in a better position to help them.”

Superhero support

A surprise visit was paid by the superhero, “Recycle Woman,” who appeared at the event in brightly-colored tights and a cape, played by Jessica Robinson. After greeting the audience, she led the children into a back room where she shared games that taught “zero waste” recycling skills for the children to use at home and school.

Solidarity from Brazil & Colombia

Environmental organizer Christie Keith of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) brought a message of solidarity and support from recycling workers in Colombia, Brazil and other members of the Latin America Recyclers Network. She noted that all recycling workers share a common bond for the important environmental work that they perform – and the struggle for justice required to gain recognition and respect. GAIA organizer Monica Wilson, who serves on the Campaign for Sustainable Recycling Steering Committee, also attended.

ILWU officials

ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe and Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams were both on hand to lend support and encouragement. Familathe, who oversees the union’s organizing efforts, said the International union has supported the recycler organizing project for years because it has been a good way to help workers in a partnership with Local 6. He offered his continued support and encouraged workers to maintain their organizing efforts.

Alejandra León thanked Willie Adams for appearing two years ago at the first Recyclers Convention, where he predicted: “This campaign that we’re taking on, won’t be won by speeches – it will be won by working with allies, partners and a strong commitment.” León thanked him for supporting the project and said his words two years ago had been “prophetic.” Adams spoke briefly, thanking workers for keeping faith in themselves and their union.

Key role by workers

The heart of the event was led by workers who shared short stories about the struggles they have endured during the past two years, fighting for better wages and benefits.

“Two years ago, we came here to make a plan for improving our recycling jobs. We set a goal for better pay that some people – including some officials from the Teamster and Machinists union – told us was ‘too much, too soon.’ But we didn’t back down, and today are celebrating the many victories that came from everyone’s hard work,” said León, as she and Pedro Sanchez began introducing workers who briefly shared their stories.

Josefa Solano from BLT in Fremont explained how they became the first group of recycling workers to win raises and benefits that meet the new standard.

Dinora Jordan from Waste Management told of a long, difficult but ultimately successful struggle by workers against one of the largest waste companies in the world.

Jose Gomez from ACI explained how workers overcame minimum wages, no benefits, no union and disrespect for immigrant workers to join

Local 6. He reported that co-workers are now negotiating an ILWU contract that meets the “Alameda County Recycling Worker Standard” calling for “sorters” to earn \$20.94 by 2019 along with affordable family health benefits.

Community support

“We couldn’t do all this by ourselves,” said Pedro Sanchez, who said the room was full of “compañeros” who supported the “causa” of improving conditions for recyclers. A group of special guests was then recognized and thanked – each receiving the gift of a commemorative framed poster signed by recycling workers.

Legal action

Attorney Emily Maglio from the Leonard Carder law firm was recognized for helping ACI workers prevail in a class-action lawsuit that was recently settled for \$1.1 million and will provide many workers with significant back-pay awards. Workers Ignacia Garcia, Maria Granados Flores and Griselda Mora were named on the lawsuit were recognized and thanked for their courage.

Political leadership

Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer was congratulated for hearing the concerns of recycling workers who have appeared before the City Council several times to provide updates and seek support for improvements at ACI, which provides recycling services for Alameda residents.

Recycler Ruben Ramos introduced Fremont City Councilmember Vinnie Bacon and thanked him for taking leadership to protect the environment and promote worker justice. Fremont was the first city in Alameda County to help workers reach the new pay and benefit standard.

Oakland City Council member Dan Kalb was congratulated for supporting the fight to improve recycling services for Oakland residents and help workers win better working conditions.

Local leadership

Recycling and waste expert Ruth Abbe was honored for her service to the campaign, including her continuing role on the Steering Committee of the Campaign for Sustainable Recycling. Abbe also plays a leadership role

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Moving forward: ACI worker Jose Gomez explained how recyclers are overcoming fear to win dramatic pay and benefit improvements.



Praising progress: ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams praised recycling workers for their courage and effort to build coalitions with community allies.

Los trabajadores del reciclaje celebraron dos años de éxitos

Cientos de trabajadores del reciclaje del condado de Alameda llenaron el salón del Local 6 el 1 de marzo para celebrar dos años de trabajo arduo que llevó a una espectacular mejora en los salarios, beneficios y condiciones de trabajo – y abrió la puerta para ayudar a otros trabajadores a que se organicen y se unan a ILWU.

Al igual que la histórica Convención de Trabajadores del Reciclaje del Condado de Alameda realizada en el mismo sitio hace dos años, el salón se llenó de nuevo con familiares, simpatizantes de la comunidad y aliados políticos que llegaron a celebrar la serie de victorias extraordinarias de organización por los trabajadores de las compañías más grandes de reciclaje en el condado de Alameda.

Alejandra León, trabajadora del reciclaje dirigió el evento con otro compañero del reciclaje, Pedro Sánchez. Ambos hicieron un trabajo excelente y llevaron el evento principalmente en español – la lengua materna de la mayoría de los trabajadores del reciclaje – y además se ofreció el servicio profesional de traducción simultánea con audífonos a todos los que asistieron.

Bendiciones

Monseñor Antonio Valdivia pronunció una inspiradora bendición en la apertura del evento. Empezó por recordar que su propio padre había sido miembro del Local 6 por muchos años y acostumbraba llevar a casa el Dispatcher, periódico de ILWU que el pequeño Antonio le leía en voz alta a su padre puesto que no sabía leer. Monseñor Valdivia terminó por hablarle a los niños que se encontraban en el salón, pidiéndoles que respetaran a sus padres, ya que estos se esforzaban mucho por hacer un trabajo difícil con tal de alimentar a sus familias.

El Secretario Tesorero del Local 6, Fred Pecker también les dio la bienvenida, agradeciendo a los trabajadores y a los invitados especiales. Mencionó todos los logros obtenidos durante los últimos dos años, explicando que todo el buen trabajo que habían hecho había mejorado la vida a cientos de trabajadores de este ramo – pero que todavía quedaban otros trabajadores del reciclaje que están sufriendo y ahora estamos en mejores condiciones de ayudarlos.

Apoyo de la super heroína

La super heroína Mujer Recicladora (alias Jessica Robinson) llegó inesperadamente, vestida de capa y mallas coloridas. Después de saludar al público, se llevó a los niños a un salón por separado para enseñarles con juegos cómo reciclar en su casa y en la escuela a fin de reducir la basura a cero.

Solidaridad con Brasil y Colombia

La organizadora medioambiental Christie Keith de la Alianza Mundial de Alternativas a los Incineradores (GAIA) transmitió un mensaje de solidaridad y apoyo de los trabajadores del reciclaje

de Colombia, Brasil y otros miembros de la Red de Recicladores de América Latina. Ella afirmó que todos los trabajadores de reciclaje comparten un lazo común debido al trabajo medioambiental importante que están realizando – y porque luchan por la justicia que se requiere para que se les reconozca y respete. La organizadora de GAIA, Mónica Wilson, integrante del Comité Directivo de la Campaña por el Reciclaje Sostenible también asistió al evento.

Dirigentes de ILWU

El vice presidente internacional de ILWU (territorio continental) Ray Familathe y Willie Adams, el secretario tesoroero también estuvieron presente para expresar su apoyo y aliento. Familathe, que supervisa las campañas de organización del sindicato, dijo que el sindicato internacional ha apoyado el proyecto de organización de recicladores por años porque ha sido una muy buena manera de ayudar a los trabajadores en colaboración con el Local 6. Prometió seguir dando el apoyo y animó a los trabajadores a que continuaran organizándose.

Alejandra León agradeció a Willie Adams por asistir dos años atrás a la primera Convención de Recicladores; en ese entonces pregónó “Esta campaña que estamos emprendiendo no se ganará con discursos – sólo se ganará con el apoyo de los aliados, colaboradores y un fuerte compromiso.” León le agradeció por apoyar el proyecto y dijo que sus palabras de hace dos años eran “proféticas.” Adams respondió agradeciendo a los trabajadores por tener fe en sí mismos y en su sindicato.

Trabajadores jugaron un papel clave

La parte principal del evento fueron los cuentos cortos que los trabajadores compartieron acerca de las luchas que libraron durante los últimos dos años con tal de mejorar sus salarios y beneficios.

“Hace dos años, venimos aquí para hacer un plan para mejorar nuestros empleos. Establecimos una meta que algunos – incluso algunos dirigentes de los sindicatos de Teamsters y Maquinistas – dijeron que no se podía cumplir porque era “exigir demasiado y demasiado pronto.”

Josefa Solano de BLT en Fremont explicó cómo se convirtieron en el primer grupo de trabajadores del reciclaje en ganar aumentos y beneficios conforme a la nueva norma.

Dinora Jordan, empleada de Waste Management, relató cómo llevaron la lucha larga y difícil pero que finalmente llevó al triunfo contra una de las compañías de recolección de basura más grandes del mundo.

Jose Gomez de ACI explicó cómo los trabajadores superaron los salarios mínimos, la falta de beneficios, la falta de sindicato y la falta de respeto para los empleados inmigrantes, ya que ahora están negociando un contrato con la ayuda de ILWU que cumple con la Norma de Trabajadores de Reciclaje del Condado de Alameda que requiere



Josefa Solano, trabajadora del reciclaje de BLT, compartió las estrategias que se siguieron en la campaña para lograr el éxito y conseguir la norma salarial.

que los “sorters” ganen \$20.94 para 2019, y además reciban seguro médico familiar asequible.

Apoyo de la comunidad

“No podíamos haber hecho todo esto sin ayuda,” dijo Pedro Sánchez, que afirmó que el salón estaba lleno de compañeros apoyaron la causa por mejores condiciones para los recicladores. Un grupo de invitados recibieron un reconocimiento y agradecimiento especial – un cartelón conmemorativo enmarcado y firmado por los trabajadores del reciclaje.

Acción legal

La abogada Emily Maglio del bufete jurídico de Leonard Carder fue reconocida por la ayuda prestada a los trabajadores de ACI para que ganaran su demanda colectiva, ya que recientemente se resolvió con el pago de \$1.1 millón, lo cual proveerá a los trabajadores salarios atrasados significativos. A las trabajadoras Ignacia García, María Granados Flores y Griselda Mora que participaron en la demanda se les dio un reconocimiento especial y se les agradeció su valentía.

Líderes políticos

La alcaldesa de Alameda, Trish Spencer, fue felicitada por escuchar las preocupaciones de los trabajadores del reciclaje que se presentaron varias veces ante el Consejo Municipal para ponerlos al día y pedir apoyo para lograr mejoras en ACI, empresa que provee servicios de reciclaje a los residentes de Alameda.

El reciclador Ruben Ramos presentó el vice alcalde Vinnie Bacon y le dio las gracias por asumir el papel de líder en cuanto a la protección del medioambiente y la promoción de la justicia laboral. Fremont fue el primer municipio en el condado de Alameda que ayudó a los trabajadores a lograr la nueva norma de salarios y beneficios.

Se felicitó a Dan Kalb, Consejal de la ciudad de Oakland, por apoyar la lucha por mejores servicios de reciclaje para los residentes de Oakland y por ayudar a los trabajadores a conseguir mejores condiciones de trabajo.

Líderes locales

Se le rindió homenaje a Ruth Abbe por su servicio en la campaña, incluso su trabajo en el Comité Directivo de la Campaña de Reciclaje Sostenible. Abbe también jugó el rol de líder en el Comité de Cero Basura de Sierra Club y la asesoría que brindó a los trabajadores fue sumamente valiosa. El Centro de Salud Ambiental también ofreció apoyo medioambiental a la campaña.

La organizadora de la comunidad, Brooke Anderson, afiliada a la red Movement Generation, corrió hacia el podio para recibir su premio por apoyar la campaña de los trabajadores del reciclaje. Ella ha organizado talleres de entrenamiento para los trabajadores acerca de las bases económicas del ramo del reciclaje, y participa en el Comité Directivo de la Campaña de Reciclaje Sostenible. Apoyo comunitario adicional fue ofrecido por la Alianza por la Economía Sostenible East Bay en Oakland (EBASE).

La trabajadora del reciclaje, Mirella Jauragui, felicitó al personal del Programa de Salud Ocupacional de la Universidad de California (LOHP) por ofrecer excelentes sesiones de entrenamiento sobre la salud y seguridad industrial a cientos de trabajadores del reciclaje. Los empleados de LOHP, Suzanne Terán, Dinorah Barton-Antonio y Valeria Velásquez fueron reconocidos por su trabajo importante. La organización Worksafe! prestó apoyo adicional y defensa de la seguridad en el centro de trabajo.

Grupos religiosos

Para cerrar, se presentaron los últimos honores al Pastor Pablo Morataya de la Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana de Oakland. Como un aliado clave de la campaña en apoyo a los trabajadores, el pastor Morataya patrocinó el primer evento importante de enlace con la comunidad en noviembre de 2013, en el que los líderes políticos de Oakland prometieron su apoyo para mejorar las condiciones de los trabajadores del reciclaje. Él también ha sido un firme defensor de los trabajadores inmigrantes de ACI

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Small port workers win big in Anacortes

A small group of maintenance workers at the Port of Anacortes in Washington State won a big victory in early February when they finalized their long battle to secure an ILWU contract and join Local 25.

It began in January 2013 when a group of workers sat down together for the first time together at the ILWU Local 25 hall. As long-time Port employees and residents, workers had watched their workplace become ever more chaotic and intolerable in terms of management style.

Executive Director Bob Hyde and Deputy Director Chris Johnson's management team was issuing orders to employees while ignoring worker concerns, constructive criticism and suggestions. Management kept employee paychecks flat and substandard – while executive salaries became bloated. Managers became increasingly incompetent when it came to securing the Port's longstanding sources of industrial revenue.

With help from Local 25 Business Agent Tyler Ashbach and ILWU International Organizer Jon Brier, three maintenance department workers—Dave Bost, Mike Wray and Ole Knudson—formed an organizing committee to begin the process of winning union recognition and a fair contract.

Because the Port workers were public employees at an agency with a long history of community support that was overseen by an elected Commission, it seemed like forming a union and bargaining a contract was likely to be relatively simple. The process required workers to file for an election with the Washington State

Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC), then sit down to work out contract details with managers.

Instead, Port workers discovered that Hyde and Johnson were willing to violate workers' rights and state laws repeatedly while wasting huge sums of taxpayer dollars in a clear effort to break the union. As soon as workers filed their PERC petition for a union election, Hyde sprang into action, illegally forcing workers to remove ILWU buttons before the vote was held.

Despite the intimidation, Dave, Mike and Ole quickly filed charges with the state, and employees went on to win the election in the fall of 2013.

The five new Local 25 members formed a bargaining committee. They quickly received strong volunteer support from Pacific Coast Pensioner Association President Rich Austin, Sr., who helped the group prepare contract proposals and sit down for the first time with management. Meanwhile, manager Hyde and Johnson retained a union-busting legal consultant to stall the bargaining progress as officials ramped-up pressure to intimidate and wear down workers.

From late 2013 into spring 2014, managers brazenly flaunted state labor laws and aggressively targeted the new union. Management refused to bargain before changing health plans, refused light-duty work to a worker recovering from serious illness and eliminated parking options for maintenance employees. They even tried to prevent workers from testifying to state PERC investigators at a hearing concerning management law-breaking.

While weathering these attacks and filing charge after charge with PERC, the bargaining committee pushed hard on management to bargain fairly. Local

19 Labor Relations Committee Chair Rich Austin, Jr. volunteered critical assistance by offering to lead the negotiating effort, despite already carrying a heavy load of responsibilities at Local 19 and the region.

By the summer of 2014, it was clear that the fight for a contract could only be won by first building power on the job, in the streets and at the Port Commission. It was equally clear that simply filing legal charges with the state labor commission would not be enough to compel the Port to act fairly. But when PERC ruled for union members by concluding that Hyde had broken the law when he ordered workers to remove ILWU buttons and union media releases, it boosted morale and added credibility for the workers' campaign.

From July through October, Local 25 members joined with other union sisters and brothers, plus local area residents to pack the next six Port Commission meetings. At each meeting they flooded the public comment periods, expressing outrage at Port managers for violating state labor laws while urging the Commission to hold management accountable.

Speakers at the Commission included members of Local 25's longshore division, the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, Skagit Valley Labor Democrats, Carpenters Locals 70 and 756, Fire Fighters Local 1537, Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, IBEW Local 191, Laborers Local 292, and SEIU Local 925. Letters of support for the maintenance workers were sent to the Commission from officials at ILWU Canada, United Steel Workers Local 12-591 and Washington State Representative Kristine Lytton. Farmworkers on strike at nearby Sakuma Brothers

Farms helped mobilize turnout and sent letters to the Commissioners.

At the same time, community activists organized picket lines in late summer and early fall at the Port's main break-bulk loading operation. ILWU Local 25 longshore members honored the lines both times, which delayed operations including the transfer of industrial coke. Maintenance workers joined these community supporters in highly visible leafleting and banner actions at some of the biggest annual Port events, passing out hundreds of leaflets and engaging community members to contact Commissioners.

In November, the coordinated pressure from members, unions, community groups, and residents—combined with the failure of Hyde and Johnson to secure a new industrial coke contract—forced Commissioners to take decisive action. Hyde was forced to resign by the Commission on November 6 and Johnson's position was eliminated a month later. Commissioners announced a new interim Executive Director was being recruited. By the end of the year, Commissioners selected former Director John Hachey for the interim position, who Local 25 and other stakeholders viewed as reputable, competent and fair, based on his past tenure.

In just under one month of bargaining with the new management team, Local 25 maintenance employees reached a Tentative Agreement on January 22 with the Port. It included important job rights, including a "just cause" requirement for termination, progressive discipline, grievance and arbitration, and seniority for awarding promotions and shifts. Also included were strong safety and health pro-

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New Zealand dockers unanimously ratify new contract

Members of the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) voted in mid-February to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement with the Ports of Auckland, Limited (POAL).

MUNZ National President Garry Parsloe reported that union members had voted unanimously in favor of the agreement.

The new contract was reached after a bitter struggle between MUNZ and the POAL. The company proposed a "restructuring" plan in late 2011 that called for replacing union workers with casual employees.

By early March of 2012, POAL announced plans to fire 292 union dockworkers. Within days, thousands of union members and supporters were marching through the streets of Auckland, including members of the ILWU and Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). Strong global solidarity and support was also provided by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).



Northwest solidarity for New Zealand dockers: Members of Locals 19, 52, 92 and Pensioners joined coast-wide protests at New Zealand consulates in March of 2012.

"We pledged to have ILWU boots on the ground within 72-hours of the company's threat to fire dockworkers, and longshore locals delivered," said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, who requested the "emergency mobilization" to support MUNZ workers.

In addition to worker delegations that flew to New Zealand, ILWU members organized solidarity protests in front of New Zealand consulates and port offices in Los Angeles, Oakland, Portland, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

In December of 2012, the com-

pany was fined \$40,000 for hiring strike breakers during the dispute.

"Solidarity makes a difference," said McEllrath, "and the MUNZ settlement is another good example.

MUNZ National President Garry Parsloe described the agreement as a positive step for workers.

ILWU members continue holiday giving tradition

[Editor's note: due to expanded longshore contract coverage, we were unable to run this article until now.]

Despite the ongoing battle for a fair longshore contract, ILWU members, pensioners and auxiliary clubs organized generous toy drives and donated their time and money to local charity groups to help struggling families last holiday season. Several thousand families up and down the coast had a happier Christmas last year because of the generosity of members and the spirit of solidarity and giving that is core value of the ILWU.

Southern California Children's Christmas Party

The 2014 Southern California ILWU Children's Christmas Party helped approximately 3,000 kids have a happy holiday season. The holiday events committee partners with local non-profits to identify families in the area who may be in need of some assistance. Volunteers began preparations in the early morning of December 16. ILWU volunteers fill the ILWU Memorial Hall with rows of toys and sports equipment. Children were allowed to pick a toy of their choice and were treated to cookies, punch, face painting and a visit from Santa.

"The important thing is to be consistent," said Lisa Tonson, Local 13's Holiday Event Committee Chair. "Even though we may have our own battles going on right now, we need to make sure we continue to give back generously to our community."

Locals 13, 26, 63, 94, the Federated Auxiliary 8, Southern California Pensioners, Longshoremen Memorial Association and the Local 63 Memorial Association all made this year's holiday party possible. The Holiday Events Committee works year round to plan and organize the holiday charity events.

Bay Area toy drive

Local 10 and the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA) hosted a Christmas Party ILWU families. There were generous servings of food, sweet treats, face-painters, caricature portraits, and balloon artists. Santa Claus was the most

popular attraction, with children lining up to tell him their Christmas wishes. A large team of volunteers made the event possible, coordinated by Chris Christensen of the Bay Area Longshoreman's Memorial Association (BALMA).

Donations for the Firefighters Toy Program were gathered at Local 10's hall during the month of December. The success of the event was made possible by the many contributions from the members of Local 10, 34, 75, 91 and Bay Area Pensioners. They also collected donations for Toolworks, a local charity that provides basic toiletries that help homeless and low-income individuals maintain a clean and professional appearance for job interviews.

Local 34 also donated to Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army. The volunteers who helped to coordinate those efforts were Jacqueline Peralta, Kevin Gibbons and Allen Fung.

Local 91 Secretary-Treasurer Ed Capizano helped to organize a toy and fund drive for the victims of a wildfire that devastated the town of Weed, CA last fall. Capizano saw the destruction first-hand while on a motorcycle ride that took him through the town. He was moved to act after seeing the destruction that left many residents homeless and without shelter. Local 91 members raised thousands of dollars and purchased food, sundries and camping supplies to provide temporary shelter to those who lost their houses during the fire. They also raised money to help provide Christmas toys and clothing to children from 28 families.

Local 19 Christmas for Kids

Seattle's Local 19 supported several charities that help children and youth in need including Harborview Medical Center, Teen Feed (University District), Holiday Magic and Tree House. The volunteer committee included Chairperson Christmas for Kids. Dan Elverston, Assistant, Christian Kirk, volunteer, Keas Mueller, Jim Kopf, Neil Leadley, Marty Mezich, Kelli Picinich, Rocky Carrol and Tony Cappiello.

Tacoma toy drive

Because of the generosity of the Local 23 and Local 98 members, pensioners members the Tacoma holiday toy drive was a success and over 750 children had a great holiday season.



Helping hands: Local 23 members raised money and donated their time to St. Leos Hospitality Kitchen. They helped to feed the hungry on Christmas and throughout the year.



Photo by Michelle Meese

Auxiliary volunteers: The hard work Auxiliary 8 volunteers helped to make the Southern California party possible.



Tacoma Toy drive: ILWU members in Tacoma set a new record in this year's fundraising effort with \$34,300 in donations to purchase toys for children this holiday season.

Members donated over \$34,300 which was a new holiday fundraising record. The toy drive committee purchased toys, bikes and jackets for the kids at a local, union Fred Meyer store with discounts on top of the sales to make our donations go even further.

Local 23 also has an annual holiday school gift-card program during the holidays covering 17 local school districts including 158 local elementary schools. A school counselor or a teacher at each school recommends a hard working student who is in need to receive a \$200 gift card to a Fred Meyer store. A total of \$32,000 worth of gift cards were donated for this program.

Local 23 members, pensioners and friends also volunteered on Christmas to help prepare and serve dinner to people in need at the Tacoma St. Leos Hospitality Kitchen. Local 23 donates over \$12,000 throughout the year to this program and Local 23 volunteers serve food there monthly.

Local 23 also donated \$3,000 to support a local backpack program, Team Backpacks-Forgotten Few. The program provides homeless teen students in the Tacoma Public High Schools with a backpack including special gifts for the students like socks, gloves, school supplies, personal items and gift cards.

Oregon Labor of Love

Locals 8, 40, 92, and the Inland-boatmen's Union (IBU) all contributed through the Local 8 Credit Union to the Oregon Labor Council's "Unions Labor of Love" which teamed up with Presents from Partners for a holiday toy drive to benefit local children. ILWU members donated 90 bikes and many other toys and helped to coordinate the pickup and delivery of the toys to the program. Local 12 in North Bend, OR, with the help of Auxiliary 1, organized a toy drive in conjunction with the local Fire Department and a food drive to benefit Maslow House.



Photo by Michelle Meese

Hall of toys: Memorial Hall in Wilmington was filled with rows of toys for the Children's Holiday Party.

Small port workers win big in Anacortes

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tions including the right to refuse unsafe work; controls over subcontracting; average wage increases of 10-15 percent and affordable family health care benefits. In early February, Local 25 members voted unanimously to ratify the agreement.

Further vindication came when the union won a PERC charge against Port managers who denied light duty work to member Dave Bost, who is being compensated for lost wages.

The ultimate victory came on February 5, 2015 when Port maintenance workers and community allies attended the Commission meeting where the new contract was unanimously approved. Workers were flanked by sister and brother union members and commu-

nity supporters who had been there repeatedly during the past eight months – along with volunteer Bargaining Committee chair Rich Austin, Jr. and Local 25 Business Agent Tyler Ashbach.

“We couldn’t have won without all the help from union and community supporters,” said Dave Bost.

“It took much longer and was a lot harder than we expected, but in the end we accomplished almost everything we had hoped to,” said Mike Wray

“At the Port there’s now much better management that is more respectful towards us and more accountable to the public,” said Ole Knudson. “We want the Port be a successful enterprise that serves the community, and we’re proud to be part of that effort.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 13: Denny P. Directo; Gunnar M. Anderson; Harry W. Dong; Gwendolyn J. Scott; James M. Bixler; Rick D. Mc Cray; **Local 19:** David J. Gacek; Brad G. Ramels; Roy J. Ballard; **Local 23:** Richard F. Kancianich; **Local 24:** Charles H. Revel; **Local 34:** William M. Ross; **Local 46:** Luis C. Castellanos; **Local 63:** Maria G. Orbillo; Gloria A. Charles; Thomas L. Wimbish;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Harold B. Utting; Richard Unger; Russell I. Rollins; **Local 10:** Major James; Clarence Harrison; Joe Mosley Jr.; Manuel Frese; Harry Simon Jr.; Samson Kamekona; **Local 12:** Richard Purcell; Antone Huber; James A. Gravelle; **Local 13:** Francis A. Mc Cabe; Edward Gutierrez; William S. Heston; G. G. Scognamillo; Henry Munoz; Thad Malone, Jr.; **Local 19:** Roger Ulrich; Gary A. Strong; **Local 21:** Charles J. Ford; **Local 23:** Richard

Kohut; **Local 34:** Harold Yanow; Richard H. Schaefer; William K. Yray (Rose Marie); Thomas L. Moore Peter N. Richardson; **Local 47:** Jesse W. Jackson; **Local 63:** Edmond Blau; William E. Cary; Richard J. Stamper; **Local 92:** John L. Burk (Marianne); **Local 94:** Jewel Langford; Richard Monje (Marina); Raymond L. De Backer;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Loretta Myers; Dorothy H. Hemming; **Local 10:** Susan Langlands; Faye G. Wilson;

Kumiko Acevedo; Louise Figlia; Millie E. Lyons; **Local 13:** Elisa G. Ruiz; Harriette Buss; Herminia Andrade; **Local 24:** Ellen G. Mc Fadden; **Local 25:** Loa D. Haley; **Local 26:** Mary J. Fox; **Local 29:** Ramona J. Castillo; **Local 34:** Arva L. Robinson; **Local 52:** Violette Gradias; **Local 54:** Lois M. Walker; Norma Jean Tinsley; **Local 63:** Elizabeth M. Brenden; **Local 92:** Barbara J. Fuller; **Local 98:** Ruth A. Alexander;

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Recycling workers celebrate two years of success

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in the Sierra Club’s Zero Waste Committee and has been providing workers with invaluable advice. Other environmental support for the campaign has been offered by the Center for Environmental Health.

Community organizer Brooke Anderson, affiliated with the Movement Generation network, ran to the podium to accept her award for supporting the recycling worker campaign. She has organized workshops to train workers about the economics of the recycling industry, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Campaign for Sustainable Recycling. Other community support has been provided by Oakland’s East Bay Alliance for a

Sustainable Economy (EBASE).

Recycler Mirella Jauragui congratulated staff from the University of California’s Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) for providing excellent health and safety training sessions to hundreds of recycling workers. LOHP staffers Suzanne Teran, Dinorah Barton-Antonio and Valeria Velasquez were recognized for their important work. Additional workplace safety advocacy and support has been provided by the Worksafe! organization.

Faith community

The final honors were reserved for Pastor Pablo Morataya of the Primera Iglesia Prebisteriana Hispana in Oakland. A key ally in the campaign to help

workers, Pastor Morataya hosted the campaign’s first major community outreach event in November, 2013, where political leaders from Oakland agreed to pledge their support for improving conditions for recycling workers. He has also been a strong advocate for immigrant workers at ACI who were threatened with discrimination and firings. Other important support for ACI workers from the faith community has been provided by Rev. Deborah Lee of the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights. Other faith community leadership for the recycler’s campaign has been provided by Rev. Kurt Kuhwald, Kristi Laughlin and Servant B.K. Woodson of the Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy (FAME).

The afternoon event concluded with music – featuring the beautiful voices of Pedro Sanchez and Gustavo Nuñez, who also played keyboard. Family members of Rosa Delia Pérez provided the “DJ” service and more music. A buffet dinner was provided for all family members and guests.

Organizing continues

ACI worker José Delgadillo probably summed up the feelings of many in the room, when he said: “All of us who work at ACI have seen how much Local 6 and the ILWU have done to help us. We can now see that a better life is possible – not just for us, but for other recyclers who can win if we help them.”

Los trabajadores del reciclaje celebraron dos años de éxitos

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que fueron amenazados con la discriminación y despidos. Otro apoyo importante para los trabajadores ACI por parte de la comunidad religiosa fue brindada por la Reverenda Deborah Lee de la Coalición Interreligiosa por los Derechos de Inmigrantes. Otros líderes religiosos que apoyaron

la campaña de los recicladores fueron el Reverendo Kurt Kuhwald, Kristi Laughlin y Servant B.K. Woodson de la Alianza Religiosa por una Economía Ética (FAME).

El evento se cerró con música – destacándose las voces inolvidables de Pedro Sánchez y Gustavo Nuñez, que también tocó el teclado. Los

miembros de la familia de Rosa Delia Pérez ofrecieron los servicios del “DJ” y música adicional. Se ofreció una cena estilo bufet para todos los invitados y familiares.

Es probable que José Delgadillo, empleado de ACI, haya resumido los sentimientos de muchos de los que se encontraban en el salón cuando dijo:

“Todos nosotros que trabajamos en ACI hemos visto todo lo que el Local 6 y ILWU han hecho por ayudarnos. Ahora vemos que es posible tener una mejor vida – no sólo para nosotros, sino para otros recicladores que pueden triunfar si nosotros les ayudamos.”