



# THE DISPATCHER

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Local 500 celebrates 50 years of Solidarity [page 3](#)



**Pro-union voters:** ILWU members at worksites all along the west coast are reviewing pro-union candidates and issues for the November 8 election. Recommendations from ILWU District Councils are available at local union offices and can be found online at [www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org) in the October Dispatcher (L-R): Local 10's Nelson Ayala and Melvin Mackay with Local 75 member Dave Terry at the Port of Oakland.

## ILWU helps pro-union candidates

**A**s the *Dispatcher* goes to press in mid-October, teams of ILWU members are being dispatched to work in six states where pro-union candidates are fighting to win seats in the U.S. Senate – and stop anti-union Presidential Candidate Donald Trump from reaching the White House.

In early September, International President Robert McEllrath notified local unions and pensioners that the ILWU Titled Officers had developed a “Battleground States Campaign Plan.”

“The officers would like to send a team of two ILWU members plus one pensioner to six states where a pro-union candidate needs our help,” McEllrath explained, adding that the teams will work hard during the final two weeks of the election. “The goal,” he said, “is to elect enough pro-union members in the U.S. Senate to secure majority sup-

port for unions and working class concerns.”

Here’s a roundup of teams that were preparing to depart for locations around the country:

### Nevada

Regina Shore from Local 19 is leading the ILWU’s Nevada team with Keith Madding of the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) San Francisco Region plus Local 19 members Kevin Baldado and Steve Labbe. Their goal is to reach working class voters in Clark County, the area surrounding Las Vegas where 2 out of 3 active Nevada voters reside. The ILWU is backing Senate candidate Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada’s former Attorney General who is pro-union and trying to take the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Harry Reid. She’s running against Joe Heck, an anti-union candidate funded by big business and the Koch Brothers. Heck had a slight lead in early October polls, but experts believe Latino turnout could determine the race, and one of Heck’s

family members was recently caught sending racist insults about Latinos. In a desperate move, Heck dropped his longstanding support for Donald Trump on October 8.

### Pennsylvania

Local 5’s Dane Fredericks is heading the ILWU’s Pennsylvania team with Gary Bucknum of the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) Columbia River Region and Local 19 member Alexandra Vekich. They will be working to support U.S. Senate candidate Katie McGinty, who is pro-union and hopes to become the state’s first female U.S. Senator. She’s running against first-term, anti-union, incumbent Pat Toomey who backs “free trade” agreements for big business and opposes union rights. The team will focus on suburban “swing” voters surrounding Philadelphia who are expected to determine the election’s outcome. Recent polls show McGinty and Toomey were in a virtual tie, with Toomey waffling on whether he supports Donald Trump.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Why we can't vote for Trump.

**Y**ou may have heard that I don't have much patience for politicians, especially ones who want our help when they're desperate for votes or contributions – then ignore us when we need their support.

I liked Bernie Sanders because he was different in all the right ways. He says the right things and votes the right way when it comes to unions and the working class. He doesn't flip-flop or wait for polls before taking a stand. When his campaign ended last summer, Sanders got 13 million Americans to stand with him, which impressed the hell out of me – and made me hopeful about our future – especially because so many young people supported him.

But now we have a different choice, and it isn't pretty. Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have got problems. I was never a fan of Bill Clinton. The way he pushed NAFTA and "free trade" was enough for me. His deals with Wall Street made it clear he didn't stand with working people. Less than a decade after Clinton loosened bank regulations, Wall Street greed almost brought down our

country and caused the biggest economic disaster since the Great Depression. Millions of people lost their jobs and homes – while people on Wall Street and their political friends just got richer.

Let's face it – Hillary has some of the same problems. To name a few, she is too close to Wall Street and can't be trusted on corporate-controlled trade deals. Normally, those things would be deal-killers for me. But this isn't a normal election, because the alternative is Donald Trump.

Trump is appealing to many, including some of my friends. They like that he's confident and talks tough. But none of that matters compared to one fact: Donald Trump is anti-union. I mean real anti-union. Not just a waffler like Hillary Clinton who might say something nice to union members one day and something nice to business leaders the next.

Donald Trump isn't the solution to America's problems, he IS the problem! Just look at what's happening right now to workers at the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas. Management there has been waging a nasty, anti-union campaign against workers for almost two years. They hired anti-union consultants who



were paid more than half a million dollars to gut the working class. They suspended, threatened and interrogated union supporters. Despite all that and more, workers still voted to join the hotel workers union in Las Vegas where 57,000 are already members with good pay, benefits and job security.

The story gets worse, because workers at the Trump Hotel Las Vegas voted to join the union back in December of 2015 and the company is still refusing to negotiate a fair contract. After picketing that hotel for months, those workers finally decided to launch a boycott of all Trump hotels, golf courses and other businesses.

I think the workers at the Trump Hotel Las Vegas deserve our support. And I think we should

take it a step further by boycotting Trump in the election. As far as I'm concerned, voting for him when workers at the Trump Hotel are walking the picket line is no different than crossing their picket line. Over a year ago he suggested to the auto industry in Michigan to move their operation to states with lower wages. Sounds anti-union to me!

We cannot stand with Trump and everything he represents from his tax evasion, to his sexist insults, to his threats of appointing Supreme Court Justices who would roll back protections for all workers, women, and minorities. We, the ILWU, are better than that. And we, the ILWU, deserve better than that.

Starting in October, teams of ILWU members will fan out across the country to contact union members and other voters in six states where we're supporting pro-union candidates. One of the places we're going is Las Vegas – and our team will be joining that picket line with workers from the Trump Hotel Las Vegas.

I'll be voting too, and this year it will be for Hillary Clinton. Not because she's a progressive leader—she isn't. I'm voting for her because we have to stop Donald Trump and the anti-union movement from getting any stronger. And because those hotel workers in Las Vegas are out on a picket line. And because I don't cross picket lines, don't scab, and will never vote for an anti-union candidate. I hope you'll consider doing the same.

*An injury to one is an injury to all.*

In solidarity,  
Robert McEllrath  
International President



**Workers call for Trump boycott:** Hotel workers at the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas recently called for a boycott of all Trump operations. The luxury hotel in Las Vegas ran an aggressive anti-union campaign against workers. After employees ignored company threats and voted for the union, the hotel has refused to negotiate a fair contract.

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# ILWU attends International Dockers Council in Miami

ILWU International President Bob McEllrath led a large delegation of ILWU leaders who attended the 7th General Assembly of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) in Miami, Florida on September 26-29.

The semi-annual meeting brought together docker unions from a dozen countries. The ILWU delegation included 17 representatives, consisting of International President McEllrath, Vice Presidents Ray Familathe and Wesley Furtado, Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cameron Williams, and a dozen elected leaders from the major Longshore locals.

The other part of the U.S. delegation was composed of leaders from the

International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) who sent a delegation representing dockworkers employed at ports in the Gulf and East Coast.

"Our goal was to bring a representative group of leaders who were interested in sharing our experiences and learning from what other unions are doing around the world," said McEllrath. Among the topics discussed were:

- Automation and new technology.
- The privatization of public docks.
- Health and safety issues facing dockworkers.
- Expansion efforts by non-union or substandard operators.

An entire day was devoted to the topic of automation. Academic experts and industry officials made presentations about the latest research and experi-



**Big turnout:** ILWU International officers and Coast Committeemen joined officers from a dozen longshore locals at the 7th General Assembly of the International Dockworkers Council in Miami in late September.



**Commenting on critical issues:** President McEllrath addressed IDC delegates from around the world with comments about new technology and other changes in the longshore industry.

ence with new technology – along with comments and contributions from dockers at the Assembly.

The ILWU delegation brought a new documentary video prepared especially for the General Assembly to explain the new robotic technology being used at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The ten minute video produced for the Coast Longshore Division by filmmaker Nate Sacharow, includes interviews of ILWU officials and explanations about how the new technology operates and impacts workers. The film notes that the automation projects in Southern California were heavily subsidized with public dollars and are displacing hundreds of good-paying union jobs.

The video helped spark conversations and comparisons with other

unions about their experiences with automation, including dockworkers from the Netherlands and Australia. Experts noted that a final accounting of the costs and benefits of port automation has yet to be made – and that the costs of massive investments, frequently subsidized with public funds, and declining tax revenues from substituting workers for robots – has yet to be accounted for.

"The IDC and International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) are important international bodies," said President McEllrath. "We always learn things at these meetings, and this one was particularly useful because we were able to share our experiences with automation and new technology."

## Local 500 celebrates fifty years of solidarity

Local 500 organized a celebration in late September to honor the 1966 coming-together known as "amalgamation" that brought many smaller locals into one, big united Local 500 that now represents 1318 union members and 1422 casuals in Vancouver, B.C.

Local 500's Education Chair Steven Ross envisioned the 50-year anniversary as a week-long educational opportunity for union members, pensioners and the community. That dream was realized by dozens of volunteers who created museum-quality exhibits.



**Impressive exhibit:** Local 500 assembled an impressive exhibition showing the history and evolution of longshore work. The project was conceived and executed in-house, relying on talent and resources from members and pensioners.

"What Local 500 members did to create their own exhibition was awesome and inspiring," said ILWU Librarian and Archivist Robin Walker in San Francisco.

The Local 500 exhibit was so extensive that it required a large hall at Vancouver's Maritime Labour Center. One exhibit featured a large-scale model of a ship's bow. Other exhibits displayed the wide variety of cargoes handled by longshore workers over the years, including wine barrels, wheat and other grains, lumber, sand and gravel. Smaller scale-model ships from every era included sailing vessels to modern container carriers. A large collection of longshore hooks used by old-timers were a popular feature. Documents, videos and photos helped explain the history of longshore unions in Vancouver and the growing influence of solidarity that brought Locals 501, 506, 507, 509 and 510 together. An especially emotional exhibit displays the names of 50 longshore workers who have been killed on the job.

Admission to the exhibition was free and the hall was open long hours to accommodate the public.

"It's important to remind ourselves of this history, and just as important to try and reach the public who is fenced-off from our docks and can't see the work that we do," said Ross.

The week-long exhibition was downsized on the final day to make room for a dinner and dance that was



**International celebration:** Leaders from ILWU Canada and the States attended the 50th anniversary of Local 500's amalgamation of longshore locals in Vancouver. Among those attending were (L-R): ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 514 President Frank Scigliano, Local 13 Business Agent Larry Manzo, Local 500 Vice President Antonio Pantusa, Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr., and Local 500 President Rino Voci.

held in the hall on September 24. Union members, pensioners and families joined labour leaders from far wide who arrived to pay tribute to Local 500's history of solidarity.

Local 500 President Rino Voci said, "The whole event was a great success. Many of the pensioners came and enjoyed all the exhibits. Members and casuals showed up to see the history of our local and to learn how previous generations struggled for the benefit of our current workforce. The dinner was sold out and a great time was had by all. I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters that came

from out of town to celebrate our 50 years. I would also like to thank Steve Ross, his service committee, and all the volunteers for their hard work to make this event happen."

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams brought greetings from throughout the ILWU family to Local 500 President Rino Voci, ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, and Local 500 members and pensioners.

"We are all tied together in a garment of destiny. Our hands are joined across oceans and borders, and our pulses and heart beats throb as one," said Adams.

# New film promotes “Medicare for all”

The ILWU Puget Sound District Council and Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies sponsored a September 21 showing of the new film called “Fix It: Health Care at the Tipping Point.” The one-hour documentary explains why America’s patchwork of government-funded, privately-controlled, employer-based health care is failing both workers and businesses because it results in higher costs and lower quality than single-payer universal health systems could provide.

## Hot topic in Presidential race

The ILWU has long advocated for a single-payer health care system. Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders popularized that position with his “Medicare for All” idea that helped him win 13 million votes. That support forced candidate Hillary Clinton to back a flawed “public option” that would allow citizens to buy their own Medicare plans, while retaining the private insurance system with a patchwork of regulations and incentives. Donald Trump supports a “free enterprise” plan that would abolish Obama’s Affordable Care Act that would double the number of Americans without health insurance – stripping coverage from 22 million Americans. His system would also use tax breaks that disproportionately favor the super-rich.

## Businessman backs “Medicare for All”

A panel discussion followed the screening that included the film’s surprising producer – businessman Richard Master who owns a \$200 million framing company, and has become a passionate supporter of affordable, single-payer system, such as “Medicare for All.”

Master says he was increasingly frustrated at the constant rising cost of health care insurance, but had an epiphany after making a trip outside the U.S. where there were better health care systems with more affordable services and much cheaper drug prices. He decided to fund the film in order to share what he’s learned with the public – and urge business leaders here to reconsider their support for the status quo’s excessive costs and quality problems. He says many Canadian business owners can’t understand how their counterparts in the U.S. are still backing a system that hurts both businesses and workers. His film makes a convincing case for U.S. business to reconsider that position.

## Experts and activists

Joining Richard Master on the panel were Dr. David McLanahan, Surgeon Emeritus of Pacific Medical Centers and Dr. Stephen Bezruchka of the University of Washington’s School of Health. The event was MC’d by Michael McCann, Director of the Harry Bridges Labor Center.



**Supporting Medicare for All:** Among those attending the viewing were (L-R): Dan McKisson of ILWU Local 19; ILWU Pensioner Richard Austin; businessman and CEO Richard Master of MCS Industries; Local 19 member Justin Hirsch; Inlandboatmen’s Union Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast; and Local 19 member Dan Davies. To arrange a showing of the film at your Local or community center, go to [www.fixithehealthcare.com](http://www.fixithehealthcare.com)

The Puget Sound District Council (PSDC) spearheaded the evening at the urging of IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast, who also serves as PSDC Vice President. Additional help was provided by staff at the Harry Bridges Center along with Jimi Limric from Local 9 who also contributed time and effort.

## Private insurance and profit

Local 19’s Dan McKisson, who helped organize the event, said, “reforming America’s current system – like Obama tried to do – is doomed to fail because of the private, profit-making insurance system.” He says the

film points out that our current system is much more expensive and delivers lower-quality care than successful single-payer systems operating in other leading nations. McKisson praised the film for explaining how business owners and workers share a common interest in replacing the current system that puts such a heavy burden on employers, unions and remains a leading cause a personal bankruptcy for workers.

# ILWU helps pro-union candidates

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## Ohio

IBU member Erik Ferrel is leading the ILWU’s Ohio team with Local 5 member Mark Sailor and Victor Pamiroyan from Local 6. The Ohio team arrived in Cleveland and is squaring-off against a clever, first-term, anti-union incumbent Senator named Rob Portman, who opposes strong labor laws and has been weak for working families. Portman’s campaign is financed by big business and the Koch Brothers. The ILWU candidate is former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, a strong union supporter. Recent polls show Portman leading Strickland, but the race could still be won with good turnout. Basketball superstar LeBron James recently endorsed Strickland and other pro-union candidates in Ohio. Anti-union Governor John Kasich is backing Portman and both men have distanced himself from Trump; although Portman continued backing Trump until one day before early voting opened on October 11.

## Wisconsin

The ILWU’s Wisconsin team is being led by Washington staffer Bianca Blomquist who’s working with Local 13’s Christine Aguirre. The duo hopes to help former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold re-take his former seat from anti-union incumbent Ron Johnson. The two are nearly tied in a close race that may be determined by voters living in the Milwaukee suburbs, where Aguirre and Blomquist expect to invest some of their time. Feingold is a strong union supporter who lost his seat in 2010 to Johnson – a wealthy business owner and Tea Party favorite. Other anti-union politicians, including Governor Scott Walker, also gained ground in 2010, passing laws that stripped public employees of most union rights. ILWU members from Locals 10, 13, 26, 63 and 94 attended mass protests and a sit-in at the State Capitol building. Walker’s Presidential bid fizzled quickly five years later, but scapegoating unions for job losses caused by capital flight remains a staple of Wisconsin politics.

## Florida

Local 19’s Todd Weeks is leading the Florida team with Walter Smith and James Jackson, Jr., both from the Alaska Longshore Division. The trio arrived in Miami where many believe the region could determine the State’s hotly-contested U.S. Senate and Presidential races. Former Presidential candidate Marco Rubio broke an earlier promise by deciding to retain the Senate seat he previously renounced. Rubio has steadfastly maintained his anti-union stances and recently flip-flopped to endorse Donald Trump after both spent months hurling insults at each other. Rubio is now attacking the ILWU-supported candidate for U.S. Senate: Patrick Murphy, a former Republican who switched parties in 2012 to become a moderate/conservative Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## Missouri

Local 8’s Brent Bissett is leading the ILWU team in Missouri with Local 5’s Ron Solomon and Local 10’s Melvyn Mackay. They’re helping U.S. Senate candidate Jason Kandor who is trying to unseat anti-union incumbent Roy Blunt. Kandor is a former Afghanistan veteran; Senator Blunt is a Trump supporter who avoided the draft and military service by getting three deferments. The Senate race here is one of the closest in the country. The ILWU team expects to be working around the St. Louis area, but will travel wherever they can contact voters. Blunt’s family is filled with lobbyists who have taken advantage of the Senator’s position in Washington; his wife is a lobbyist, along with his children Matt, Andy, and Amy who are also registered lobbyists. The Senator has also been criticized for living in a \$1.6 million mansion in Washington that costs about 15 times more than an average home in St. Louis or Kansas City.

# Los trabajadores de Sakuma triunfan en las votaciones con ayuda de ILWU

Más de trescientos trabajadores de Sakuma Brothers Farm en el noroeste del estado de Washington hicieron historia el 12 de septiembre por la tarde al votar abrumadoramente a favor de la creación de su propio sindicato independiente para campesinos..

## La organización en los campos

Los 377 trabajadores que recogen moras una hora al norte de Seattle en el fértil valle de Skagit han contado con el apoyo de la ILWU y otros sindicatos desde 2013, pero aún tuvieron que superar una amarga campaña antisindical en la que muchos trabajadores fueron despedidos y amenazados. Los trabajadores de Sakuma triunfaron en sus votaciones porque cultivaron la solidaridad en los campos - y pidieron el apoyo de los sindicatos y los consumidores para boicotear Driscoll's Berries - la marca comercial del gran distribuidor de moras producidas por Sakuma y otros productores que ya no se está boicoteando.

## Los años difíciles

Los miembros de ILWU fueron de los primeros en ayudar a los trabajadores de Sakuma cuando empezaron a organizarse en el verano de 2013, bajo el lema "Familias Unidas por la Justicia." Los administradores de Sakuma rápidamente tomaron represalias, despidiendo a los dirigentes, mofándose de las quejas de los trabajadores diciendo que no había nada que negociar, e importando "trabajadores invitados" de México para que sirvieran de esquirolas a sueldo de la compañía. Ellos también atacaron a los periodistas que entrevistaron a los trabajadores, ya que estos describían las duras condiciones de trabajo en Sakuma. Los Jubilados de ILWU y miembros del local visitaron a los trabajadores y dirigentes de FUJ en 2013, sentando las bases para la adopción de nuevas medidas por la Junta Ejecutiva Internacional de ILWU, especialmente la autorización de una donación solidaria de \$3,500 en diciembre de 2013. Varios meses después, el Consejo de Distrito de Puget Sound envió una carta a los administradores de Sakuma, instándolos a respetar los trabajadores y firmar un contrato con FUJ.

## El boicot comienza

A pesar de que la compañía violó las leyes laborales, esto no fue suficiente para que Sakuma Brothers se sintiera obligado a negociar. Los trabajadores decidieron intensificar el boicot por parte de los consumidores - la misma táctica que fue usada con éxito por César Chávez y la Unión de Campesinos en los años 60 y 70. Los boicoteos pueden servir, pero se requiere de enormes recursos para llegar a los consumidores y el tiempo suficiente para que den resultados. El ILWU apoyó el boicot de varias maneras. En junio de 2015, la Convención Internacional de ILWU celebrada en Hawaii aprobó por

unanimidad una resolución en apoyo de los trabajadores de Sakuma y su boicot de Driscoll's - el mayor distribuidor de moras frescas del mundo. En julio del mismo año, el ILWU proporcionó a FUJ un perfil detallado de la corporación elaborado por el Departamento de Investigaciones de ILWU que les permitió desarrollar un boicot más efectivo con un enfoque más estratégico en su campaña. Los miembros de ILWU siguieron apoyando a los trabajadores de Sakuma, sumándose a las actividades del boicot en diferentes lugares del noroeste.

## Los jubilados organizan protestas

Los miembros pensionados organizaron una espectacular protesta en su Convención celebrada en septiembre de 2015 en San Francisco cuando docenas de delegados, acompañados por el Presidente Internacional, Bob McEllrath, Vice Presidente, Ray Familathe y Presidente del Local 13, Bobby Olvera, Jr., marcharon con actitud desafiante a la sección de frutas y verduras de Whole Foods Market. Allí realizaron una manifestación espontánea y respondieron a las preguntas de los compradores, que se mostraron receptivos. La gerente de la tienda finalmente se unió al diálogo y convino en hacer llegar las preocupaciones a su gerente regional.

## La solidaridad del Local 19

Los trabajadores portuarios de Seattle, siguiendo una larga tradición, expresaron en julio de 2016 su compromiso de solidarizarse con los trabajadores de Sakuma y su preocupación por Driscoll's Berries, con lo cual comunicaron claramente a Sakuma que lo que estaba en juego era mucho más importante, tal como el ILWU lo había hecho unas décadas antes cuando la Unión de Campesinos necesitó apoyo en California.

## Plan para una gran marcha

A principios de julio de 2016, estaban en curso los planes para una gran movilización con 250 partidarios - incluso miembros de ILWU e IBU - para marchar por los campos de moras de Sakuma y terminar con una concentración ante la sede de la compañía. La misma táctica se había utilizado con éxito el año anterior para generar reportajes positivos en los medios de comunicación, tal como se detalló en el número de junio de 2015 de *The Dispatcher*.

## Aumentaron los problemas legales

A principios de julio, un juez federal ordenó que Sakuma pagara \$250,000 en costos legales a los abogados que representaron a un grupo de trabajadores que habían puesto una demanda colectiva contra la compañía. El juez ordenó que Sakuma pagara tres veces más de lo que su abogado quería que se pagara. Sakuma evitó un juicio ante un jurado al acordar con 408 trabajadores el pago de un total de \$500,000 más otros \$350,000 en costos legales. A principios de este año la empresa pagó \$87,160 a recolectores de moras después de que la Corte Suprema de Washington dictaminó que aunque ellos habían traba-



Photo by David Bacon

**Apoyo para los huelguistas:** La huelga en Sakuma duró tres años. Los trabajadores se mantuvieron unidos a pesar de múltiples ataques del empleador.

jado a destajo en 2014 tenían derecho a que se les pagaran los descansos de 10 minutos, resultando en un pago promedio de \$231 por trabajador. La demanda interpuesta por trabajadores de Sakuma cambió las condiciones en todas las granjas en el estado de Washington.

## Último contacto con los trabajadores

En las semanas previas a las votaciones se sintió la tensión, dados el hostigamiento antisindical y propaganda que los trabajadores se habían visto obligados a soportar por años. A petición del Presidente del Local 19, Rich Austin, Jr., Vicepresidente Internacional de ILWU, Ray Familathe acordó asignar al organizador bilingüe Jon Brier para ayudar a movilizar a los trabajadores para que votaran por el sindicato. Brier se unió a los líderes de FUJ para visitar a los trabajadores en sus casas, ya que así era más fácil platicar y hacer preguntas.

## La Compañía estuvo de acuerdo en dialogar

Una vez que Sakura finalmente accedió a dialogar y acordar las condiciones de una elección imparcial, empezaron a avanzar rápidamente las cosas. Una parte neutral fue elegida para supervisar las elecciones, y cuando se contaron los votos, los resultados fueron abrumadores, ya que sólo 58 de los 377 trabajadores votaron en contra del sindicato, a pesar de las amenazas, despidos, acoso constante y la difamación del sindicato.

Los oficiales de la compañía decidieron tomar la vía recta a medida que se acercaba la elección, insistiendo que respetarían la decisión de los trabajadores si una mayoría votaba por el sindicato, y agregaron que estaban listos para "sentarse a hablar con los trabajadores y llegar a un arreglo sobre el contrato." En el recuento de los votos, el director general de Sakuma, Danny Wheeden, hizo acto de presencia con un gran número de trabajadores y simpatizantes, señal quizás de otro cambio en la actitud de la compañía. Lo que es más importante la empresa ha accedido a celebrar un contrato para una fecha determinada - o de lo contrario ambas partes presentarán ante un árbitro neutral sus propuestas para que el árbitro



Photo by David Bacon

**Apoyo comunitario:** Grupos comunitarios y religiosos fueron pieza clave para la victoria de los huelguistas.

elija una de ellas - una práctica conocida como "arbitraje al estilo del béisbol."

## La solidaridad en casa y más allá

El Presidente del Local 19, Rich Austin, observó que "los trabajadores de Sakuma sin duda lograron una victoria extraordinaria en su lucha por mejorar sus condiciones y aumentar el salario a \$15 por hora - y lo hicieron pidiendo apoyo a los miembros de ILWU y otros sindicatos, con la ayuda del Ministerio Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas, y mediante el fomento de la solidaridad con los grupos comunitarios en toda la región".

Dado que muchos de los recolectores de moras eran originarios de las comunidades indígenas en México, ellos también se esforzaron por apoyar a sus compatriotas en los campos de moras de Driscoll en Baja California, los cuales están concentrados alrededor del pueblo de San Quintín en la costa del Pacífico unas horas al sur de Tijuana, para que ellos también pudieran mejorar las terribles condiciones de trabajo allí.

En el noroeste del Pacífico, miles de trabajadores agrícolas en Washington, Oregón y el valle de Okanagan del Canadá siguen trabajando en condiciones miserables y necesitan desesperadamente un sindicato que les ayude. "Espero que podamos ayudar a FUJ a conseguir un buen contrato y hacer llegar la organización sindical a muchos trabajadores más que la necesitan," dijo Austin. "Han tenido un gran comienzo."

## Oppose the TPP

**A**s president of the longshoremen's union in Tacoma, I'm naturally pro-trade. Being from Washington state, I also get to witness the large volume of this state's bountiful agricultural products flowing from Eastern Washington to all over the globe.

So many jobs are dependent in some form or fashion on the success of trade in Washington state. I'm proud to help export Washington goods to foreign countries and unload products to benefit people on our shores.

So it might come as a surprise that I strongly oppose what's been billed as the biggest free-trade agreement in a generation, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). If this agreement passes Congress, it may directly benefit my workforce through an increase in jobs, but in this day and age of globalization, it would be very shortsighted to think only about the effects of something so substantial through a lens of self-interest.

The reason is simple: TPP isn't really about trade. Of the agree-

ment's 30 chapters, only six have to do with reducing barriers to trading goods and services. The deal is mostly about giving the world's biggest corporations special rights and privileges that would come at the expense of workers, the environment, even consumers.

Take, for example, the labeling of foods. Food safety laws, pesticide limits and the use of additives would be subject to challenge as "illegal trade barriers."

It's no accident that both parties' presidential candidates and the vast majority of Americans now oppose TPP.

For a sense of what's wrong with the deal, consider where it comes from: It was negotiated behind closed doors with help from hundreds of "advisers" representing companies such as Wal-Mart, Chevron and Cargill. Our laws and legislative bills are supposed to be created by government representatives for the safety and benefit of citizens, not corporations and their lawyers.

The deal also gives away national sovereignty and gives special rights to corporations in the name of free trade. It gives firms new rights to sue the U.S. government in front of

unaccountable panels of corporate lawyers. The lawyers would be able to award the corporations unlimited sums of money — to be paid by American taxpayers — including for the loss of "expected future profits."

These foreign firms would only need to convince the lawyers that a U.S. law or environmental protection measure violates their new rights.

TPP isn't just a corporate power grab, it's also a job killer. The U.S. International Trade Commission found that the pact would further gut the U.S. manufacturing sector. A study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found that the deal would lead to pay cuts for all but the top 10 percent of U.S. earners. After the loss of 5 million manufacturing jobs in recent years, this could be devastating.

We need agreements that benefit the most people for the greatest good, not just corporations.

TPP would force many U.S. workers into direct competition with the workforce in countries like Vietnam, where laborers earn about 65 cents an hour.

While strong, cross-party opposition to the TPP continues to grow,

a small but influential group in Congress is still scheming to quietly pass the TPP in the lame-duck session after the election.

Too many of our state's representatives — including Democratic Congressmen Derek Kilmer and Denny Heck — are still undecided. This must change. Washington's elected officials should understand that trade should be about expanding the economy and creating jobs, not increasing inequality and special corporate privileges.

There is some good news: Lawmakers have to listen to their constituents. For the sake of our economy, environment and democracy, let your elected representatives know why we oppose the TPP.

We have a saying in the ILWU: "An injury to one is an injury to all." That is why we cannot support this agreement, and we encourage all citizens to get educated about it.

*Dean McGrath is president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU 23) in Tacoma. This article first appeared in the Tacoma Daily News.*

## No doubt about it: oil-by-rail is a real threat

**T**his past Labor Day, longshoremen looked back on a summer that vindicated our opposition to America's largest proposed oil-by-rail project.

It began with the terrifying oil train derailment on June 3rd in the Columbia River Gorge where 96 tank cars carrying explosive Bakken crude oil crashed and burned — spilling 42,000 gallons near the town of Mosier, Oregon. After weeks of public hearings, and a unanimous vote to ban oil terminals by Vancouver's City Council, longshoremen continued to load wind turbines through the same port where Tesoro wants to build a massive oil-by-rail terminal.

The future our members support includes sleek, pale wind blades — not smoldering oil cars.

If built, Tesoro's oil terminal would bring five "unit trains" a day, each carrying 100 or more tank cars right through downtown Spokane and Vancouver. That's three million gallons of volatile crude oil per train — much of it destined for overseas ports.

Tesoro's oil trains would be a near-constant presence and hazard to

surrounding residents and longshore workers. The Mosier derailment offers the clearest possible justification of our concerns and a blaring signal that Washington State Governor Jay Inslee should reject Tesoro's terminal.

Also this summer, local and state leaders joined the ILWU in speaking out against the oil terminal. The ILWU supported the city of Vancouver's unanimous vote to ban future oil terminals like Tesoro's. Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark also sided with our union, joining tribal nations, and the City of Vancouver during a month-long hearing. All of us urged the Washington Energy Council to deny Tesoro's proposal.

We hope that this summer's unmistakable lesson remains clear for Governor Inslee: he must deny the Tesoro project to protect residents and workers — while ensuring the possibility of a cleaner energy future.

Jared Smith  
President ILWU Local 4  
Vancouver, Washington

*Editor's note: A version of this letter was published in The Olympian newspaper on Labor Day.*



**Protecting the public:** Local 4 President Jared Smith has been a leading critic of the dangerous plan to increase shipments of explosive Bakken crude from the oil fields of North Dakota through the Columbia River Gorge. Local 4's involvement has helped gain new allies and build new relationships in the struggle for good jobs — while protecting workers, residents and the environment. Pictured on Smith's left is Portland Mayor Charlie Hales; to his right are Executive Director Paul Lumley of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.



**Constant danger:** Federal investigators found Union Pacific Railroad was responsible for causing the derailment and fire in June near Mosier, OR that burned for 12 hours. (photo by KATU-TV)



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# LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

My life is so busy that I had to sit down and get my priorities straight. My family is first and my Union is second. The family is first because it is my family. The Union is next because it protects my family, and allows us to live a life with dignity. Everything else is a distant third. My Union is under attack by the PMA, global shipping and Stevedoring companies. They haven't been able to beat us at the bargaining table, so they are recruiting allies in Washington, D.C. who are introducing legislation that would limit our ability to defend union rights and threatens ILWU jurisdiction. We are not the only union under attack. The same shipping interests are attacking maritime unions all over the globe, using the same tactics.

So, what can I do about it? I'm just one guy, and a pensioner at that. I will continue to put money into the Political Action Fund, so the ILWU can continue to support our political allies. I will continue to call my elected officials when legislation that will impact our Union is proposed. I will still attend rallies to show support for our team. I will help educate the young members, so that they will understand what makes the ILWU the strong Union that it is. Most of all, I will stay involved and informed, because without my Union I am just a lone voice in the wilderness.

**Mike Jagielski**  
President, Local 23 Pensioners

Dear Editor,

This letter is about hard-working ILWU ambassadors of good will.

On the 30th of September Mona and I boarded the Explorer of the Seas in Seattle for an eight night cruise of the Pacific Coast. When we arrived at Terminal 91, Local 19 porters collected our luggage and took it to an assigned location. We quickly made our way through the pre-boarding procedures and up the gangway.

Once on board and comfortably in our stateroom we looked down on the dock and saw Local 19 members busy doing what needed to be done to ensure the vessel's on-time departure. Local 98 foreman helped coordinate the very efficient operation, and Local 52 clerks likewise performed their duties.

But let me back-track a bit. When the ship arrived earlier that morning about 10,000 pieces of luggage were discharged. Tons of garbage and other debris was offloaded. Once that work had been completed the reverse began. 10,000 suitcases and garment bags (including ours) were loaded. Food, beverages and miscellaneous stores for the 3800 passengers and a crew of 1200 went aboard, and it all happened in less than 10 hours.

Then, when it was time to sail, lines handlers cast off the vessel and called out friendly salutations to crew members: "have a good trip" and "see you next time". Later, we heard ILWU lines handlers in San Francisco, Astoria, and Victoria, British Columbia echo similar expressions of camaraderie.

Upon our return to Seattle we once again witnessed the productive manner in which friendly workers carried out their duties.

As a retired ILWU member I am proud that the rank and file showed itself to be ambassadors of good will while capably performing the work that needed to get done. A lot of other passengers saw the same thing. Bravo.

**Rich Austin, Sr.**  
ILWU Pensioner – Everett, WA

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



**Meeting the candidate:** New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan was visited in early October by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams (right) and Local 13's Joe Cortez; both sit on the ILWU Legislative Action Committee. Governor Hassan is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by anti-union incumbent Kelly Ayotte. The race has been too close to call, with Ayotte declaring her intention to vote for Donald Trump that has since become a liability. Other issues include Ayotte's opposition to equal-pay-for-women legislation and Hassan's history of opposing "right-to-work-for-less" legislation designed to cripple unions. "We wanted to personally meet with Hassan to express the ILWU's support for her Senate campaign," said Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. "Hassan has strong working-class roots; her father was a union member and she won our support because of her record as Governor where she fought for working families." Cortez and Adams delivered a campaign contribution, made possible from voluntary member contributions donated to the union's Political Action Fund. "It was a pleasure meeting with Governor Hassan, and I hope she wins her U.S. Senate race so we can have more friends like her in Congress," said Cortez.



Photo by Brian Jones

**Vancouver pensioners celebrate:** Longshore pensioners from greater Vancouver held their annual dinner on October 8 at the Maritime Labour Center. Among the hundreds who participated were Local 500 members (L-R) Amarjit Deol, Ken Marone and Bikkar Hare. Seated at the table was Local 514 pensioner Fred Senft.



**PCPA Convention team:** "This is the bulk of the team who produced what everyone agreed was the one of the best PCPA Conventions ever," said Local 23 Pensioner President Mike Jagielski. "I agree with the 100 or so who said it was the best. It will be tough to top this one."

"Our first meeting was January 29th, 2015. A subcommittee met with the Murano hotel in February and March to secure the hotel. We started monthly meetings in September, 2015. Until one of the members was gored by a bull buffalo in July, no one missed a meeting. Another had kidney surgery in mid-August and was not able to return. Starting in July we met bi-weekly then weekly the last month. Our meetings would last 2 to 3 hours. We had a good time, lots of laughs. Everyone contributed. It was an experience we will never forget."

Front row, left to right: Janice Stevens, Marge Snell, Connie Rohar, Peggy Burks, Roger Coleman, Ian Kennedy and Donna Miller. Back row: Carl Woeck, Dr. Ron Magden, Nick Buckles, Bill Roberts, Mike Jagielski Jim Norton, Jim Norton, Brian Wellfringer. Not pictured but valuable members of the committee: Debbie Jagielski, Dave and Jinny Bartholomew, Ed McGrath, John Thoma, Jackie and Nick Rade.

## TRANSITIONS

### Notice about the November Transitions

The November issue went to press prior to receiving the Transitions notice from the Benefits Plans Office. The November Transitions will run in the December issue of *The Dispatcher*.



## ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

### BOOKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### VIDEOS

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

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

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

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