



THE DISPATCHER

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Photo by Amanda Cowan-The Columbian

ILWU and community coalition challenge dangerous crude oil terminal in Vancouver, WA

Members of ILWU Local 4 have joined forces with community and environmental allies to stop a scheme by big oil that could ruin their port, close the Columbia River and turn their city into a disaster area.

Power play

Documents show that officials from the Port of Vancouver reached a deal in secret with oil companies to build the nation's largest oil-to-marine export terminal without first holding public hearings on the controversial and dangerous proposal.

Four trains a day

Big oil wants to bring four "unit trains" a day to the Port of Vancouver. Each of the mile-long trains would carry 100 or more tank cars filled with highly volatile and explosive crude from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota. Each of the cars carry 30,000

gallons of highly flammable crude as the trains travel through dozens of towns before reaching the west coast.

Possible disaster

The possibility of a catastrophic disaster that could wipeout parts of Vancouver and other town became more real on July 6, 2013. That's when a train carrying Bakken crude oil derailed and exploded in a cataclysmic firestorm that destroyed much of Lac-Megantic, a town in Quebec, Canada. The disaster killed 47 residents and injured many others.

"Bringing this stuff into our town is just irresponsible and too dangerous," says Local 4's Cager Clabaugh, who has told Port Commissioners that "the risk isn't worth the reward."

He notes that Local 4 members opposed plans for an oil export terminal in their town before the 2013 disaster in Quebec, and have strengthened their resolve since.

"Before that disaster, oil industry

lobbyists were assuring our Port Commissioners that this stuff was safe and there was nothing to worry about," said Clabaugh. "They changed their tune after the Lac-Megantic disaster, but are still saying it's safe enough and refuse to drop their dangerous plan."

Many other incidents

A parade of crude-by rail calamities has hit communities in North America. Six months after the Lac-Megantic inferno, another fiery rail crash occurred in Casselton, North Dakota where a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) train carrying Bakken crude exploded after a collision. That North Dakota accident was the fourth major North American derailment of crude-carrying trains during a six-month period in 2013. A total of 24 serious oil train crashes have occurred in the U.S. since 2006, with five crashes so far in 2015, according to the Associated Press.

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

The 2015 Federated Auxiliaries Officer's Travel Fund Fundraiser Quilt Committee would like to congratulate Auxiliary 35 from Tacoma, WA for winning the first Fundraiser Quilt Raffle.

We would also like to clarify some information printed in the May issue of the Dispatcher. The quilt was not made up entirely of t-shirts. The majority of the blocks were individually designed and intricately pieced appliqued, machine embroidered or screen printed, including one block that was sewn completely by hand with a needle and thread.

We would like to thank all those who spent time and money creating each beautiful block and we hope the next quilt will be as successful.

2015 Fundraiser Quilt Committee

Dear Editor,

On September 13, Eureka's Longshore Local 14 was privileged to be the lead sponsor for the newest and largest golf tournament ever held at Eureka's Municipal Golf Course. The event, Military Appreciation Day, helps servicemen fighting overseas, with donations from several businesses that make contributions to this event.

Roger Massey, a Marine Veteran himself, spearheaded the event with representatives from the Coast Guard, Navy, & Air Force attending. They presented the Colors while the National Anthem was played in the background. These veterans do many things besides just marching in parades. They honor veterans at funerals where they fire three volleys over a casket to Taps. They then fold the flag and present it to the family. So far they've done this 54 times this year.

The entry fees were donated to the Marine Corps Reserve's Honor Flight and Toys for Tots. The tournament was followed by a lunch and prizes were donated by approximately 40 businesses. Prizes donated such as a fireproof

safe from Security Lock & Safe, a Weber barbecue from Shafer's Ace Hardware, a large box of cigars from John's Cigars, were just a few of the items donated.

Eureka's ILWU Local 14 donated a check to the winning team along with a first place plaque. Local 14 Secretary Treasurer Perry Bressman presented the prize money. The winning team members were Chaz Jensen, Greg Coleman Jim Anderson & Roger Harwood. Roger Massey presented the first place plaque.

Local 14 takes great pleasure in sponsoring such worthwhile events and takes pride in spreading good-will among workers and people of all walks of life. Special thanks go to Roger Massey, Dave Lovfald and the Longshoremen from Eureka's Local 14.

**Perry Bressman, Secretary/Treasurer
Local 14 Eureka**



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



New leaders take union oath: International President Bob McEllrath (right) administered the ILWU oath of office on October 5 to members of the union's Executive Board, and to new Coast Committeemen, Cameron Williams and Frank Ponce De Leon. Outgoing members were acknowledged and thanked for their years of service. The new Board elected four Trustees who are responsible for reviewing and reporting on the union's finances: Jim Daw, Michael Dela Cruz, Sean Farley and Mike Podue. New Executive Board members include Julie Brady, Doug Cabading, Michael Dela Cruz, Sean Farley, Dane Jones, Lynden Koerte, Dean McGrath, Avril Nichols, Rainiero Salas, Nelson Rita, Kelly Ruidas and Chuck Wendt.



New Coast Committeemen: Local 19 President Cameron Williams and Frank Ponce De Leon assumed office on October 5th. Williams replaces Leal Sundet who served 9 years; Ponce De Leon is replacing Ray Ortiz, Jr., who served 18 years. The team is responsible for managing daily affairs of the Longshore Division as part of the Longshore Division's Coast Committee led by International President McEllrath and Vice President Familathe.

DISPATCHER

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Local 13 member Vivian Malauulu announces candidacy for Long Beach Community College District Board

Vivian Malauulu, a Local 13 registered longshore has announced her candidacy for the Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees. If elected in next April's municipal election, she will represent West Long Beach on the Board.

Malauulu is also a longtime educator who has been teaching college, community college, and high school students in the local community for almost 20 years.

She has already assembled an impressive list of endorsements including ILWU Locals 13, 26, 63, 65, 68, 94, the SoCal District Council and the SoCal Pensioners Club, the full and part-time faculty associations and clas-

sified staff at Long Beach City College, State Senators Isadore Hall and Tony Mendoza, former State Senator Betty Karnette, and the Teamsters union.

"My substantial work in education and significant involvement in our community have given me valuable experience and insightful knowledge that will add a fresh new perspective to the Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees," said Malauulu. "My goal is to truly represent everyone's best interest on the Board, not just the interest of a select few."

She has a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from California State University, Northridge; a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills; and several teaching credentials.

Prior to joining the faculty at Long Beach City College, she worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District for almost 20 years teaching high school English and Theater. She served as an Activities Director, Career Adviser, and Girls' Track and Field Coach. Her first teaching job was at Banning High School in Wilmington, her alma mater. She has also taught at Carson High School, Los Angeles Harbor College, and California State University, Dominguez Hills.

She is a Commissioner for the City of Long Beach, and presently serves as Chair of the City's Commission on Youth and Children, and as a member of the Board of Managers for the Greater Long Beach YMCA Early Childhood Development Program.



Vivian Malauulu, Local 13

ILWU members tell Oakland City Council to kill coal terminal plan



Coal isn't the answer: Local 10 Business Agent Derrick Muhammad urged the Oakland City Council to reject a proposed coal terminal.

An overflow crowd at the Oakland City Council meeting on September 15 heard ILWU leaders taking passionate positions against a controversial coal export terminal that developers and coal industry lobbyists want to build on a private dock with public subsidies. Six hundred citizens submitted requests to speak at the hearing which began at 4pm and went late into the night.

Developer hiding

Master developer Phil Tagami was noticeably absent from the public hearing on the coal export terminal which has become a centerpiece of his redevelopment scheme that promised to transform Oakland's former Oakland Army base into a mix of modern warehouses, intermodal hub and a "state of the art" privately-owned break-bulk dock.

Jobs Promised

To win crucial political support, Tagami claimed his project would create thousands of good-paying jobs, and told community and labor groups that most of those jobs would be union. But many of the groups negotiating with Tagami were unfamiliar with industry employment practices, which may have allowed the developer to use inflated and unrealistic numbers. Now Tagami has hitched his project's to a controversial coal export terminal, and suggested that the entire project and thousands of jobs depend on the coal deal.

Coal lobbyists & lawyers

Instead of appearing in person at the September hearing, Tagami hired a slew of well-dressed lawyers, lobbyists, businessmen and preachers to make his case for the coal terminal. Lawyers made thinly-veiled threats that lawsuits would be filed if the developers didn't get their way. One Washington D.C. lawyer declared that the city had no authority to regulate or limit railroads shipping coal to the export terminal.

Buying turnout

But despite hiring big guns, Tagami's team had a hard time finding actual "concerned citizens" who supported the coal terminal, so they resorted to paying people to fill seats and wear t-shirts. The plan backfired when news reporters interviewed apparent "coal supporters" in the audience who quickly admitted they only came because they were paid. Some even expressed confusion about which side they were supposed to support.

Buying loyalty

The pay-to-play tactics included generous "offers" from the coal lobbyists to local churches and environmental groups – in exchange for backing the coal terminal. A team of former executives from the Port of Oakland reportedly offered church leaders 7 cents for every ton of coal that would be exported; environmental groups were offered a more generous 12 cents per ton. The environmental groups declined the offer; while some church leaders apparently accepted and attended the hearing to praise the proposal.

Labor unity & exceptions

The Alameda County Central Labor Council told City officials that unions had just passed a strong resolution opposing the coal export terminal, because it would provide few jobs, threaten nearby residents and harm efforts to control climate change. Two unions, the Teamsters and Laborers, tried but failed to stop the labor body from adopting the coal terminal resolution. Both were told by the developer that the good union jobs being promised could not be delivered without the coal terminal. Teamster officials joined developer Phil Tagami in avoiding the public hearing, but lobbied for the coal project behind the scenes.

Broken promises

Developer Phil Tagami was singing a different tune several years ago when he was desperate to secure political support from labor unions, community and environmental groups for his development plan. He promised groups that coal would not be part of his project, then used their

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ILWU opposition: Local 10 member Katrina Booker and BALMA President Christopher Christensen said that concerns about coal were shared by many residents.

ILWU member leads effort to help others left behind on harbor area streets

Local 26 member David Gonzales is leading an impressive but quiet effort with other volunteers in Wilmington who serve hundreds of meals each week to homeless and hungry people in the harbor area.

“I know what it’s like to be on the streets because I was there once myself,” says Gonzales, tracing his ordeal that began when he was physically and mentally abused almost daily by a stepfather “from the time I was 3 until I was 13.” When he was able to fight back, his mother said he’d have to leave the house, so he ended up in Banning Park. Gonzales tried to continue at school while he was living on the streets, but eventually dropped out and became involved with drugs and gangs.

“I can see now that the gang was important to me because I didn’t have a father, and it filled a need for a while,” he says. “Gang life gave me some security, but also filled my mind with distrust of anyone who wasn’t exactly like us. After years of “gangbanging” and coloring much of his skin with tattoos, he began to look for a way out of his dependency on drugs and the street life, but getting out was difficult. That’s where the union came in.

“I’m from a 4th generation Wilmington family here, so I knew how important the union was to the community, but I never realized that it would be the thing that helped me turn my life around.”

Gonzales found work as a guard with ILWU Local 26, providing security on the docks at the ports of LA and Long Beach. What he found was a surprising degree of support from co-workers who made a difference in his life.

“When my baby girl was just 9 months old, she had a life-threatening heart defect that required a dangerous surgery.” Gonzales said Local 26 union steward Mark Reyes offered to become her godfather, something “nobody had ever done for me and my family before.”

A similar act of kindness and compassion happened several years ago when he ended a difficult personal relationship and took full responsibility for his 7 children.

“It was holiday time and one of the union sisters at work, Christina Le Blanc who’s the Lead Sargent at Hanjin, asked me how I was planning to celebrate Christmas. I told her that it was going to be a little rough that year but that we’d be fine. She went out on her own and asked the other guards to pitch-in, and they made it possible for my kids to have something special during that difficult time.”

As the life of gang-banging and drug addiction was left behind, Gonzales says he now lives his life in recovery following a simple philosophy of what he calls “paying it forward.”

It started with an inspiration to buy boxes of frozen hamburger patties that he could grill for hungry people still stuck on the street. He quickly found others willing to help and says many of those volunteers were once living on the streets themselves during a difficult

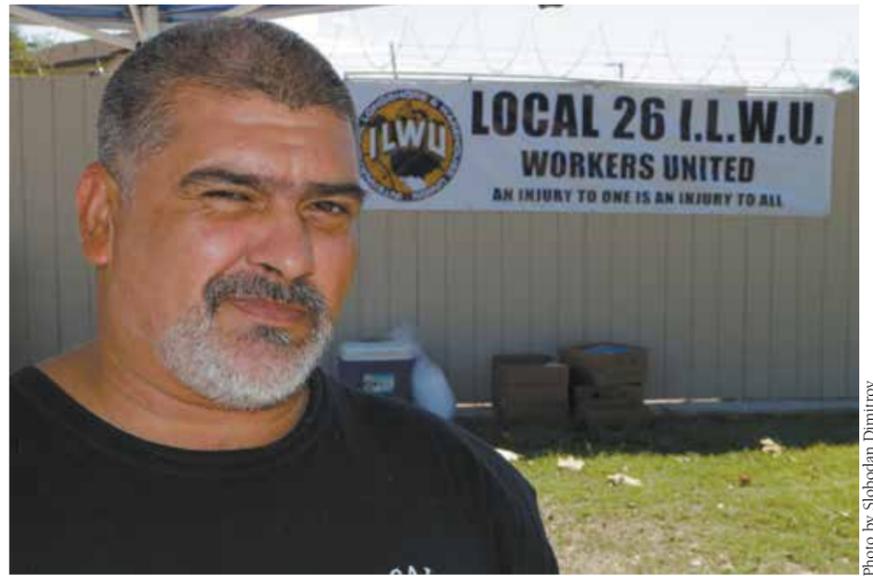


Photo by Slobodan Dimitrov

Second chance: The ILWU gave David Gonzales the opportunity to turn his life around. He helped form the volunteer organization Heart of the Harbor to help those living through hard times.



Photo by Slobodan Dimitrov



Photo by Slobodan Dimitrov

Heart of the Harbor volunteers regularly feed the hungry from Wilmington to Los Angeles’s Skid Row.



Photo by Slobodan Dimitrov

stretch. “We know what it’s like to be out there.”

Using Facebook, Gonzales has mustered a volunteer crew that prepares hundreds of sack lunches every Thursday, then distributes the meals to people living in the margins from Wilmington to LA’s Skid Row.

“We made 490 sack lunches last week and could have done a lot more but we just ran out of time,” he says, noting that groups and individuals are donating everything from bread and lunch meat, to their own labor. “We don’t have a formal non-profit group, but we do get the job done because everyone pitches-in to help the group that we call: ‘Heart of the Harbor/ Helping Those in Need.’”

The group also helps with special needs or particular requests, such as one for diapers and wipes that was recently fulfilled with an online request to volunteers.

The biggest feeding effort so far took place on Saturday, October 3rd at Wilmington’s “Greenbelt Park,” between Watson and “L” Street. Volunteers began arriving at 7am to cook and prepare a hot lunch for hundreds from 12 noon onward. Among the many helpers were several of Gonzales’ seven children who are regular volunteers. The first volunteer to join Gonzales was Nikki Fabela, Wilmington resident and daughter of Local 13’s Paul Fabel. “She was the first person who said she’d help me,” said Gonzales, “and her gesture of kindness is something I’ll never forget.”

“We know there are at least 8 people who have gotten off the streets and turned their lives around because of our help,” says Gonzales, who points to the turnaround in his own life as proof that dramatic changes are possible.

Gonzales says that their project is open to everyone and is not part of a church, but he says they do try to pause at some point during the busy volunteer times to give thanks and reflect on the pain and suffering faced by so many in the world – and how volunteers can make a difference with love and action.

Gonzales emphasizes that their group is eager to partner with individuals and like-minded organizations who can provide resources such as transitional housing, mental health services and recovery/rehabilitation support.

“My 17 years in the union have provided me with so much support that made my turnaround and recovery possible,” he says, adding that it has also expanded his perspectives, noting that he’s been able to meet people from all over the world and get beyond the small-minded thinking and bigotry that came with life in a gang. “I now see that all of us have so much in common, instead of focusing on difference like I used to, about how people looked or talked. I am truly grateful to all of my union brothers and sisters who have shown me so much solidarity and positivity during my years on the waterfront.”

Dockworkers mobilize to help farmers & ranchers hurt by Washington state wildfires

Last year, farmers and ranchers in eastern Washington had few kind words for dockworkers who were stuck in a struggle with foreign-owned container companies that resulted in delays of agricultural exports.

Calling to help

"I got some angry calls at the beginning of the year – but I called those same people back in August and offered to help save their farms and ranches – and the response was just fantastic," said ILWU Local 23 President Dean McGrath. The union followed through on their pledge, delivering a caravan of cars and trucks over the Cascades that brought supplies and 16 volunteers to join the firefighting effort in Eastern Washington.

"We brought 650 'grab bags' filled with beef jerky, power bars, energy shot drinks and other stuff for the front-line firefighters," said McGrath, "but the union volunteers were the biggest boost."



Packing supplies: Local 19 members, friends and family helped gather supplies around Seattle for farmers and ranchers hurt by wildfire in eastern Washington State. Local 19 helped raise half of \$25,000 in donations for the effort.

Volunteers

The team of 16 volunteers helped move desperately needed supplies that helped firefighters battle wildfires burning almost 600,000 acres in central and eastern Washington.

"Longshore workers are experts when it comes to planning, logistics and how to move cargo efficiently and safely, so it was a perfect fit for us," said McGrath who spent days on the phone coordinating ILWU support with the firefighting effort.

A team of four longshore workers who left in mid-August were the first wave of volunteers who went to help farmers and ranchers. Longshoreman Bobby Bobber drove a water tanker for 15-hour shifts. Longshoremen Corey Chavez, Derick Phil and Stewie Crockett helped farmers rescue horses and livestock threatened by the fire.

Local 19 & 23 donations

Back home, longshore workers on the docks in Seattle and Tacoma helped raise a total of \$25,000 in donations. The contributions included funds from members, community groups and employers, all used to purchase badly



Near fire lines: Volunteers from Local 23 in Tacoma travelled into the smoke-filled eastern part of their state to deliver supplies, assist firefighters and help families in eastern Washington State. Top row, (L-R) James Pugh, James Pugh III, Brian Wiener, Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers, Perry Hopkins, Kevin Thompson, Matt Holtman, Dave Larson, Travis Stolter and Cary Harlow. Bottom row (L-R) Mark Shoemaker, John Orvella, Andy Upshaw, Dean McGrath and Perry Smith.

needed supplies that were delivered to the fire zone by longshore workers. The Tacoma Longshore Credit Union became a site for gathering donations and supplies in their area. Local 19 helped by gathering nearly half of the contributions from their region that paid for supplies to help firefighters and communities hurt by the fire. A \$2500 donation from Seattle's Total Terminals International was one of the many contributions.

Local 23 President Dean McGrath noted that Pasha Stevedoring & Terminals donated \$5000 to the cause. "We've been working together with Pasha and the Port to improve turn times for apple and hay shippers, so when they heard what we were doing, Pasha immediately stepped-up and offered to contribute."

Wood for winter heat

Now that fall has arrived, ILWU members continued their help by delivering truck loads of firewood to

families who depend on wood-burning stoves to heat their homes in the winter. Firewood in eastern Washington is now scarce, and most families lost all their wood that had been stored near homes.

Building new homes

With the fires finally extinguished, many farmers and ranchers will need to re-build the homes they lost, and not everyone had insurance. ILWU members will be part of a volunteer team that is being assembled to help with the rebuilding effort.

"In this kind of a crisis, farmers, ranchers and longshore workers are all just hard-working Americans trying to help each other," said Local 19 President Cam Williams.

"Working together and building relationships between the union and community is really important," added McGrath. "We need those relationships to be solid when the next crisis comes."

ILWU members mobilize to help Oakland residents

ILWU members have been volunteering to help residents living in Oakland's low-income neighborhoods. On Saturday morning October 3, a huge turnout of 130 ILWU members converged on Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood to help clean up the area plagued with illegal dumping of trash and debris from throughout the region.

The team consisted of 40 longshore workers who volunteered from Local 10 and another 90 members of Local 6 – mostly recycling workers, including dozens employed at Alameda County Industries who recently joined the union.

Volunteers donned gloves then walked the streets to attack piles of refuse. The results were impressive – 7 tons of trash, 102 old mattresses, three dead animals, plus countless discarded pieces of furniture, couches and old tires. City Council member Noel Gallo, who has led

weekly clean-ups in the neighborhood for years, thanked ILWU members for supporting the community-based effort. Gallo was also one of the first City Council members to help low-wage recycling workers win better pay and benefits.

Recycling outreach

Local 6 recycling workers have been helping another Oakland community service project that began last summer and is continuing this fall. The Northern California Recycling Association is undertaking a campaign to educate Oakland apartment residents about newly-available composting services. Volunteers from Local 6 and the Sierra Club are teaching tenants learn how to recycle their household green waste instead of putting it into the trash where it was buried in a landfill.

The Recycling Association was grateful for the union's help, declaring, "Our outreach efforts wouldn't have been nearly as successful without the support of the ILWU local 6.



ILWU strong: Over 100 ILWU members volunteered for a neighborhood clean-up in Oakland on Oct 3.

Your tenacity and steadfast commitment to the campaign have been and indispensable."

City Council member Noel Gallo encouraged the new outreach effort to be launched in his district where Spanish-speaking residents are the majority.

"For years, green waste recycling services were only available to wealthier homeowners in the hills, not our families living in the flats," said Gallo. "Your efforts are helping to correct that injustice by making the service available for all families in our community."

ILWU members join hundreds at “Days of Grace” march and conference in Charleston, South Carolina

Members from Locals 19 and 10 attended an important march and conference held in Charleston, South Carolina on September 5 and 6 – the city where 9 parishioners were brutally murdered by a racist at the city’s historic Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church on June 17.

Walter Scott murder

The Labor Day events were also part of the community’s response to the murder of Walter Scott who was fatally shot by a North Charleston police officer on April 4, 2015. Scott was stopped by a white officer for a brake light violation who then fatally shot the unarmed black man in the back. The killing was caught on a chilling cell-phone video that exposed the officer’s lies and led to his murder indictment on June 8.

Solidarity & sorrow

Invitations to participate in the march and conference came from workers at the Port of Charleston who belong to the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) Local 1422. Some of the Charleston longshore workers also belonged to the Mother Emanuel AME church, where one union member lost both his son and aunt in the racist attack.

“These murders were so shocking and this march just seemed like a positive way to help the community heal from such a brutal assault,” said President Melvin Mackay who travelled to Charleston with a delegation

that included Executive Board members Stacey Rodgers and Sean Graham. Local 10 member Clarence Thomas also attended and spoke at the conclusion of the march.

Local 19’s delegation included Night Business Agent Jerome Johnson who travelled with co-workers Abin Bola Nellams, Purnell Mitchell, and James Barnett.

“We made the trip because it was a great opportunity to show our support for the brothers and sisters on the East Coast during their time of need,” said Johnson. “It was an eye-opening experience for us to see the politics of the South, and the great organizing being done by local 1422 that serves as a hub for community involvement and action there.”

Social justice movement

The strikingly diverse crowd numbering in the hundreds came from nearby communities and across the country. Participants filled the streets as they marched downtown, honoring the “Days of Grace” theme with a peaceful procession that promoted an agenda of positive change, political action, civil rights and worker justice.

Unfinished work

The Days of Grace honored the legacy of State Senator Pinckney who was among those murdered in the Mother Emanuel AME massacre. Pinckney served in the state legislature for 17 years where he promoted a progressive political agenda that included ending police violence, expanding voting rights, living wages for workers, affordable healthcare for all, quality educa-



Photo by Andrew Knapp@Post & Courier

tion as a human right, and an end to gun violence.

“Labor unions today need to be part of social justice movements that connect with the community,” said Local 10 Dispatcher Stacey Rodgers. “That’s why the Charleston march was so important and why union members need to be a part of these struggles.”

Challenging racism

When marchers reached the site of the Emanuel AME Church where the nine members were murdered, time was taken to honor the fallen with silence, prayers and reflection. The featured speaker was Rev. William J. Barber II, president of the North Carolina NAACP and organizer of the Moral Monday movement that has held protests each Monday at North Carolina’s State Capitol since 2013.

“Rev. Barber wasn’t preaching religion at the march; he connected with me by talking about the need to challenge racism in America,” said Local 10’s Sean Graham.

“He said that taking down the confederate flag was a positive step, but pointed out that act is just a symbol as long as racism and injustice continue in South Carolina and across America.”

Family members testify

Family members who lost their loved ones on June 17 were the special honorees who marched and shared their stories. One of those who spoke was longshoreman Tyrone H. Sanders, who lost his youngest son, Tywanza, and his aunt in the shooting. His wife, Felicia, was also shot but survived.

Tyrone Sanders shared what his son told the gunman moments before he and eight others were killed at the Bible study meeting that night.

“My son’s last words were, ‘We mean you no harm.’” Tyrone concluded the remarks as his voice choked with emotion, explaining “I’m at a loss for words.”

Many issues united

The march united many causes. A contingent of activists from Black Lives Matter was joined by supporters of presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Organizers fighting to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour carried signs with union members and supporters. Long-time NAACP and Southern Christian Leadership Conference veterans of the 1950’s and 60’s who battled for Civil Rights against Jim Crow laws were on hand, along with younger activists such as DeRay Mckesson, who helped organize protests in Ferguson, Missouri after Michael Brown was killed there by police.

Organizing will continue

Many activists remained in Charleston after the march for meetings held at the ILA Local 1422 union hall on Saturday evening and Sunday.

ILA union leader Leonard Riley Jr., may have expressed the sentiments of many who attended the meeting when he said, “There’s a feeling that people of good will need to be heard in this moment.” He noted that the removal of the Confederate flag at South Carolina’s capitol building was a hopeful sign, and said he believes the state is ready to move forward. “But we need to back that up with policies that make this a better state to live in for everyone.”



Solidarity in Charleston: ILWU members travelled to Charleston over Labor Day weekend for a march and conference held under the theme “Days of Grace: Love’s Work is Justice.” (L-R) Local 19 member Abin Bola Nellams, Local 10 member Sean Graham, Local 19 member Parnell Mitchell, Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, ILA Local 1422 President and ILA International Vice-President Ken Riley, Local 19 member Jerome Johnson, Local 10 member Stacey Rodgers, Local 19 member James Barnett.

Grain Workers Union affiliates with ILWU Canada

On Friday August 28 ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko and Grain Workers Union (GWU) President Gerry Gault signed an Interim Affiliation Agreement bringing the GWU into ILWU Canada.

This Interim Agreement will last until the ILWU Canada Convention in April 2016. The Grain Workers asked for and were released from their current affiliation with the BC Government and Service Employees Union

on August 31 and the new agreement goes into effect on September 1, 2015. There will be a vote to finalize this matter at the 2016 Convention.

The Interim Affiliation Agreement expires at Convention and this will allow the GWU to debate and vote on this in a timely way.

The GWU represents about 650 workers at six grain elevators on the west coast of BC in Prince Rupert and Vancouver, and a number of smaller bargaining units.

ILWU Canada wants to take this opportunity to thank the GWU for the

work that has gone into this decision. We also want to thank the BCGEU for allowing this change, as we think this is a very good affiliation as both unions have worked side by side on the waterfront for over 70 years. We have much in common and believe this will strengthen the security of all workers on the waterfront.

The Interim Affiliation Agreement will be placed on the Agenda of the next ILWU Canada Executive Board Meeting which is being held in Nanaimo on September 21, and President Gault will be there to represent his Members.



ILWU and community coalition challenge dangerous crude oil terminal in Vancouver, WA

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Fracking fuels oil boom

Record volumes of oil are moving by rail because oil production in North Dakota and Texas have shot to levels not seen in 30 years. The boom is based on “fracking,” a drilling technique that injects high-pressure chemicals underground to loosen oil and gas deposits. The process allowed the U.S. to become the world’s largest oil producer in 2015 – eclipsing Russia, and thus achieving a quiet but critical U.S. foreign policy goal of limiting Russia’s ability to gain influence through energy exports.

Financial pressure

The Port of Vancouver became entangled in the crude oil export scheme after incurring debts on a \$275 million infrastructure improvement project, called the West Vancouver Freight Access. It aimed to expand rail capacity and hopefully attract new clients and jobs to the port. In 2012, Port officials thought they had a deal with BHP Billiton – one of the world’s largest mining companies – to export potash fertilizer from a new mine in Canada. But that deal died and left the Port with no client, excess capacity and mounting debt payments on their new infrastructure project. That’s when officials began promoting the crude oil export terminal as the Port’s potential savior.

Secret deals

Wheels were greased for the oil export terminal in 2013 through a series of secret meetings with officials at the Port of Vancouver. The closed door meetings were recently analyzed in a series of reports published by the *Columbian* newspaper that examined 1600 pages of documents. The reports

raised serious questions about possible violations of state laws and an erosion of the Port’s commitment to an open and democratic decision-making process.

Official amnesia

By early 2013, Port staff picked two powerful petroleum industry players – Tesoro and Savage – to operate the proposed oil terminal. One port commissioner admitted that decision “probably” took place in a closed-door executive session. Other commissioners say they can’t remember or agree on exactly what happened in the private meetings, but records show that oil executives met in private with Port officials in at least one closed-door session. By April 18, Tesoro was moving forward with the project, and the next day, both companies received an exclusive negotiating agreement from the Port. On April 22, 2013, the companies formally announced plans for the oil export terminal.

Lawsuit filed

In a backwards decision-making process, the Port announced a series of hearings on safety and environmental concerns after – not before – making their secret deal with Tesoro and Savage. Those hearings in the spring and summer of 2013 seemed like “window dressing” and a “rubber stamp to many citizens who responded by filing a lawsuit in October, 2013. The suit was backed by the Columbia Riverkeeper, Sierra Club and Northwest Environmental Defense Center.

“It may be hard for some to believe, but environmental groups have been our most dependable allies in the fights we’ve had for good jobs in this community,” said Cager Clabaugh.

Secret meetings & finger-pointing

The lawsuit exposed thousands of pages of Port documents that appear to confirm violations of state laws prohibiting public agencies from conducting their business in secret. Documents show the Port held at least nine private meetings involving the oil export terminal. After those meetings were exposed, the Port admitted holding at least seven secret meetings, but officials continue to insist that no laws were violated. The lawsuit has led to the deposition under oath of three Port Commissioners about their role in the oil terminal deal. Two of the three commissioners have offered conflicting statements about whether they approved the secret development deal, or if it was approved by the Port’s CEO, Todd Coleman. In the midst of the controversy, Port Commissioner Nancy Baker announced she was stepping down and would not seek re-election.

“Managing” public concern

In one of their secret meetings held in April of 2013, oil and rail executives met privately with port commissioners Baker, Jerry Oliver and Brian Wolfe to strategize how to manage and neutralize concern and criticism from local citizens.

ILWU joins protests

ILWU Local 4 members and leaders have become part of the informal network of Vancouver citizen groups who are opposing the crude-oil export terminal. In addition to labor and environmental organizations, the diverse group of opponents includes local business owners and land developers who worry that the export terminal is

a threat to property values and future development options.

Political showdown

An election to fill the open seat on Vancouver’s Port Commission this November is turning into a referendum on the crude oil export terminal. In the August primary election, a field of seven candidates was whittled down to a showdown between Eric LaBrant who opposes the crude export terminal, and Lisa Ross, who strongly backs the project. The candidates also disagree on the Commission’s history of secret meetings, with LaBrant calling for a more open process and Ross defending deals that were reached in private. And if the crude oil terminal deal falls apart, Ross is open to replacing it with a coal export facility while LaBrant favors exporting hi-value manufactured goods made in the USA. As of September, the Ross campaign had raised \$25,000, including money from oil interests, while LaBrant collected \$15,000 – including a \$1500 donation from the ILWU.

Governor’s decision

The lawsuit and Port Commission election remain a critically important part of the campaign. Washington State Governor Jay Inslee retains final authority to approve or reject the oil plan that will be reviewed by the state’s Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

“We intend to keep up the pressure and keep working with our allies in the community to dump this dangerous crude oil terminal plan and get the Port Commission back on the right track,” said Local 4’s President Jared Smith.

ILWU members tell Oakland City Council to kill coal terminal plan

continued from page 3

support to win approval from the Oakland City Council and \$400-500 million in public subsidies. After winning political approval, it was revealed that developers were working closely with anti-union coal companies in Utah who desperately want a private dock to export their fuel abroad, and offered developers \$53 million to make it happen.

Exporting coal abroad

Exports are crucial to North America’s coal industry because domestic consumption and prices are falling as the dirty fuel is replaced with cleaner and cheaper natural gas and alternatives such as solar. This reality has forced the coal industry – now almost entirely non-union – to sell their product abroad to countries with minimal environmental and worker safety protections, such as China, Vietnam, and India. These countries have historically resisted global agreements to limit greenhouse gas emissions that cause global climate change. China recently declared a willingness to adopt a market-based “cap-and-trade” system like

America’s, which allows companies to “buy” their right to pollute.

Explaining ILWU views

The ILWU approached the coal hearing with a unified voice. Local 10, Local 34 and the Northern California District Council have all taken positions opposing the coal terminal. Local 10 Business Agent Derrick Muhammad was the first ILWU member to speak at the public hearing on September 15. Muhammad immediately assailed the simplistic job arguments used by coal terminal supporters.

“Prostitution and drug dealing both create lots of jobs in Oakland, but they aren’t the kind of jobs we need,” said Muhammad, who declared that coal terminal jobs should be similarly unwelcome.

Chris Christensen, President of the Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association, also testified about the downside of coal jobs for the community and longshore workers and urged the City Council to oppose the coal export terminal.

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred

Pecker represented the ILWU’s Northern California District Council, arguing that West Oakland residents have long suffered from heavy pollution in their neighborhood, and deserve better options than a coal terminal.

Expert testimony

A team of experts, including several current and former government officials, testified about the dangers of transporting and burning coal. They included the State of California’s former top environmental health official, a current EPA official and Alameda County’s public health officer. The health officials joined engineering experts who said the coal terminal involved unnecessary health, environmental and economic risks. One expert noted that a similar expensive coal terminal investment by the Port of Los Angeles had failed to generate the jobs and business that were promised by the coal industry.

Company threats

In addition to threatening lawsuits at the public hearing, coal interests have been quietly investigating several

Oakland City Council members who expressed concern about the coal terminal. A Denver-based law firm that represents the nation’s largest coal companies and Wall Street firms who finance them, is seeking emails, voice mails, texting and other communication records from Council members.

Media coverage

Media coverage of the September City Council hearing on the coal terminal was extensive, and some outlets have devoted resources to investigating the project in greater detail. Investigative reporter Darwin BondGraham of the *East Bay Express* has led the way by exposing the coal industry’s financial and lobbying networks that usually operate in the shadows.

“The bottom line,” says Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, “is that this coal terminal is not something members support because it’s bad for the community, bad for the union and bad for the environment.”

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Gilbert E. Nass, Jr.; Oliver H. Ede; Michael D. Wehage;
Local 10: Vernon L. Taylor;
Local 13: Nick C. Geich; Hendi A. Ancich, Jr.; Larry P. Lauriano;
 Ronnie P. Paris; Gregory G. Burress;
 Jean R. Malebranche; Ruben M. Borja; Alvin Williams; Theodore J. Lester;
Local 19: Frank F. Kroger;
Local 46: Judy A. Bryant;
Local 47: Allen J. Pfaff Jr.;
Local 52: Cheryl A. Reinhardt;
Local 63: Allen C. Widner; Charles F. Hecht; John L. Gera; Steven A. Trutanich; Helene J. Beutler;
 Yvonne G. Turner; Cynthia C. Lewis;
Local 94: Elias Gomez Jr;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Jim K. Cooper; Charles R. Bouska;
Local 10: Walter Paul Jr.; Claude Noble; Peter De Jesus;
Local 13: Glenn L. Perry; Philip L.

Jones; Raymond L. Farillas;
Local 19: Robert D. Auckland; Darrel B. Stone;
Local 21: Frank R. Medlock;
Local 23: Clarence R. Walker Jr.;
Local 26: Arnold Andrews; John Bernal;
Local 34: Lucille G. English; Richard Fleming;
Local 40: James H. Chrest;
Local 46: Leandro Franco;
Local 52: Kenneth G. Maurice;
Local 63: Donald J. Campbell; Harlan Azpeitia Sr.;
Local 91: Ralph O. Edalgo Jr.;
Local 92: Clarence E. Uskoski;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Marguerite M. Ireton; Marvis Nickerson;
Local 10: Candace Antoine; Maria R. Perez;
Local 21: Viola M. Sholtys; Vieno Phillips;
Local 92: Wilma J. Bilderback; Frances Brusco;
Local 98: Leila M. Gerrish;

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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

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