



THE DISPATCHER

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Longshore members overwhelmingly ratify new contract by 82%

Longshore workers voted overwhelmingly to ratify the tentative contract agreement reached in February with the Pacific Maritime Association.

Members voted by 82 % to approve the new 5-year pact that will expire in 2019. The vote totals were 7,673 "YES" and 1699 "NO."

Voting results were certified on May 22 by the Coast Balloting Committee, which is chosen by Coast Longshore Caucus delegates.

"The negotiations for this contract were some of the longest and most difficult in our recent history," said ILWU International President Robert McEllrath. "Membership unity and hard work by the Negotiating Committee made the outcome possible."

The new agreement provides approximately 20,000 good-paying jobs for workers living in 29 West Coast port communities. The contract maintains excellent health benefits, improved wages, pensions and job safety protections. It also limits outsourcing of jobs and provides an improved system for resolving job disputes.

See page 2 for a breakdown of the vote by local.

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ILWU leaders join protest in Perth against Chevron projects

Docker union leaders from around the world – including ILWU officers – met in Perth, Australia for a strategy meeting in May that included a protest against Chevron for failing to respect workers’ rights in Western Australia.

“Chevron is based in California, but communities back home and around the world are having the same kinds of problems from this company,” said ILWU International President Robert McEllrath, who spoke at a rally in front of the New Zealand Embassy in Perth. McEllrath joined Vice-Presidents Ray Familathe and Wesley Furtado, and Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams who attended the protest organized by the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). The protest took place on May 12 during a meeting of the ITF Dockers Section in Perth.

Problems down-under

Chevron is deeply involved with natural gas projects in both Australia and New Zealand. Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) members say they’ve been treated unfairly at Chevron’s massive “Gorgon” project, located off the country’s northwest shore. Chevron intends to collect gas from offshore wells then liquefy the product on Barrow’s Island for export using giant LNG tankers. The effort was first

estimated to cost \$37 billion but exploded to \$54 billion because of cost overruns. Instead of cooperating with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), Chevron has refused to respect longstanding union contract standards and filed a \$20 million lawsuit against MUA members over a health and safety dispute.

In New Zealand, Chevron and a partner company were recently awarded lucrative offshore exploration permits. Concerns among members from the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) are running high that Chevron may try to use similar tactics against them.

National Secretary Joe Fleetwood said New Zealand maritime workers are not welcoming Chevron, based on the company’s track record in Australia. He presented a letter to New Zealand consulate officials on May 12 that explained worker concerns about Chevron.

“We support responsible drilling with high safety standards, but we don’t support companies that have an anti-worker agenda and bad environmental record.”

Problems in the U.S.

At Chevron’s massive U.S. refinery complex in Richmond, CA, the company has gained notoriety for endangering workers, surrounding residents and the environment. A huge explosion and fire engulfed the refinery in August of 2012, nearly killing 10 refinery workers and sending over 10,000 resi-



ILWU International President Robert McEllrath joined a protest against Chevron on May 12 in Perth, Australia.

dents to local hospitals with concerns about respiratory problems. Federal and state investigators found Chevron was at fault for the explosion because the company had been cutting corners on safety. After Richmond City Council members expressed similar concerns and asked the company to pay their fair share of local taxes, Chevron launched a \$3 million political campaign to replace independent City Councilmembers with the company’s hand-picked candidates. The takeover attempt failed after voters rejected all of Chevron’s candidates.

On May 27, Bay Area ILWU members protested on the morning of

Chevron’s annual shareholder meeting at company’s corporate headquarters in San Ramon, CA.

ITF President Paddy Crumlin, who also heads the Maritime Union of Australia, conveyed his thanks to ILWU members for their solidarity – and displeasure at Chevron for failing to reach terms with Australian workers; a struggle he vowed to continue.

“We will keep seeking a settlement with Chevron – while we continue organizing workers at home and abroad to mount a fight – if that’s what the company wants.”

Longshore contract ratification tally by local

LOCAL	PORT	YES	NO	PERCENTAGE YES
04	Vancouver	165	4	98%
07	Bellingham	9	1	90%
08	Portland	325	29	92%
10	San Francisco/Oakland	819	127	87%
12	Coos Bay	28	0	100%
13	Los Angeles/Long Beach	3430	1224	74%
14	Eureka	13	0	100%
18	West Sacramento	27	3	90%
19	Seattle	570	42	93%
21	Longview	159	17	90%
23	Tacoma	709	16	98%
24	Aberdeen	32	0	100%
25	Anacortes	10	0	100%

LOCAL	PORT	YES	NO	PERCENTAGE YES
27	Port Angeles	15	0	100%
29	San Diego	79	8	91%
32	Everett	39	1	98%
34	San Francisco/Oakland	104	52	67%
40	Portland	68	2	97%
46	Port Hueneme	120	7	94%
47	Olympia	32	2	94%
50	Astoria	23	0	100%
51	Port Gamble	10	0	100%
52	Seattle/Puget Sound	93	16	85%
53	Newport	8	0	100%
54	Stockton	66	4	94%
63	Los Angeles/Long Beach	720	144	83%

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Local 10 leads protest against police brutality

On May 1, 200 ILWU members from Locals 10, 34, 61, 6 and the Inlandboatmen's Union joined with hundreds of community members to march from the Port of Oakland to Oakland's City Hall. Their purpose was to protest violent and racist actions by abusive police officers.

The protest was sparked by a series of high profile killings of unarmed Black men by police in cities across the country, some of which were caught on video.

Estimates on the size of the march ranged from 800 to 2,000.

Local 10's membership and Executive Board initiated the action by voting to move their regular "stop-work" union meeting from Thursday evening to the following Friday morning on May 1. The contract requires such changes to be approved by PMA employers, which they agreed to do.

The show of solidarity was prompted by the shocking murder of Walter Scott, an unarmed African American man who was shot eight times in the back by a police officer in North Charleston, South Carolina. Dramatic video of the event went viral and sparked conversations and consciousness-raising across the country. Walter Scott had several relatives who



Marching for accountability: Several hundred ILWU members joined a massive march from the Port of Oakland to City Hall to demand accountability for police violence.

were members of the International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) Local 1422, based in Charleston, South Carolina. Local 10's decision to march and protest were praised by leaders of ILA 1422 and officials from the South Carolina AFL-CIO.

Local 10 Executive Board member Stacey Rodgers helped initiate the protest, explaining that "Local 10 members had been talking about the murder of Walter Scott, and about other people getting shot by the police. I felt that we needed to do something."

Some Local 10 members have been directly affected by police violence, with two relatives killed by law enforcement in recent years. Jeremiah Moore was killed by Vallejo police who responded to a domestic disturbance call at his home in 2012. One of the police officers involved had already killed two suspects in less than 6 months, was named as a defendant in two "excessive force" lawsuits - yet received a promotion by the Department who cleared him of any wrongdoing, along with the County District Attorney. Richard "Pedie" Perez was killed by a Richmond, CA police officer who stopped the 24-year-old man in 2014 for allegedly being intoxicated and resisting arrest. Both cases are the subjects of lawsuits that dispute police accounts of the shootings.

ILWU Local 10 President Melvin Mackay said the march was peaceful, orderly and praised members for initiating the action and showing their concern. Mackay handled over a dozen inquiries from the news media, most calling to ask why workers organized the action and whether circumstances justified protesting instead of working the day shift on May 1.

"I told them that longshore workers have a long tradition of protesting injustice in the community, and that recent events deserve a strong response from all Americans."

On the day of the event, Local 10 President Melvin Mackay said, "We aren't out here saying all cops are bad. We respect the hard job that they have. But at the same time we are here to say that police misconduct and the improper use of deadly force by the police cannot go unpunished. The public shouldn't be afraid of the people who are supposed to protect them."



Solidarity from the Southland: (Left to right): Local 63 Secretary/Business Agent Richard Finlay, Local 13 member Adelita Finlay and Local 10 President Melvin Mackay.

El Local 10 encabeza protestas contra la brutalidad policial

El 1 de mayo, 200 afiliados de los Locales 10, 34, 61 y 6 de ILWU y del Sindicato de Barqueros de Aguas Internas se unieron a cientos de miembros de la comunidad para marchar desde el puerto de Oakland hasta la Alcaldía con el propósito de protestar las acciones violentas y racistas de policías abusivos.

La protesta fue provocada por una serie de asesinatos notorios de hombres negros desarmados por la policía en varias ciudades del país, algunos de los cuales fueron captados en video.

Se calculó que participaron entre 800 y 2,000 personas en la marcha.

Los afiliados del Local 10 y la Mesa Directiva iniciaron la acción al decidir que su reunión sindical con paro de labores que normalmente realizan los jueves por la tarde sería celebrada el siguiente viernes, 1 de mayo, por la mañana. El contrato de trabajo requiere que tales cambios sean aprobados por los empleadores de la PMA, aprobación que estos empleadores dieron.

La muestra de solidaridad fue una respuesta al escandaloso asesinato de Walter Scott, un afroamericano que fue balaceado ocho veces por la espalda por un policía de North Charleston en

Carolina del Sur. El video impactante del suceso se difundió como un virus por las redes sociales y provocó conversaciones y la toma de conciencia en todo el país. Walter Scott tuvo varios parientes que fueron afiliados del Local 1422 de la Asociación Internacional de Trabajadores Portuarios, con sede en Charleston, South Carolina. La decisión del Local 10 de participar en la marcha y protesta fue halagada por los líderes del Local 1422 y los dirigentes del AFL-CIO de South Carolina.

Stacy Rodgers, integrante de la Mesa Directiva del Local 10, ayudó a dar inicio a la protesta, explicando que los "afiliados del Local 10 han estado

hablando del asesinato de Walter Scott, y acerca de otras personas que han sido balaceadas por la policía. Sentí que necesitábamos hacer algo."

Algunos de los afiliados del Local 10 han sido afectados directamente por la violencia policial, ya que dos parientes fueron asesinados por agentes del orden público en años recientes. Jeremiah Moore fue asesinado por un policía de Vallejo cuando este respondió a una queja de violencia intrafamiliar en su hogar en 2012. Uno de los policías involucrados en ese asesinato ya había matado a dos sospechosos en menos de 6 meses, y

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James R. Herman memorial sculpture unveiled at San Francisco's Pier 27

Hundreds of union members, elected officials and supporters gathered at San Francisco's Pier 27 on March 26 to celebrate the unveiling of an interactive, multimedia sculpture honoring the legacy of former ILWU International President Jimmy Herman.

Speakers at the event included former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, Delancey Street Foundation President, Dr. Mimi Silbert, ILWU International President Robert McEllrath, ILWU International Secretary Treasurer and San Francisco Port Commissioner Willie Adams and Local 34 President Sean Farley.

The sculpture is a wall-mounted, interactive audio-visual installation measuring 10-feet high by 15-feet long. The sculpture resembles the waves of the bay. It contains touch screen display that will allow visitors to scroll through biographical information about Herman and to learn about the issues causes that defined Jimmy's life and career. The sculpture also includes a directional sound system that will allow visitors to hear highlights from Herman's speeches. It was crafted by the New York based art collective, Floating Point.

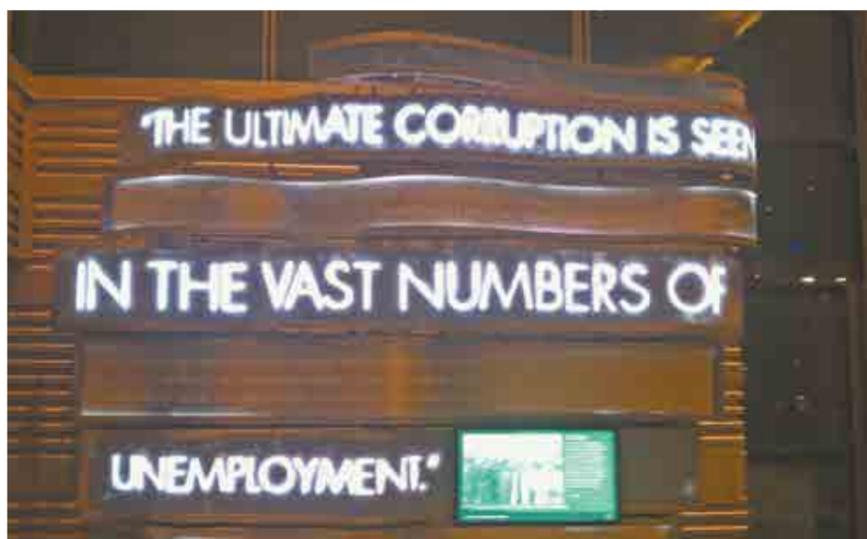
The Pier 27 cruise terminal is named in honor of Jimmy Herman and is the only cruise ship terminal in the world named after a labor leader. The

cruise terminal is 91,000 square feet in a two-story building with views to the Bay Bridge and the San Francisco skyline. The terminal is will be able to accommodate ships with up to 4,000 passengers. Hundreds of thousands of cruise ship passengers each year are expected to pass through the terminal every year.

ILWU members along with other members of the local community including former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi formed the James R. Herman Memorial Committee to raise money for the creation of the sculpture and its maintenance for the next 20 years.

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

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



Memorial with a message: Visitors to the James R. Herman Cruise Ship Terminal will see words and videos displayed from the former ILWU International President.



ILWU International Secretary Treasurer and SF Port Commissioner Willie Adams said the new cruise ship terminal was a great tribute to Jimmy Herman.



Local 34 President Sean Farley helped coordinate the Memorial Committee and was recognized by others for his efforts.



Radio show award: Producer Janet McKinney accepted an award in April for the "We Do the Work" radio program that is co-hosted by ILWU's Pacific Coast Pensioner President Rich Austin and Ken Winkes. The show has been broadcasting for 40 months and was recognized for having the widest coverage of any locally-produced show. The hosts interview guests who cover topics of interest to workers. Presenting the award was KSVR General Manager and media instructor Rip Robbins. Other stations carrying the program include: WXOJ (Florence, MA), WPRR (Grand Rapids, MI), KOWA (Olympia, WA), WRFI (Ithaca, NY), KUGS (Bellingham, WA), KAOS (The Evergreen College, Olympia, WA), KIDE (Hoopa Tribe, CA), KBOO (Portland, OR), and KKRN (Redding, CA).

Longshore union creates scholarship

COOS BAY — The International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 12 has created a permanent scholarship endowment with the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation.

"Longshoremen have a long history of supporting this community college. We're happy to keep this legacy alive and ensure our children have the opportunity to pursue a college education generation after generation," said Gary Alford, vice president of Local 12 in North Bend and a SWOCC alumnus.

Henry Hansen, along with other members of Local 12, successfully advocated for establishment of the college more than 50 years ago, urging the Oregon Legislature to authorize community colleges. Local 12 members collected signatures to bring the issue to a public vote to start the college in Coos Bay. Southwestern was established in 1961.

The union saw the value in creating a college to ensure young people from middle and lower class families had access to affordable public higher education. Today, the college still provides opportunities for young students to prepare for careers, but also helps established workers improve skills throughout their lives.

"The SWOCC Foundation is pleased to partner with business and trades organizations in providing scholarships and we appreciate the continuing long-term relationship that the college has with Local 12," said foundation chairman Mark Wall. "These relationships help ensure working-class families in our community have access to an affordable college education and that our Foundation scholarship program continues to grow and support students in their pursuit of a college degree."

Art Agnos remembers Jimmy Herman

Remarks by Art Agnos, former San Francisco Mayor at the James R. Herman Cruise Ship Memorial Dedication on March 25, 2015

Thank all of you for coming tonight. Jim Herman died on March 20, 1998 at the age of 73. Today, fifteen years later almost to the day, we come together inside the new James R. Herman Cruise Ship Terminal that was opened last September.

A couple of weeks ago, Sean Farley said, "I wish I had been able to meet Jim."

I told Sean that I met him, I knew him, and I can tell you that Jim would have been so proud of you and your leadership.

For those who didn't have the honor of meeting and knowing Jim Herman personally, let me tell you a little bit about the man we're honoring here today.

Jim Herman left home to go to sea at the age of fifteen. There is something about the men and women who go to sea and who work on the ships that sail our seas. They spend much of their working lives where the land – with all its contours, cliffs, and hills – meets the sea, which stretches out further than the eye can see, and extends further than even our imagination can sometimes take us.

For Jim, that resulted in a keen understanding of what we need, both as workers and individuals, and it formed a determination to chart a course to fulfill those rightful needs for every human being. It is no accident that he fought for those rights – not privileges, but rights – as an ILWU union leader, because this union and Jim Herman were meant for each other.

If ever there is a city on any shore that would remember the role of labor and unions; if ever there were a city that wants the world to see how important labor and unions are to its success, it is San Francisco. That is why it is no accident that Jim Herman was the choice for how this city would commemorate this spot and this purpose.

It is sometimes said in praise of a person who stood against a popular tide; a person who resisted those who would use their power to make others subject to their control because of

working conditions; we say of such a person: "he spoke truth to power." Jim Herman spoke truth to power, but he was not satisfied with just speaking out, although anyone who worked with Jim knows just how effectively he could use his voice that boomed out and filled a room.

No, Jim insisted on turning truth into power.

Read Jim's words on this work of art that call to us now just as they did when he was speaking them himself from a stage like this:

"We stand together...we share a common purpose and make common cause... for each of us shares responsibility for the other. The workers are the majority in this world."

And this:

"People are hungry and homeless because of arrangements made by other, more powerful human beings, arrangements that are certainly within our capacity to change."

From this day forward, Jim Herman's words will speak to the millions who pass through this terminal, coming from every corner of the world, whether they are arriving in luxury accommodations above deck or from below deck where they cleaned and cooked for others.

Jim was conscience in action. He played a pivotal role in supporting actions against the repression and brutality of Apartheid in South Africa and dictatorships in Chile, El Salvador, and around the world. He was among the first to march with Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers. Jim never lost touch with his earliest and deepest passion in life; the support of workers and impoverished who needed his power to improve their lives.

Jim recognized that our waterfront was the reason that our city exists; for all of us – not just for the convenience or the benefit of a few in the form of luxury high rise housing for the rich or an elevated double deck freeway that was convenient for some but scarred our waterfront and isolated it from the rest of us. That is why the housing he demanded be built here, including the



Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos was a lifelong friend of Jimmy Herman.

Steamboat Point affordable housing or Delancey Street Foundation housing, are models for a community that does so much more than provide a roof.

Jim Herman wanted these good things for the people of our city and our port. Mayors from Feinstein to Agnos to Brown wanted his voice to speak for them in the councils of government, as well as here at the Port Commission where he served for 15 years.

He inspired others to do more and be more than they believed they could be. Even leaders like John Burton and Willie Brown, both of whom called me to say that the only one reason they are not here tonight is because their comrade in this same struggle, George Moscone, is being honored at this same time elsewhere.

We knew from the start that the standard plaque on the wall to memorialize the James R. Herman Cruise Ship Terminal would never do. The challenge of our committee was to find a way to portray Jim's inspiration in the commemoration of the Cruise Ship terminal, not only with his words and his work, but also by speaking to current issues that reflect Jim's values in our city long after his passing.

The Committee wanted this memorial to be original, beautiful, powerful and timeless in speaking to all those who see it as they enter our city. To accomplish this, the Committee initiated a nationwide competition to solicit original works of art that would capture this man and what he represented. And today we are looking at the best of it created by artists Jack Kalesh, Genivieve Hoffman, and Gabriella Levine of Floating Point.

Based in Brooklyn New York, but doing their best work here in San Francisco, the artists studied Jim's work for months and combined their understanding of Jim with their art and the latest technologies to create this masterpiece. As a result, for the 300,000 visitors who will come to our city each year and pass through this terminal,

and wonder what is this city all about – besides the cable cars, famous bridges and sour dough bread – this memorial will give them an answer as soon as they step on the ground.

They will see the ILWU and the house of labor's values. They will see our city's values and what we stand for, reflected in Jim's words, in Jim's history, and see videos that speak to today's issues like income inequality or living wage or marriage equality as Jim would have addressed them.

We cannot know the issues of the future, but they too will be presented here with this unique memorial and educate those who will stand before it as Jim once stood in union halls, city halls, congressional halls, university halls, community halls – and any other place where people needed him to speak truth to the critical issues of the day.

So you see, it doesn't end here with this dedication tonight. It starts here, because in the years to come, the Committee intends to conduct periodic competitions for timely new material to refresh the displays that you see on this wall.

Jim Herman's powerful words on the wall best capture what this Memorial truly means, assuring anyone who might doubt the labor movement, or the power of the worker, or the value of solidarity:

"We have joined forces in recognition of the fact that we can prosper better collectively than we can separately. Each of us is tied to the other; each shares a common purpose, and each benefits from our connection to the other. We are as a group as strong as the weakest among us." For Jim, the weakest among us was a part of us. He believed that we owed them our strength so that we can all be strong together.

That is the legacy we remember, and we honor here tonight.



ILWU International President Robert McEllrath praised the hard work by members of the James R. Herman Memorial Committee.



Don Watson (left) with United Farmworkers founder, Cesar Chavez. Watson collected money on the waterfront to support striking farmworkers in California's Central Valley.

Don Watson was a quiet and determined ILWU activist who spent his life gently but effectively leading progressive organizing efforts in the union he loved. Watson died peacefully at his home in Oakland, CA on March 25.

"He was content in the knowledge that he had a long and good life, had touched the lives of many people, and had contributed to making the world a better place," said his wife Jane Colman.

Early years

A childhood in New York City during the Great Depression allowed him to witness struggles by labor organizers, including those by his father, Morris Watson, a respected writer for the Associated Press who organized newspaper workers and helped found the American Newspaper Guild before being fired. Watson's termination became a high-profile test-case that helped establish the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act.

Like millions of Americans during the Depression, Morris Watson was attracted to left-wing political movements, and met Harry Bridges in 1942, who persuaded the family to relocate to San Francisco where Morris became founding editor of the new ILWU Dispatcher newspaper.

At sea with left-wing politics

As a teenager, Don recalled hearing Harry Bridges tell stories about his exciting times on the high seas, which encouraged Watson to join the merchant marine when he was still in high school. He traveled the world and met many trade unionists, including some who belonged to the Communist Party, whom he found to be especially impressive. They encouraged him to join their ranks and get involved in the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union in 1948. That was a tumultuous year, with his union joining ILWU members in a waterfront strike challenged by the Taft-Hartley Act which had just been enacted to limit union power. Also that year, third-party candidate Henry Wallace ran against Democrat Harry Truman and Republican Thomas Dewey, in an effort backed passionately by Don Watson, other Communist Party mem-

bers and some liberals that received only a handful of votes on election day. Political repression

The late 1940's and early 50's were hard times for Watson and other left-wing activists, with the U.S. government waging a Cold War with the Soviet Union, fighting the Chinese in Korea, while anti-Communist hysteria became a national preoccupation. Watson was eventually barred from working at sea because of his political views, a process known as "screening" that was administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The practice was eventually ruled unconstitutional, but back then he and his supporters did their best to resist by organizing daily protests at the Coast Guard headquarters. Watson was drafted to fight in the Korean War but the Army first ordered him to admit that his father had been a member of the Communist Party – which Don refused to do – resulting in a questionable discharge that was finally classified as "Honorable" years later.

At home in the ILWU

While still a members of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union (MCS), Watson supported an ILWU organizing effort in 1955 to help his fellow MCS members find a safe haven in the Longshore union. That effort was blocked by government officials who were fearful and hostile toward left-wing members and leaders at both the MSC and ILWU. Watson and many other U.S. seafarers soon found themselves "screened out" of work by the Coast Guard. Watson found temporary work as a rivet-catcher in a metal shop.

It was during this period of upheaval that Watson was treated kindly by an Assistant Dispatcher at Local 34 who got him a permit card that allowed him to work on the docks. Within a year he became a member of the Marine Clerks Union – the same year that he quit the Communist Party after learning of mass killings in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin's brutal regime that crushed democratic dissent inside the USSR and surrounding nations, including Hungary.

Retaining his left-wing values of social justice and worker rights, Watson operated with a persistent but low-key approach that won respect from his

co-workers. He was elected to serve on the Local 34 Executive Board for 24 years and served as Chairman for 19.

Political action

Having experienced harsh treatment from reactionary politicians during the 1950's, Watson understood the importance of supporting progressive political leaders. He became active in the ILWU's Northern California District Council and served as the ILWU's lobbyist in Sacramento. He joined the Young Democrats and the California Democratic Council – voice of the Democratic Party's liberal wing that supported civil and labor rights. In 1962 he was elected Vice Chair of the ILWU's West Bay Legislative Committee. Within Local 34, he joined a group of reform activists who backed Jim Herman to replace a leader who resisted admitting African Americans and left-wing seamen to the Local, according to Watson.

Farm worker organizing

In the 1960's, Watson began volunteering to help the United Farm Workers union (UFW), and encouraged the ILWU to support the UFW in every way possible, including actions on the docks and conducting research to help UFW lawyers in Salinas. With help from Herb Mills and Whitey Kelm of Local 10, he created a "\$5-a-month club" to generate donations for the UFW. Watson also organized annual holiday drives, and during the 1970's organized a monthly labor caravan that travelled from the Bay Area to the UFW headquarters in Delano. By this time, Watson was volunteering most of his time to help the UFW and working only 800 hours a year on the waterfront.

UFW solidarity repaid

When longshore workers and clerks went on strike in 1971 for 134 days, Bay Area ILWU leaders chose Don Watson to serve as Secretary of the Joint Longshore Strike Assistance Committee. Watson was able to secure help from the United Farmworkers Union which organized massive food caravans to help striking longshore families the Bay Area.

Documenting labor history

Beginning in 1975, Watson began documenting the history of agricultural workers in California, going back to the 1930's. In 1980 he co-founded the Bay Area Labor History Workshop to get feedback and support for himself and others who were documenting labor history without formal academic training. He ended up writing many papers and made presentations at meetings of historians, including the Southwest Labor History Association. He also supported the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University and served on their Advisory Board. During his final years, Watson struggled to collect his own papers and write his own personal history, making frequent trips to the ILWU International offices in San Francisco where he spent time in the Library, Archives and Communications Department. Fortunately, Watson's experiences and views were captured in detail thanks to an oral interview he conducted with historian

Harvey Schwartz that was published in the 2009 book, *Solidarity Stories*. In that interview, Watson said he was thankful for the excellent health and pension benefits enjoyed by Longshore workers and Marine Clerks – but noted other workers haven't been so lucky:

"We're all facing ongoing privatization, deregulation, huge tax cuts for the wealthy along with growing state and national deficits – all of which hurts working people," said Watson, who remained committed to reaching out to non-union workers and helping them organize – because he believed it would benefit both the "unorganized" and ILWU members alike.

During the mid-1990's, Watson became interested in a San Francisco labor history project that aimed to honor waterfront workers by preserving a vintage crane on the City's waterfront. Watson served Secretary for many years on the Copra Crane Labor Landmark Association (CCLLA), an effort now being overseen by the Port of San Francisco.

Fighting NAFTA

As a pensioner, Watson remained active in his union through the Bay Area Pensioners club and continued to be active in community politics, including a feisty campaign that pushed for labor and environmental standards in the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico (NAFTA). In that struggle against powerful corporate interests backing NAFTA, Watson joined with labor and community activists who challenged local politicians, including Congress member Nancy Pelosi, who ended up voting for the controversial corporate trade pact.

Running and romance

In the late 1970's, Watson resumed an interest in long-distance running that started on his high school track team. He joined several Bay Area running clubs, including the Berkeley Running Club after moving to Oakland in 1982, where he met his wife Jane Colman, with whom he shared the love of running. They ran many races together, including 5 kilometers, half-marathons and the Pikes Peak Ascent. He told ILWU Librarian Robin Walker that one of his greatest experiences involved visiting South Africa for the Comrades Marathon. After he stopped running in 2005, Watson remained active by walking in races, taking photographs and encouraging the runners. A serious bout with scoliosis left him hunched-over with limited mobility, but he never complained and remained active until his final days.

Watson leaves behind his wife Jane Colman, sisters Priscilla Laws and Wendy Watson, stepchildren Caitlin and Roland McGrath, nieces, nephews and many friends who will miss his sweet smile and gentle manner. A celebration of his life will be held at 1pm on Saturday, May 23 at the Local 34 Hall in San Francisco. Donations in Don Watson's memory can be made to the Labor Archives and Research Center, J. Paul Leonard Library, Room 460, San Francisco State University, 1630 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132.

Leon Harris: Former International Secretary-Treasurer & longtime Local 6 leader

Leon Harris, former ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer and Local 6 leader passed away on February 7. Harris was born on January 3, 1941 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He was a Marine Corps veteran and served honorably from 1960 to 1964.

Harris joined ILWU Local 6 in 1964 as a warehouseman at Kaiser Aluminum where he worked for 14 years. He was elected department steward and chief steward, and was a member of the grievance and safety committees. He served as Local 6's East Bay Business Agent from 1978 through 1980. In 1981, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 6, a position he held until he was elected International Secretary Treasurer in 1991, where he served one three-year term.

Harris was an active member of the community and served as the President of the Northern California District of the A. Phillip Randolph Association.

"My basic philosophy is simple," Harris said: "The union exists to serve the membership, to improve their standard of living and their working conditions, and to extend the benefits of organization to other workers."

He is survived by his wife, Darnell Browning Harris; three sisters, Shirley Riley, Bennie Lee Nettles, and Avanel Johnson; three brothers, Harold Harris, Calvin Bizzle and Col. Jesse Newborn; one son, Locassio Harris; three daughters, Tracy Harris, Keischa Harris, and Jada Harris, two step-daughters, Pamela Knox, and TaLisa Kelley, four grandchildren; three great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.



Former ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Leon Harris passed away on February 7.

Coalition questions Rio Tinto's behavior

Union members and officials from around the world – including Local 30 Vice President Jack Liebengood from Boron, CA and ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams – met in London on April 16 to attend the Rio Tinto annual shareholder meeting.

Representatives posed questions to Rio Tinto's CEO about labor and environmental concerns. Officials were confronted about worker deaths at company operations in Madagascar, Canada, South Africa and Indonesia. Representatives of several indigenous groups, including Apache leaders from Arizona, criticized the company for defiling sacred sites. Workers at Rio Tinto's iron mine in Labrador City, Canada, and nickel mine in Quebec, Canada.

On the same day as the shareholder meeting, two large and loud demonstrations were held at jewelry stores selling Rio Tinto diamonds on London's famous Oxford Street. The target was Signet – the world's largest jewelry retailer that owns Kay and Zales stores in the U.S. – because they use Rio Tinto diamonds. Protestors passed out flyers to the public explaining how Rio Tinto's operations have included abuse of workers, communities and the environment.



Loud protest in London: The ILWU and other unions around the world met in London on April 16 to expose Rio Tinto's labor practices.

Before the Rio Tinto actions, Adams and Liebengood attended a meeting of global union activists from the IndustriALL network that represents mine and metal workers around the world.

In 2010, Rio Tinto locked out nearly 600 ILWU Local 30 members in

Boron, CA for 15 weeks. A campaign including local, regional and international support eventually broke the lockout. Local 30's contract expires in May, 2016 – and efforts are underway to begin planning for whatever is necessary to secure a new agreement.



Mother's Day protest: Local 30 members at Jared's in Lancaster, CA. The jeweler sells diamonds from Rio Tinto mines.

El Local 10 encabeza protestas contra la brutalidad policial

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fue nombrado como acusado en dos demandas judiciales por "uso excesivo de la fuerza". A pesar de esto, el Departamento de Policía le concedió una promoción y al igual que la fiscalía del Condado, lo absolvió de toda mala conducta. Richard "Pedie" Pérez fue asesinado por un policía de Richmond, CA que detuvo al hombre de 24 años de edad en 2014 porque supuestamente estaba ebrio y por resistirse a la autoridad. Ambos casos han motivado demandas judiciales, ya que se ha puesto en tela de juicio lo dicho por la policía acerca de las balaceras.

El presidente del Local 10 de ILWU, Melvin Mackay, dijo que la marcha fue pacífica, ordenada y halagó a los afiliados por emprender la acción

y mostrar su preocupación. Mackay respondió a más de una docena de llamadas de los medios de comunicación, la mayoría de los ellos preguntando por qué los trabajadores habían organizado la acción y si los circunstancias justificaban la protesta en lugar de trabajar el turno del 1 de mayo.

"Yo les dije que los trabajadores portuarios tienen una larga tradición de protestar por las injusticias cometidas contra la comunidad, y que los sucesos recientes merecen una fuerte respuesta de todos los habitantes del país."

Presidente de Local 10 Melvin Mackay explicando: "No estamos aquí para decir que todos los policías: "No estamos aquí para decir que todos los policías sean malos. Reconocemos que tienen que hacer un trabajo difícil.



Los que apoyaron la rendición de cuentas (de izquierda a derecha): Rene Ducroux, afiliado del Local 34; Melvin Mackay, Presidente del Local 10; Fred Gilliam, Presidente del Local 91 y Sean Farley, Presidente del Local 34.

Pero al mismo tiempo estamos aquí para decir que la mala conducta de la policía y el uso indebido de la fuerza mortal por estos no pueden pasar sin

que sean castigados. El pueblo no debe temer a los que supuestamente deben protegerlo."

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

A union man tried and true

A union man tried and true, I'll fight for it till I'm black & blue.

My roots run deep in this land, of walking the picket line hand-in-hand
and looking someone in the eye proving you're a man.

Victor, Marlen & Steve are the men that came before me.

And if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be,
the proud union man I have grown to be.

Four generations of longshoring does something to a man,

it makes you feel like you got to do whatever you can.

To bring pride and save the name, to shine the light on the ones that aren't here tonight.

I never got to know my grandpa or his dad. But I am sure glad, I have a father
that carries the name.

That tells me the stories even though long they have been perspired.

He tells me about the days when "Iron men and wooden ships" wasn't just a myth.

Those ol' boys didn't give up on much, even when their clothes where soaked to the touch.

From working the raft in bone chilling cold. They went above and beyond, even from what
they were told.

If there was one thing I have grasped, from listening to things I have heard in past.

Is never quit till the jobs done.

And keep the hook flying, even if you gotta run.

Luke Peterson, Local 21,
Longview WA

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

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

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Dennis A. Liebelt; Joel W. Campbell; **Local 10:** John L.

Wyche; Howard L. Parker; **Local**

12: Duane A. Crawford; Steven C.

Friedrich; **Local 13:** Rose Marie L.

Alpine; Michael D. Armenta;

Isagani O. Cobarrubia; Richard E.

Fox; Ricardo A. Guerrero; Ramon

Hernandez; Jerry T. Mosna;

George Olivas; Leroy B. Sanchez;

David M. Tallon; Raymond Torres;

Daniel M. Williams; Victor M.

Zuniga Sr; **Local 19:** Howard W.

Massey; Gerard G. Steiger;

Local 23: Joseph J. Schibig;

Local 26: Lillie T. Rucker;

Local 29: Anthony Castillo;

Paul E. Perryman; **Local 63:**

Manuel H. Camarena; Shanaz A.

Kordich; Shih-Chien Wang;

Local 92: Louis F. Gilson;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Terry V. Olson; Peter C.

Reichenbach; **Local 8:** Merle F.

Brackenbrough; Richard Camacho;

Gerald R. Hawthorne; **Local 10:**

Frank A. Jackson; Taha A. Maged;

Arthur Rees Jr.; Rodolfo Romo;

Charles Smith; John Washington

(Mary); **Local 13:** Emiliano Luna

Jr; Jesus Navarro; Gary L. Quick;

Haywood Diggins; Arthur L.

Guerrero; Leo D. Esquivel; D C.

Mixon; Robert L. Word; Gerald L.

Melton; **Local 14:** Theodore C.

Cooper; Melvin Powell; **Local 19:**

Bennie Sterns; Eddie R. Walker;

Christopher G. Larson; William J.

Arthur; Robert L. Ellez; Roy J.

Ballard; **Local 21:** Earl J.

Carpenter; **Local 23:** William L.

Mitchell; Emil J. Korjan; Primo R.

Alfiche; **Local 24:** Ronald A.

Foulds; **Local 34:** Frank R. Billeci

(Joan); Edward F. Larkey; Glen

Earp; **Local 40:** James Byrne; Paul

Ross; George L. Watson; William R.

Yardas; **Local 50:** Michael P. Riva

(Kathy); **Local 54:** Bruce W.

Erlandson; **Local 63:** Bill J.

Kostich; Bennie J. Taylor, II;

Wilbert L. Searcy; Lewis R. Sher;

Floyd E. Lewis; Leo Gutierrez;

Frank Estes; Herbert Johnson;

Alice F. Bursey; Charles J.

Patterson; Robert B. Ross;

Local 91: Kenneth R. Costa;

Local 94: Joseph G. Orozco

(Myra); Harold J. Simmons

(Denise); Donald J. Mac Kenzie;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Grace L. Morgan;

Local 8: Evalea Thario; Esther

Hanson; Patricia L. O'Neil; **Local 8:**

Alice Wright; **Local 10:** Evelyn

Gudvangen; Frances Barulich;

Lovie W. Kennedy; Norma M.

Perez; Juanita Robinson; Annie B.

Williams; Anne Gomez; Sarah E.

Scardaci; Pearl Calhoun; Loretta

Johnson; Carrie Walton; Ethel

Chang; **Local 12:** Merrill H.

Mosher; **Local 13:** Mary E.

Campbell; Libby Rodriguez; Maria

Luna; Noemi S. Franco; **Local 14:**

Frances A. Mc Naughton;

Local 19: R. Lee Levias; Karen

Hudson; **Local 21:** Margaret C.

Mc Crady; **Local 23:** Wanda M.

Smith; **Local 24:** Ella M. Stuber;

Local 34: Mary B. Bacher; Shirley

J. Judson; Josette M. Garitano;

Phyllis M. Englefield; **Local 46:**

Mabel F. Mings; **Local 50:** Sonja L.

Bjaranson; **Local 52:** Irma

Moshier; **Local 54:** Arlene Walker;

Concha Freeman; Alta Werner;

Local 63: Roselie Madrid;

Jeanette A. Rusk; Gauula Tipeni;

Mary G. Zuanich; **Local 91:** Louise

Mainini; **Local 92:** Dorothy L. Girt;

Local 94: Dorthy L. Vertar;

Ana Moore;

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Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Washington
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Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU CANADA

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The Bay Area Longshoremens' Memorial Association

Annual Bloody Thursday Commemoration

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