



# THE DISPATCHER

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Solidarity at the Standing Rock encampment: (From L-R) Isaiah Barnes of the Sioux Nation with Jamison Roberts and Steve Hunt of ILWU Local 4.

## ILWU pledges solidarity with Standing Rock

On December 6, the ILWU International Executive Board voted unanimously to adopt a statement of policy opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The controversial project is opposed by Native Americans across the continent because it threatens Native lands and water.

The pipeline's original route would have crossed the Missouri River upstream from Bismarck, North Dakota, but was rerouted because of concerns that an oil leak would contaminate the City's water supply. Pipeline proponents want the oil to cross just a half-mile upstream from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, buried underneath the tribe's waters supply.

The ongoing protest by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe on their North Dakota reservation began in April, 2016. The effort has drawn world-wide attention and attracted

thousands of Native American supporters and allies. It has become the largest protest gathering of Native Tribes in recent history.

### International Executive Board Statement of policy

"The Tribal Nations of the Great Plains rely on the waters of the life-giving Missouri River for present and future existence, and the Dakota Access Pipeline construction poses a very serious risk to that continued existence. The Dakota Access Pipeline threatens the safety of the areas of fish and wildlife, sacred sites and historical archeological resources that lie within and around the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and associated lands," declares the ILWU Statement of Policy.

The International Executive Board also approved a \$10,000 donation to the Standing Rock Sioux from the solidarity fund. The Coast Longshore Committee added an additional \$5,000 donation.

"The ILWU has never been afraid to take a stand on important politi-

cal issues," said ILWU International President Robert McEllrath

Support for the Standing Rock Sioux was first expressed by the ILWU's Pacific Coast Pensioners Association that adopted a resolution in September of 2016.

Local 10's Executive Board then passed a resolution on November 8 against the pipeline project and in support of increased funding for workers affected by any jobs lost on the pipeline. The resolution called on the labor movement to support a "just transition" for workers into renewable energy jobs, to help working families, combat climate change and promote investment in renewable energy.

### Labor unions divided

The ILWU is among a number of unions that have pledged support for protests led by the Standing Rock Sioux. The Amalgamated Transit Union, American Postal Workers Union, Communications Workers of America, National Nurses United,

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# Christmas solidarity action by ILWU Canada members

**M**embers of ILWU Canada are continuing to help other workers – and themselves – by fighting to save good jobs in the maritime industry through an ongoing series of protests and public actions.

## Another “free trade” deal

Last November, they joined a coalition that organized a march and rally with ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, Vancouver Labour Council President Joey Hartman, and SIU Canada President Jim Given (see last month’s *Dispatcher*). That protest targeted attacks on maritime jobs being threatened by a new free trade agreement negotiated on behalf of corporations in Europe and Canada, called the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).

## Helping Hanjin seafarers

In December, Locals 400, 500, 502, and 514 continued their support for seafarers who have been stranded for months aboard Hanjin vessels around the Port of Vancouver, while the company’s bankruptcy moves slowly through the courts. Hanjin seafarers are being paid and receiving good meals, thanks to political pressure from the ILWU, with support from International Transport Workers Federation that is working with Korean unions to help Hanjin crews.

## Positive press

On December 15, an informative and sympathetic news story about the Hanjin workers and the union solidarity support effort was produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – known as the “CBC.” That report provided background about the plight of Hanjin workers, which ILWU Canada and the ITF have been supporting, along with efforts in the U.S. by the ILWU and ITF that helped win shore leave for Hanjin seafarers, as reported in last month’s *Dispatcher*.

## Solidarity on the water

The latest Hanjin solidarity action in Canada came on December 20 when Local 400 joined with Locals 500, 502, and 514 as well as the British Columbia’s Ferry and Marine Workers Union, and Victoria Filipino Canadian Association, to visit seafarers aboard the Hanjin container vessel, *Scarlet*, who have been anchored off British Columbia’s Southern Gulf Islands since late summer.

## A ton of Christmas provisions

Volunteers brought one ton of Christmas provisions – including a 90-pound pig and plenty of charcoal to roast it. Most of the goods delivered to seafarers on Dec. 20 were donated by workers at four collection sites: the Bayanihan Community Centre in Victoria, the B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers’ Union office in Nanaimo, the Maritime Labour Centre in Vancouver, and Local 502’s dispatch hall.



**Solidarity supplies:** Local 502 member Ian Neely (L) and Local 400 Secretary-Treasurer Jason Woods help land a cargo net carrying holiday goods donated and delivered for crewmembers of the Hanjin *Scarlet*.

Photoby Dave Reels

“We asked for support, and the community really came through for these workers,” said Jason Woods, Secretary-Treasurer of ILWU Local 400.

The Filipino Canadian Association of Victoria was involved because most of the seafarers come from the Philippines or Korea.

In addition to delivering warm clothing, entertainment items, including DVD’s, video games and board games were provided. Supporters also brought some Filipino food specialties.

Several days earlier, a group of Christmas carolers from Pender Island visited the *Scarlet* and sang songs for the crew.

“It’s lonely,” said sailor Romeo Cabacang from the Philippines. “But all the crew, we are very happy for the early Christmas gift.”

## Good media coverage

News of the solidarity action was conveyed to the general public via reports in Canada’s national newspaper, the *National Post*. Additional stories were carried by the CBC and Vancouver Island’s *Chek 6 Television News*. Another story about the event was broadcast nationwide on December 22 by CBC radio, including a live interview with Local 400’s Jason Woods, who was encouraged to do the program by ILWU President Rob Ashton.

## South Korean support on Nov 29

ILWU Canada members supported a separate solidarity action in November that was organized after the ITF contacted President Rob Ashton of ILWU Canada to help South Korean unions seeking to oust President Park Geun-hye because of her corruption and anti-worker policies.

## Maritime Council acts

President Ashton approached members of the Pacific Coast Maritime Council while he was attending the British Columbia Federation of Labour convention. Together they developed a plan to march on the South Korea’s Consulate in Vancouver, as a way to protest the Park government’s corruption and abuse of worker rights.

## Marching to the Consulate

On November 29, Rob Ashton – who serves as President of both the ILWU Canada and Pacific Coast Maritime Council – invited Labour Federation delegates to join the march during the Convention lunch break. He also announced that South

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Photoby Dave Reels

**Maritime solidarity:** Supporters and crewmembers spent time together aboard the Hanjin *Scarlet* on December 20. The ILWU and International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) have taken steps to help Hanjin crewmembers in the U.S. and Canada who are impacted by the company’s bankruptcy.

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# Foss tug crews fight for fair contract at LA/Long Beach

As the *Dispatcher* was going to press in Late December, tugboat crews at Foss Maritime Long Beach were trying to renew a contract that expired six months ago on June 30, 2016.

“It’s not unusual for negotiations to continue after a contract expires, but the refusal by Foss to bargain in good faith is what’s different here,” said IBU Regional Director John Skow. He says there were roughly 30 negotiating sessions since May of 2016, but most involved company demands for unilateral concessions from the union, instead of good-faith bargaining to reach a settlement.

## Retaliation against IBU members

Foss tug crews belong to the ILWU’s Marine Division, known as the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU). Until recently, about 50 IBU crewmembers were working on Foss tugs at the Ports of LA and Long Beach – the nation’s largest port complex. But when Foss officials didn’t get their way at the negotiating table, they retaliated with layoffs that targeted over 30 IBU members. Retaliation against union members is illegal and the IBU quickly filed federal charges against Foss, but

the legal process still favors companies with deep pockets – and the new administration in Washington is making it clear that they intend to be friendly with corporations, not union members.

## Foss wants to break with CA law

Foss has dug their heels behind a company demand that union members must waive their right to 8-hour shifts with overtime pay after a full day’s work. Those terms are also part of California’s labor code. It is technically possible to bend that law – but only if workers voluntarily agree to give up that right to overtime after an 8-hour shift in a new contract, which Foss has been demanding from the beginning.

## Weeks on duty, smaller crews

Foss has taken their demand to waive overtime to the extreme, by insisting that tug crews remain on company vessels for up to two weeks before going home. Besides getting no overtime, the company would force crewmembers to work “mini-shifts” of 6 hours, with just 6 hours of downtime between shifts. The company is also proposing to reduce crew sizes from the current 3 to just 2, posing another safety hazard.

## Dangers of sleep deprivation

Numerous scientific studies have proven the need for extended sleep periods to ensure safety and top performance, a fact that the company has apparently overlooked or ignored.

“These change would make Foss a lot of money, but it would also be incredibly dangerous for crewmembers to perform hazardous tasks while sleep-deprived,” said IBU President Alan Coté.

Tugs crews know that their work can be extremely dangerous, and can describe some incredibly horrible incidents – including serious injuries and deaths – that have occurred at LA/Long Beach.

“The 8-hour-day is a right that workers all over America fought and died to win,” said Adam Petty, a member of the IBU Bargaining Committee. “Longer duty periods would be hard on our families and pose a real threat to our safety, so we can’t ignore that reality when the company talks about increasing efficiency and making more profit.”

## Big company with deep pockets

Foss is owned by a wealthy conglomerate called Salchuk that formed in 1982 and has been growing ever since with both union and non-union operations. Salchuk has used their flexibility to benefit wealthy owners at the expense of workers. For example, after Foss retaliated against workers with layoffs, they were able to keep clients by reshuffling tug business to a Salchuk subsidiary known as “AmNav,” which operates at various west coast ports including LA/Long Beach – without IBU crewmembers.

## Union cooperation

Saltchuk workers are represented by a number of different unions, and the IBU is coordinating information with them, including the Masters, Mates and Pilots (MMP), Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) and the Seafarers International Union (SIU) which has contracts with Crowley Maritime at the Ports of LA and Long Beach. Crowley crews remain onboard their tugs for days at a time, but the work they do – moving vessels in and out of the harbor complex – involves frequent downtime between the busy mornings and evenings, so they can’t be directly compared with Foss tugs



**Dangerous work:** IBU member Jose Martin secures a heavy line on a tug operating in the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor complex. The work can be extremely dangerous, involving lines and cables that are subject to extreme pressure, sometimes resulting in serious injuries and deaths.

that do different types of work without long breaks in their schedules.

## Threat prompts strike vote

Foss escalated, first by retaliating with layoffs and again on December 9 when they announced the company’s “last, best and final” contract offer, declaring they intended to implement terms unilaterally in late December and early January – unless the union agreed to the company’s contract terms before then. The IBU’s negotiating committee responded by issuing a possible strike notice to Foss officials, and sending the company’s “last, best and final offer” to workers for a vote. Ballots from union members concerning the company’s final offer were scheduled to be counted on January 3.

“We’ve had a long relationship with Foss, and understand that changes are sometimes required in every industry, but we also need Foss to respect workers by negotiating over changes, instead of issuing demands, imposing ultimatums or breaking the law, which always rubs people the wrong way,” said IBU President Alan Coté.



**Trying to negotiate with Foss:** The union Negotiating Committee that’s helping Foss Tug workers at Long Beach has met dozens of times with the company since May of 2016. Reaching agreement has been difficult because Foss hasn’t negotiated in good faith, and officials retaliated against union workers; both are violations of federal labor law. (L-R) IBU President Alan Cote, IBU lost-time organizer Adam Dalton, So Cal Regional IBU Director John Skow, Stan Sato, Merle Norquist, Joey Saccomanno, Adam Petty, George Martinez III, Bob Engel, Zac Villanueva and Steve Phifer.

**Helping hands:** Dozens of active and retired ILWU members from various ILWU locals attended the week-long workshop for Bay Area volunteers of the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program (ADRP). These events are held annually in each region to keep volunteers informed about the latest research and services available for ILWU members and families struggling with alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems. The program offers connections with professional treatment programs available through the ADRP Representative. Some of those who attended the four-day workshop at Local 10 in San Francisco on Nov. 28 to Dec 1, were (seated L-R): Northern ADRP Representative Hunny Powell, ADRP Founder George Cobbs, Southern California ADRP Representative Tamiko Love, Retired Warehouse DARE Representative Gary Atkinson. Standing (L-R) are Benefits Plan Office Manager Mario Perez, Stanley Scott, Tyrice Powell, Bernie Aguayo, Eric Linker, Kelly Kane, Jakank Love, Herbert Burnley, Janine Burnley, Shirley Avila, William Avila, Dewayne Cleghorn, Kirk Allen, Norman McLeod and Local 34 Vice President Jeannette Peoples.



# ILWU's tradition of holiday giving

ILWU's members are actively engaged with their communities and participate in charity events and fundraisers year round. However, during the holiday season, locals up and down the Coast pick it up a notch allowing thousands of families to have a happier Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## Serving the Community in So Cal

The ILWU's annual Feed the Community Day has become a Southern California tradition, now in its 19th year. Volunteers filled 1500 baskets, each with a turkey and all the trimmings that were distributed to families facing hard times. The event took place on Wednesday, November 23, the day before Thanksgiving. "This is just one of the many ways that our union family gives back and shares with the community where we live and work," said Pensioners President Greg Mitre.

## The Southern California ILWU

Locals also sponsor an annual holiday party which provides toys to thousands of local children. The Christmas Party and Feed the Community Day happen because of the year-round effort by the Holiday Events Committee and hundreds of volunteers who put in work on the day of the event. Locals 13, 26, 63, 94, the Federated Auxiliary 8, Southern California Pensioners, Longshoremen Memorial Association and

the Local 63 Memorial Association all made this year's holiday events possible.

## SF Bay Area holiday events

Bay Area longshore members, families, Auxiliary supporters, and Pensioners were busy celebrating and helping the less fortunate during the holidays.

## BALMA's contribution

As in the past, the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA) took the lead in producing many of the area's holiday events, beginning with decorating the hiring hall to convey the season's spirit of giving and sharing. Coordination for this year's BALMA-sponsored events was provided by BALMA President Chris Christensen, Local 10 members Kelly Kane and Carlos Villanueva. A team of dedicated volunteers included Felita Andrews, Olga Quevedo, Sonya Bell, Aklilu Teffera, Donna Bell, Simone McDonnell, Shamone "Big Mo" Wilson, Escari Johnson, Carlos Villanueva and Charles Coffey.

## Coat drive

Dispatcher Beth Susim, who previously coordinated holiday décor and activities at Local 10, organized a coat drive this season that provided warm jackets to homeless people living on San Francisco's chilly streets. "We're getting donations in the hall that I distribute to people on the street who really need help this year because of the extra cold weather we've had lately," said Susim.



**Local 10 Toy Drive:** Standing in the back row from left to right are Local 10 President Ed Ferris, BALMA Secretary Vanetta Hamlin, and BALMA President Christopher Christensen. Seated on the bikes in the front row from left to right are Gabriel Shin, Dan Lui, and Danny Gracia, volunteers with the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Drive who collected the gifts that were donated by members of Locals 10, 34 and 91.

## Pensioners thank staff

Bay Area Pensioners maintained their tradition of hosting a holiday luncheon on December 16 for staff from the ILWU International, Locals and Benefit Plans. Pensioner President George Cobbs delivered his always eloquent "thank you," which was seconded by International President Bob McEllrath who attended with Coast Committeeman Cam Williams and Coast Benefits Specialist John Castanho.

## Children's Christmas Party

BALMA and the ILWU Credit Union sponsored the annual Children's Party at Local 10 on December 17, creating four-hours with Santa Claus, a "Kid Zone" with clowns, face painting, caricature portraits, and balloon art provided by Buki the Clown and her talented team of entertainers. BALMA Treasurer Mike Villeggiante helped with set-up, Chris Christensen with operations and clean-up, and Vanetta Hamlin assisted with outreach.

## Pensioners Luncheon

The day following the children's party, Bay Area Pensioners arrived at the hall for a lunch and program that has become an annual holiday tradition, sponsored by the Pensioners with assistance from BALMA. The feast was filling and the speeches by President George Cobbs, Vice President Norm McCloud and Secretary-Treasurer Lawrence Thibeaux, were brief and gracious.

## Firefighter Toy Drive

Bay Area ILWU members brought unwrapped toys to the Local 10 Memorial Hall that were donated to a Toy Drive that's been coordinated by San Francisco Firefighters for many decades. Donations at the hall added up to form an impressive pile of gifts, including a dozen bicycles. Firefighters arrived on December 23 to pick up the ILWU donations, filling their truck with goodwill and holiday wishes from the ILWU family – made possible with contributions from members at Locals 10, 34 and 91, the ILWU Credit Union, and Fishermen's Wharf Merchant Association, plus sponsorship of BALMA.

## Toolworks

In addition to collecting toys, members of Locals 10, 34 and 91 donated a large number of toiletries for a project called "Toolworks," which distributes these items to homeless individuals and families. Members of the Fishermen's Wharf Merchant Association joined the effort with generous contributions that filled several barrels full of toys and toiletries. BALMA President Chris Christensen and Secretary Vanetta Hamlin met with officials at the Merchants Association and helped make the effort possible.

## Season's Greetings in Seattle

Local 19's Dan Elverston helped coordinate a team of ILWU "Christmas For Kids" volunteers who transformed \$19,000 in contributions from union members into \$24,000 worth of toys and gifts – thanks to discounts from union retailer *Fred Meyer*. The goods went to families in the Puget Sound region who are facing hard times.

In addition to contributions from Local 19 members, support also came from locals 52 and 98, plus Pensioner and Auxiliary members. This year's charity recipients included the Harborview Medical Center, Highline Public Schools, Teen Feed, Treehouse, Holiday Magic, and the Labor Temple Children's Holiday Party.

A separate set of toys and clothing came from members and staff who left toys and clothing beneath Local 19's Christmas tree. Volunteers then delivered the bundle of gifts to Seattle's Treehouse program that helps foster children.



**Hospitality Kitchen:** Volunteers from Local 23 support the Hospitality Kitchen year round but serving the community a hot meal during the holidays is particularly important.



**Tacoma toys:** Local 23 members donated over \$36,000 to purchase toys for children. Over 750 kids benefited from their generosity.



**Community service:** The ILWU's annual Feed the Community Day is a Southern California tradition. From (L-R) Left to Right: newly-elected Congress member Nanette Barragan, Mayor Albert Robles of Carson, Long Beach City Councilmember Roberto Uranga, ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, Local 13 Vice President Mondo Porras, Local 63 Day Business Agent Cathy Familathe, Pacific Coast Pensioners President Greg Mitre and Local 13 Holiday Event Committee President Jose Alvarez. Photo Credit Chris Brad.



**Hard-working women:** Portland's Local 8 Credit Union took a leadership role in coordinating a fundraising effort that involved the entire ILWU family in a successful toy drive. Shown with some of the many gifts secured for families in need are: Top row, L-R: Dani Rutkowski, Michelle Humbert, Helen McCann, Kathy Heisler, Marika Castillo. Bottom row, L-R: Maria Roberts, Shelby Palmer, Jaimie Garver, Ashely Hill.

to several good causes, including the Community Service program run by local unions to help members needing food and financial assistance during the holidays. Another portion of funds are donated to Snow Cap, the food bank serving residents in East Multnomah County. The rest is spent on toys that are donated to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Portland.



Portland area tot enjoys her choice of toys.

The Annual Toy Drive opened in November when donors began bringing new, unwrapped toys to the Local 8 Hall and Local 8 Federal Credit Union. As in the past, the Local 8 Federal Credit Union coordinated the effort and generously matched \$5,000 in cash contributions provided by donors. The combined contributions made it possible to purchase \$10,000 worth of bikes and toys. The bikes were carefully assembled by a team that included Credit Union staffers. Helmets were supplied for each bike by members of Local 40. Donations were accepted until December 13th when the toys were taken to the "Presents from Partners" program sup-

ported by area unions through Labor's Community Service Agency. Families unable to afford toys for their children were invited to attend a Christmas lunch with Santa, where each child was able to select 3 toys of their choice. Each child also received a board game, ball, stuffed animal, a stocking full of gifts, and a new, age-appropriate book  
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Photo by Chris Brad

**Volunteers help make the Southern California Feed the Community Day possible:** From L-R Auxiliary 8 President Ida Taylor, Southern California Pensioners Club Financial Secretary Lynn Hay, Pacific Coast Pensioner President Greg Mitre and former Southern California Pensioners Club Board Member Louise Hay.

Yet another effort at Local 19 involved food donations left by members who brought children and grandchildren to visit Santa on December 20 and get their picture taken. The donated food items they brought were donated to the Puget Sound Food Bank. "This was truly a community effort," said coordinator Dan Elverston, who estimated that the combined projects helped thousands of families in need throughout the Puget Sound area.

#### Columbia River

The Columbia River Pensioners Annual Christmas Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn near Portland Airport on Saturday, December 3. Cocktail hour started early at 11am with lots of non-alcoholic beverages before the banquet began at 12 noon. Four different entrees provided enough choices to satisfy everyone. Beautiful poinsettia plants were offered to each woman who attended, along with prizes for lucky winners who won the raffle

drawings. Newly elected 2017 officers, trustees and executive board members were installed at the banquet.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party was held at Local 8's hiring hall on Saturday afternoon, December 10th. Members of Auxiliary Local 5 sponsored the event that featured food and drinks along with crafts and activities. Santa made a special appearance and listened patiently to many requests from over 60 children of ILWU family members. Photos were taken of each child who sat on his lap, preserving the memory for years to come. Children waiting in line for their chance to share a secret with Santa were entertained with crafts and games. Pizza and cookies were offered to everyone. The Children's Christmas Party is hosted by Auxiliary 5 and made possible with generous donations from Locals 8, 40, 92, the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) and Portland Local 8 Federal Credit Union. Remaining funds are donated



**San Diego:** Some of the members who volunteered to make the holiday effort a success in San Diego included (top row, L-R): Brady Lovelady, Dana Gonzalez, Bina Moctezuma, John Ryan, Marcella Calderon, Yolanda Zepeda, pensioner Irene Smith, Danielle Cruz, Crystal Epperson, Chris Torres and Alfonso Torres. Bottom Row: Renee Sicat, Santa Claus, Erica Luna, Jessica Krivasich and Christina Moreno.



**Christmas for Kids volunteers:** A team effort was key to Local 19's successful "Christmas for Kids" program. Among those who helped were (back row, L-R): Rick Pyfer, Christian Kirk, Vivian Kirk, Chris Ralls, Joey Domingues, Ali Vekich, Mark Elverston, Cosette Hill, Mark Williams, Lynne, Roileen, Kyle (Fred Meyer employees), Jeff Vaughn, Rocky Carroll, and Dan Elverston. Front row: Nick Campbell, Sarah Esch and Trent Crosby.



**Local 19 gifts for a good cause:** Local 19 members delivered gifts in mid-December to Seattle's Treehouse charity that helps young people in the foster care system. Pictured (L-R): longtime Treehouse volunteer Ann Huber, Trent Crosby, Dan Elverston who is Chair of Local 19's Christmas for Kids, Christian Kirk who is Secretary Treasurer of Christmas for Kids, Rudy Finne Jr., Dan McKisson, Rocky Carroll and Herald Ugles - all members of Local 19.

# Executive Board sees political shift



(L-R) International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, International Vice-President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado, International President Robert McEllrath, SITRAMIT General Secretary Rodolfo Rivas, SITRAMIT member Mario Gutierrez, International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, and ILWU Executive Board member Rainiero Salas of the Panama Canal Pilots Union.

The ILWU's International Executive Board met December 5-6 in San Francisco, and quickly got down to business by discussing the impact of Donald Trump's election on the union and working class.

## Pulling no punches

President McEllrath, who noted Trump's anti-union behavior in a pre-election commentary that was published in the November *Dispatcher*, pulled no punches in noting that Trump won support among working-class voters.

"We know that many members of the ILWU and other unions voted for Trump because they were fed up with the status quo," said McEllrath. Working class voters felt abandoned and ignored by politicians – especially in Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio – and those were exactly the states that made the difference this time."

## Some supported Trump

Reports from ILWU team members who talked with voters in six states

before the election, confirm that Trump had traction among many union voters. Each of the six ILWU teams visited households for two weeks before the election where a union member resided, and all teams reported significant support for Trump in Nevada, Florida, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Ohio.

## Two union-friendly Senators

The ILWU's team in Nevada was the only state among the six where a pro-union candidate, Catherine Cortez Masto, was elected to the U.S. Senate.

The ILWU also made a financial contribution that helped pro-union candidate Maggie Hassan win her U.S. Senate race in New Hampshire. She received a personal visit from International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and Local 13 member Joe Cortez.

## Bi-partisan help

The ILWU has assembled a bi-partisan team of experts to work with Legislative Coordinator Lindsay McLaughlin and the Coast Legislative Committee, with activities overseen by the Inter-

national Officers and Coast Committeemen. "ILWU members have important interests in Washington, D.C., and we're going to make sure that our concerns and voices will be heard by Congress and the new administration," said McEllrath.

## New Organizing staffer

The Executive Board was introduced to Ryan Dowling, the ILWU's newly hired Assistant Director of Organizing. Dowling is based in Portland, Oregon and will assist the ILWU's Lead Organizers on the West Coast. International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe expects to convene a meeting of the ILWU organizing team in the New Year to set campaign plans for 2017.

## Hawaiian sugar winds down

International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado and Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura provided the Board with an update on developments in Hawaii – including details about the final sugar harvest at the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S) where hundreds of ILWU members have been growing, harvesting and processing sugarcane on Maui for more than 70 years. *The Dispatcher* will report on this history and the future of agriculture in Hawaii in a forthcoming issue.

## Panama dockers union

President McEllrath welcomed Rodolfo Rivas, General Secretary of the SITRAMIT dockworkers union from the Port of Manzanillo, Panama. Mr. Rivas was introduced by ILWU Executive Board member Rainiero Salas of the Panama Canal Pilots Union, which leads the ILWU Panama Division and is actively exploring an affiliation with

the SITRAMIT dockworkers union into the Panama Division. The next issue of *the Dispatcher* will provide an update on this development.

## Solidarity for Standing Rock

Before adjourning their final meeting of 2016, the Executive Board acted to express solidarity for two current events. The first involved the protest led by leaders of the Standing Rock Sioux nation in North Dakota near the Missouri River where a controversial oil pipeline has sparked growing opposition from Native Americans, environmentalists and union members. ILWU members from Locals 4, 10, 13, 23 have already sent supplies, donations and solidarity delegations to support the protest. The International Executive Board unanimously approved a \$10,000 donation that was personally delivered to Standing Rock leaders in early December by Board members Julie Brady of Local 13 and Melvyn Mackay of Local 10. In addition, the ILWU Coast Committee has also authorized a \$5,000 contribution.

## Compassion for Oakland Fire Victims

The Board's final action was to authorize a \$10,000 donation to help the families of 36 victims, mostly young people, who perished in the December 2 fire at an Oakland warehouse known as the "Ghost Ship" that housed dozens of artists and musicians. The tragedy is one of the deadliest structural fires in recent California history. Executive Board members opened their meeting with a moment of silence in honor of the victims and their families. The Coast Committee also made a \$5,000 contribution.

# ILWU's tradition of holiday giving

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donated by the Credit Union. Children were also taken to the "parent's room" where they selected a gift that they could give to their parents. Each family also received a gift cards to a local union grocery store, allowing them to buy food for a Christmas dinner.

"This was a big effort that required 180 volunteers from many different unions to make this a special day for families needing help during the holidays," said Jaimie Garver, CEO of the Credit Union, who coordinated the Credit Union effort. She thanked ILWU members for their generosity, and acknowledged important support from Local 8 President Mike Stanton and Administrator Shelby Palmer who also helped coordinate the effort.

## Tacoma toy drive

This year Local 23 members and pensioners donated \$36,119 and were able to help over 750 local children with 2 presents each including toys, jackets and bikes. There was a friendly competition between Longshore pensioners, dispatchers, clerks, mechanics, crane drivers, lift, preferred dock and house lists and Longshore workers who like to work at particular ter-

minals to see who could raise more money for the toy drive.

Local 23 worked with 12 local organizations who assist children in need including the Tacoma Rescue Mission, St. Leo's Food Connection, Comprehensive Mental Health Services, Tacoma Boys and Girls Club, Lincoln High School's Children's Program, Wishing Well for Foster Kids, Body of Christ, Toy Rescue Mission, Mann Middle School, Pierce County AIDS Foundation, Lamb of God and the YWCA Women's Shelter.

The toy drive committee members who vet the organizations, purchase many of the toys at a great discount at their local union *Fred Meyer* store and organize the toy drive giveaway under the direction of trustee Kyle Copeland, committee members Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burke and Holly Hulscher.

The Tacoma local supports the St. Leo's Hospitality Kitchen every year with a donation of \$17,000 and additional donations during the holidays. Local 23 pensioners, members and friends volunteer monthly serving food to people in need including before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"It's an honor for us as ILWU members to serve our community and those that are less fortunate during this season and year around," said Local 23 member Byron Baydo who volunteers at St. Leo's monthly. "Today many of the guests that come through the line hold full-time jobs, but they just don't make enough to make ends meet."

Local 23 also donated \$4,000 to help students from Evergreen Elementary attend Camp Seymour, donated \$200 to the FISH Food Bank and \$5,000 to team backpack who provide high school students in the Tacoma School District with backpacks filled with necessities and hope.

Local 23 also provides \$32,000 in gift cards to 158 local elementary schools to kids who try hard in school and are in need. Since 1999 a teacher or counselor from each school chooses a student to receive the gift card every year.

## Local 29 members help San Diego families

Coordinators Marcella Calderon and Erica Luna helped Longshore and Allied Division members from Local 29 team-up with the ILWU Credit Union to provide holiday help for hundreds

of residents living in three cities surrounding San Diego.

One effort targeted homeless teens living in the Point Loma area who received backpacks filled with gifts and practical necessities.

Another effort was in National City where mothers and the children visit the McAlister Institute's South Bay Women's Recovery Center for treatment and support. A total of 69 children with moms in recovery received bikes and helmets from the ILWU. Each mother also received a grab bag filled with goodies.

"Longshore and Allied members, along with pensioners, were eager to support people in our community with these contributions," said Marcella Calderon.

"The moms were so excited to see their children receive a bike for Christmas, and we were all grateful to the ILWU for making these gifts possible," said Julie Salas, who coordinates childcare for the women in recovery program.

Almost two dozen additional bikes were donated to a toy drive in East San Diego where the contributions were needed and appreciated.

# ILWU pledges solidarity with Standing Rock

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Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the United Electrical Workers have all issued statements supporting the protest. Support has also come from six AFL-CIO constituent groups, including the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

However, last September, the AFL-CIO issued a statement supporting the pipeline project, thought to be the result of pressure from the Building Trades Department. The Building Trades issued a letter to their membership that sharply criticized unions who have opposed the pipeline project.

## ILWU delegations lend a hand

Local 4 members Steve Hunt, Jamison Roberts and Josh Goodwin were the first ILWU members on the ground in Standing Rock in November of 2016. They drove 3,000 miles round trip to deliver over \$7,000 worth of supplies to the camp. Hunt said he decided to go after seeing media video of protesters being attacked by private security guards and he wanted to see first-hand what was happening.

"I wanted to know the truth," Hunt said. "When we were locked out of the grain elevators in Washington, I saw the tactics used by private security, police, and the military. I know they aren't there to protect the green grass. They have the backs of the oil companies. It reminded me of the grain lock out when the Coast Guard would just push us out of the way when they wanted to bring a ship in."

When word got out that Hunt was planning a trip to Standing Rock,

donations from Local 4 members started rolling in. Hunt said he had to take a larger truck and rent a trailer to fit all of the donated gear, food and toiletries. Hunt financed the trip out of his own pocket but at a recent meeting, Local 4 members voted to reimburse him for expenses.

A delegation from ILWU Local 23 went to Standing Rock just after the Thanksgiving holiday to deliver \$6,000 in donated supplies. The delegation included Local 23 President Dean McGrath, Local 23 members Theresa Sammalisto and Brendan Winders and Local 23 casual Brian Skiffington.

McGrath said that "solidarity was the one word that sums up the vibe at the Standing Rock encampment." He met people there from all over the world who came together to brave the harsh North Dakota winter in order to provide support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe who are fighting to protect their land and way of life.

"The conflict at standing rock has been a great example of the battle between the one percent and everyone else," McGrath said. "The concern of the Standing Rock Sioux for the water on their land has been met with violent attacks by private security and police. Hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars are being spent to protect the interests of the pipeline company. Many of us are realizing that the cards are stacked against us by the elite, and that the only way we can survive is through working-class solidarity."

Delegations from Locals 10 and 13 arrived in the beginning of December, just after the International Executive Board passed its Statement of Policy.



From left to right: Local 10 President Ed Ferris, International Executive Board member Julie Brady, Jason "Biggie" Umtuch and Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr. Umtuch and Oscar High Elk housed ILWU members during their stay at the camp and welcomed them with open arms, said Local 13 delegation member Tim Hernandez.

"Despite enduring long periods of sub-zero weather and violence at the hands of law enforcement, the brothers and sisters at 'Oceti Oyate' (the People's Camp) are all in. They are firmly resolved in effort and purpose to protect their land and their water supply," said Local 10 President Ed Ferris. "I was inspired by the courage, kindness, and solidarity that I witnessed at Oceti Oyate. It was an experience that I will never forget."

Ferris added, "I am very proud of our union for putting significant resources and boots on the ground to support this struggle. By doing so we have honored the ILWU's rich tradition of fighting for social justice. We have honored our slogan 'An injury to one, is an injury to all.'"

"It was an extremely humbling experience," said ILWU Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr. Olvera was inspired by the teamwork by all ILWU members from different locals who stepped-up to do whatever jobs were needed to assist the Sioux. "Everyone pulled their weight. There were no titles there. We were all lending our hands to build structures or whatever tasks were needed. The ILWU has always taken stands on social issues going back to Harry's day. With Trump coming into office, we are going to need even more of this," Olvera said.

Tim Hernandez is a registered Class B longshore worker from Local 13 who was a part of the Local 13 delegation to Standing Rock. Hernandez, who is Lakota, was an important part

of the ILWU team. His knowledge of the culture and language helped to strengthen the ties between the ILWU delegations and the Standing Rock Sioux and to help teach the ILWU delegations the proper protocols of being on sacred lands, Hernandez said.

"It was a blessing to be able to return home for the first time," Hernandez said. "I'm not from Standing Rock, I'm from Pine Ridge, but we are a part of the Lakota Nation and we are relatives. I knew it would be a life changing experience and that the ancestors would be present. The Seventh Generation—my generation—is experiencing an awakening. We need to take care of the earth and fight for all life."

## End game unclear

President Obama's administration reviewed the pipeline project and determined that the company should re-route the project in order to protect the tribe's water supply and sacred sites. And on December 6, Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault asked supporters to leave the encampment due to dangerous blizzards that would continue to pose a hazard throughout the winter.

The direction of the pipeline project could take another turn when President-elect Donald Trump takes office on January 20. His appointment of oil company executives and lobbyists to key cabinet positions could re-start a struggle in the Spring if the pipeline returns to its original routing through the Sioux's water supply.



Photo by Christine Aguirre

**Standing Rock delegation:** ILWU delegation from Locals 13 and 10 in Bismarck, ND.

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** David J. Smith; Greg A. Brown; **Local 10:** William Armstrong; Earl R. Garcia; Lim S. Meas; Juan F. Campos; **Local 13:** Adolfo Ponce Deleon; Ernie Villarico; David R. Ortega; Anthony W. Brown; Alfredo De La Cruz; Stephen W. Rispin; Antonio S. Esqueda; John V. Mihaljevich; Anthony Sindich; Delma I. Guevara; Frank Cazares; Steve A. Marin; **Local 19:** Gordon E. Teller; **Local 23:** Albert Castillo, Jr.;

Michael D. Svoboda; **Local 51:** Duane R. Johnson; Michael P. Smith; **Local 52:** William H. Wright; **Local 63:** Danny J. Evans; John Ingram; Robert A. Knouse; Jack T. Gamulin; Manuel E. Estupinan; Kenny L. Cash; Jeanne D. Ysais; Rosemary H. Gravett; Daniel O. Garske; Richard J. Jacobelly; Stella Sumaron; **Local 75:** Joseph A. Lucas Jr; Randolph C. Woodard; **Local 92:** Scott M. Elliott; **Local 94:** Fernand Basua; Manuel Mendibles; **Local 98:** Herbert L. Lawrence;

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 7:** Chester Ressler; **Local 8:** Graydon Wolfe; Barnell Wilson; David L. Jensen (Earleen); **Local 10:** William F. Watt; Gonzalo Del Moral; **Local 13:** Seaward R. Lynch (Donelle); John L. Hunt; Robert N. Jackson; **Local 19:** Paul Buxton; Allan C. Fredericksen; **Local 21:** Bobby G. Rose; Robert N. Hansen; **Local 26:** Erwin J. Shelp; **Local 34:** Lloyd D. Case Jr.; **Local 40:** Harold M. Hanson; **Local 54:** James L. Wilson; **Local 98:** Samuel A. Denney;

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 10:** Jeanne Galarza; Pinkie Nelson; Mattie B. Berry; Dessie L. Simon; **Local 13:** Inge Fredericksen; Katherine S. Hudev; Jean M. Donato; **Local 23:** Christina Johnson; **Local 51:** Elene S. Forrester; **Local 63:** Barbara A. Baker; Mary L. Harold; Virginia M. Pearson; Oleta J. Hansen; **Local 98:** Mew Lang Pickford;



**Preparing for February GAP training:** Members of the ILWU Coast Education Committee met during mid-December in San Francisco to plan the upcoming Grievance and Arbitration Procedures (“GAP”) workshop that will be held February 5-10. The training is aimed at business agents, Labor Relations Committee (LRC) representatives and local officers who are responsible for handling grievances and arbitrations. The Education Committee is responsible for planning the event under supervision of the Coast Committee. Among the Education Committee members who planned the GAP training were (L-R) Local 10’s Mike Villegiante, Local 94’s Mike Trudeau and Local 13’s Sunshine Garcia. Other Committee members not shown include Local 8’s David Porter, Local 19’s Rich Austin, Jr., Local 23’s Dean McGrath, Local 34’s Sean Farley, Local 47’s Robert Rose, Local 18th William Linker, Bay Area Pensioner Gene Vrana and Education Committee Chair Patricia Aguirre of Local 63.

## A Helping Hand...

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

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**ADRP—Oregon**  
**Brian Harvey**  
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 Portland, OR 97221  
 (503) 231-4882

**ADRP—Northern California**  
**Hunny Powell**  
 HPowell@benefitplans.org  
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 San Francisco, CA 94133  
 (415) 776-8363

**ADRP—Washington**  
**Donnie Schwendeman**  
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 Tacoma, WA 98424  
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### ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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**Teamsters Assistance Program**  
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### ILWU CANADA

**EAP—British Columbia**  
**John Felicella**  
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## Christmas solidarity action by ILWU Canada members

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Korean workers had simultaneously organized a general strike and were protesting in the streets. Many different unions supported the march from Vancouver’s Canada Place to the South Korean Consulate. A group of 50 workers demonstrated in front of the Consulate while a delegation went inside to read and deliver a letter from Maritime Council President Ashton, Vice Presidents Gerry Gault and Tom Doran, and Secretary-Treasurer Graeme Johnston.

### New action planned January 12

ILWU Canada locals are coordinating a solidarity action on January 12 with the Seafarer’s International Union (SIU) Canada and Canadian ILA leaders. They plan to begin the New Year with a “National Day of Action” in

Canada that involves union members and supporters from Newfoundland in the east to Victoria in the west – with activities also planned at the big ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert. All events are scheduled to begin at 10am pacific time. The goal is to protect maritime jobs that are being threatened by corporate greed.

### Foreign flags, lower pay

The planned national action is a response to moves made by vessel owners in Newfoundland who changed the flags on ships being crewed by SIU members. By “re-flagging” these vessels to operate under a Marshall Islands flag, ship owners hope to dodge labor, environmental and tax laws that apply to vessels flying Canadian and U.S. flags.



Photoby Dave Roels

**Approaching the Scarlet:** Solidarity team members were transported to the Hanjin Scarlet on a launch provided by Tymac Launch Service. Tymac crewmembers belong to Local 400 and donated their time; the company donated the launch service and contributed supplies to help the Hanjin crew.

### Substandard pay

ILWU Local 400 is fighting a similar struggle in Victoria against a foreign-flagged vessel operating with poorly-paid, predominantly Filipino seafarers who earn less than the region’s minimum wage and far less than the \$30 per hour that Local 400 crewmembers typically receive. The foreign-flagged vessel operates from port-to-port within Canada, something known in maritime law as “cabotage.” Canada and the U.S. both have laws requiring all cabotage work to be performed by vessels flying domestic flags and following domestic labor laws, including the Jones Act in the U.S. and a similar

law in Canada. But Canada’s Trudeau government recently issued a waiver allowing a foreign-flagged ship to be based in Victoria and operate between Canadian ports. In the U.S., attacks against the Jones Act are increasingly common and could escalate under President Trump.

### Corporate greed

“This is part of the corporate greed ethic that can also lead to public ports being privatized,” said ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton. “Free trade agreements are part of the same disease that destroys workers and communities in order to enrich corporations and CEO’s.”



Photoby Dave Roels

**Holiday solidarity:** ILWU Canada members joined other unions and community groups to deliver solidarity and supplies to crewmembers of the Hanjin Scarlet who have been anchored-off Vancouver Island since the company declared bankruptcy in late 2016.