



# THE DISPATCHER

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News & Notes will return in the July-August issue. Please send your items to [tom.price@ilwu.org](mailto:tom.price@ilwu.org) or call him at 415-775-0533, ext. 118.

## ILWU makes history on May Day



The voluntary shutdown on West Coast docks inspired workers and citizens across the country – and around the world. These supporters expressed their appreciation for the ILWU at a May Day rally in Rome, Italy.

## “We stood up for America, the troops, and against the war.”

On May Day, ports up and down the Pacific Coast were quiet. Nearly 10,000 longshore division workers voluntarily gave up a day's pay to participate in one of the largest and most effective “no work” actions in recent history.

The May Day action had one important goal: to protest the war in Iraq. But it also produced some unexpected benefits, including a powerful display of membership solidarity, extraordinary public support, and extensive positive media coverage.

While Local 13 and other Southern California locals didn't hold rallies or marches like their counterparts up north, they made their own dramatic statements with overwhelming membership participation that sent a clear message to the politicians in Washington who continue to fund the war in Iraq. *continued on page 3*



Paul Krehbiel, 60, of Pasadena (center) brought apple pies to L.A. longshore workers who gave up a day's pay to send a message about supporting the troops by ending the war in Iraq. Krehbiel says he heard about the ILWU job action on the radio, then drove an hour from his home with five apple pies to thank ILWU members for their courage and patriotism. A former truck driver and construction worker, he said, “All of you are true patriots for what you did.”

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.





# LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

**Dear Editor,**

Thanks for covering the "Hollywood to the Docks" event in last month's *Dispatcher*. I'd like to provide special recognition for the Local 13 members who marched 28 miles over three days (April 15-17). As mentioned in your report, the ILWU had the largest group in the march, and these folks from Local 13 deserve the credit: Chris Aguirre, David Arian, Steven Calhoun, Mike Dimon, Mario Erosa, Richard Flores, Amanda Flores, Richard Flores II, Mike Freese, Michael Hernandez, Tom Hibbison, Louis Hill, Linda Kennedy, Ryan LaPinta, Orland Lopez, Andrea Miller, Ramon Montoya, Maureen Montoya, Jeff Osborne, Tim Patrick, Paul Sanchez, Eric Sanchez, and Gregory Weir. I also want to thank Kevin Schroeder, Mike Piazza, and others who helped coordinate this important event.

**Joe "Jo Jo" Cortez**  
President, Local 13

**Dear Editor,**

I recently had the opportunity to attend an annual awards celebration at the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle on April 11, 2008. It was very nice to receive a booklet there called: "Men Along the Shore and the Legacy of 1934." What an interesting booklet. Thank you for sharing this struggle and heart-filling information.

**Karla Anderson**  
Seattle, WA

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

**Dear Editor,**

I would like to write you about my mother, Marie Brita Moon, whose husband was John Lloyd Moon from Local 12. She passed away in Issaquah, Washington on April 1, 2008.

Please know we appreciated all the benefits the ILWU provided my mom. I would pray that this country would have quality health care for all Americans. Please pursue health care with members of Congress, with Senators, and our future President.

**Janice Moon-Clemans,**  
Bellevue, WA

**Dear Editor,**

I like the new look of *the Dispatcher*.

**Pete Hart**  
IBU, Seattle

**Dear Editor,**

I just got my copy of the paper, and want to second those nice compliments about the improved *Dispatcher*. Great work! Sharp layout. I now find myself reading the whole issue!

**Goetz Wolff, Lecturer**  
UCLA School of Public Affairs

**Calling all poets!** Send us your poems right away for consideration in the July-August issue.

**M**edia coverage was heavy – and positive – when longshore workers gave up a day's pay on May Day to support the troops and end the Iraq war. National and local newspapers, TV, radio, and web-bloggers all carried the ILWU's message from International President Bob McEllrath: "We're standing-down to support the troops, we're standing up for America, we're sending a message to politicians in Washington that it's time to end the war in Iraq."

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

**Dock workers halt activities at 29 ports**  
6,000 defy arbitration ruling in protest against Iraq war

**Ports at standstill as dock workers protest**

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
US Longshore Union Plans Work Stoppage To Protest War

NEW YORK (Dow Jones)—Members of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union are going ahead with plans for a work stoppage at 29 West Coast ports on Thursday to protest the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, even though the union leadership has withdrawn its request to waterfront employers that they accommodate closure of the ports. The San Francisco Chronicle reported Saturday.

Planning for the protest began in February when the Longshore Caucus, the highest decision-making body for the 25,000 members of the longshore division within the ILWU, overwhelmingly approved a resolution in support of a day of protest, the paper said. The Chronicle said that the ILWU is permitted in its contract to schedule a "stop-work meeting" each month to discuss union business. It must give sufficient notice to employers, who are represented by the Pacific Maritime Association. The PMA is comprised of shipowners, stevedore companies and terminal operators and negotiates labor contracts on their behalf. The PMA routinely grants these requests, but only for meetings that are to be held during the second work shift, beginning in the evening. For the war protest, the paper reported, the ILWU said it wanted stop-work time during the day, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the busiest cargo-handling shift of the day.

However, in March, PMA President James McKenna said he wouldn't agree to the request. On April 8, the union leadership withdrew the stop-work request for May 1. The Chronicle reported employers wanted the union to convey the withdrawal to its members, but people in management said it wasn't clear that that had happened. The PMA took issue to an arbitrator who ruled last Thursday the union is obligated to inform members the request had been withdrawn. The paper said there was no mention of the matter on the ILWU Web site.

"The Longshore Caucus resolution calling on all locals to honor May 1 by taking action to end the war and bring the troops home safely from Iraq continues to move forward," ILWU spokesman Craig Merrilees was quoted as saying in a statement. "Various voluntary rallies and public demonstrations are scheduled for May Day."

Steve Getzug, a PMA spokesman, said, "They informed us they had dropped their demand for a stop-work meeting May 1. An arbitrator has ruled they inform their members, and in light of that we hope the day (May 1) will come and go without disruption."

The paper said the PMA and ILWU are currently negotiating a new labor contract to replace the one that expires July 1.

**Los Angeles Times**  
Friday, May 2, 2008

**LABOR**  
**Ports idled by workers' war protest**

Shippers and dock operators suspect an attempt to influence contract negotiations.

**The New York Times**  
FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

**Union's War Protest Shuts West Coast Ports**

By WILLIAM YARBLEY  
SEATTLE — West Coast ports were shut down on Thursday as thousands of longshoremen failed to report for work, part of what their union leaders said was a one-day, one-shift protest.

They did not show up for work, which meant that about 30,000 containers would not be loaded or unloaded from about 20 cargo ships.

The spokesman, Steve Getzug, cast the action as a strike and therefore a violation of the union's contract.

with self-described socialists while many of the scores of police officers on the scene ate hot lunches and petted their horses.

In Oakland, Calif., some truckers who said they were angry about high gas prices decided not to cross ticket lines at the port.

## DISPATCHER

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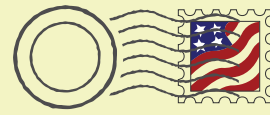
# Thank you for standing up for America!!!

Dan Hyde  
Charleston, SC

Thanks for what you are doing to protest the war. Commend you all for taking a stand on your principles. I am a Marine vet with two children serving. My son is a Marine and just returned from his second tour in Iraq. He has only been in since late 2005. It's good to see someone with guts to stand up for what they believe in. I would like to hope this would start a trend, but after 5 years of this debate and not enough people like you it doesn't give me much hope that people will take a stand the way you have, I wish my husband's union would do likewise.

K.H.  
Cleveland, Ohio

My husband is currently serving his second 15 month tour in Iraq. I want to thank you for your brave, and in my view, highly effective protest of the Iraq war. My husband and I are very pro-union for a lot of reasons, and you've just given us another great reason to proudly say Union YES!!!  
M.J.



Hurray for the ILWU! By stopping work to protest the war in Iraq and expressing support for our troops in the only way that is meaningful, bringing them home, you have shown that the true spirit of unionism is still alive in the U.S.

Arno Vosk, M.D.,  
Williamsport, PA

These times demand bold and patriotic action. As the saying goes, now is the time for all good men (people) to come to the aid of their country. You at the ILWU have a proud history of activism and are living up to that standard once again. Thank you so much for your dedication to peace and restoring our Democracy. May our country be inspired to follow suit and our politicians be shamed and voted out of office. BRAVO for your action on May 1st... a first step in reclaiming our democracy.  
Peter May

I want to thank the men and women of the ILWU for taking a stand against the war in Iraq and Afganistan. I took part of the first Gulf War, so I will always have strong feelings about whatever goes on in that theatre of operation when our countrymen and women are over there. It's nice to know there are people like your organization willing to forgo your pay for a noble cause. As a fellow American and prior soldier, I thank you.

-Tony

It's great to see the last of the really strong unions standing up for Americans by walking out in protest of the war.

Thank you!

Lee Webster

King Salmon, AK

My wife Anni and I deeply appreciate your men and women taking the day off from the Iraq war. Perhaps the Bush administration will hesitate to attack another nation like Iran because of your action.

Our oldest son is serving his fourth tour in Iraq, and every Friday we protest along with workers, nuns, Vietnam vets like myself and others against the war. Thank God for unions. My grandfather was active in the TWU in New York, my father in the Corrections Officers Union in New York, and I was the pit bull in our NEA Teachers union in upstate New York.

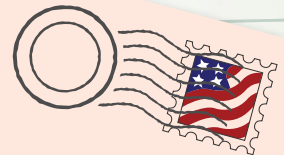
Semper Fi.

D.C.

Way to go you folks at the ILWU. Reminds me of the Boston Tea Party - and look what that set off. You are brave souls and have my full and deepest appreciation and support. GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

Becky McCarley

I took a personal day from my work as a teacher in the West Coast Costa School District to show my support for your action. I attended the rally and marched to Justin Herman Plaza. When I was back at school, I told my class all about it. Keep up the good work. We need more unions like yours.  
Elin Hansen



ILWU

Thank You for your May 1st stand against the war. Today is my birthday and I couldn't have gotten a better present!!!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Puskas  
Baltimore, MD



I'm blown away by your courageous on this issue. Warmly, Wynn A. Phillips

## Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION  
WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008  
No. 73  
Vol. 134

### House of Representatives

#### REMARKS ON THE ILWU MAY DAY PROTEST OF THE IRAQ WAR

HON. JACKIE SPEER  
OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, May 1, 2008

Mr. SPEER. Madam Speaker, today many of the 40,000 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union—the ILWU—are expressing their outrage at the administration's new policies and their effect on working families by staging a walkout at ports and other facilities along the West Coast. I stand in solidarity with these workers and other workers who realized in Washington earlier this week and many other working and middle-class Americans, have simply had enough of the diet of malice and deception that our President continues to feed the American public.

Madam Speaker, Americans are saying enough is enough. We spend billions every week in Iraq while the government there banks its oil profits and refuses to pitch in to help fund the necessary projects required to get the Iraq people back on their feet. Madam Speaker, my friends in the institution have been a life-long pursuit. May I say that you have done more to bring peace to our nation and get our troops back home to their families than any other man-made Speaker in our history. I am proud to stand by you and the ILWU as we all do our part to bring an end to this war.

It is time to bring our men and women home to their families and communities. It is time for all Americans, like the Longshore and Warehouse workers, to stand up and tell the President "Enough is enough." End this war before your term is over. Eight tragic years for our country is bad enough, don't saddle future generations with a prolonged commitment to a country we never should have gone into in the first place.

ROBERT MCELLEN  
Washington, DC

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May 1, 2008

President Robert McEllrath  
ILWU  
c/o Max Vekich  
1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 507  
Washington, DC, 20036

Dear Friends:

Today, ILWU members bring together labor supporters, community members, and students to rally for peace. I am sorry I am unable to join you today as I am currently voting in DC; however, I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for your efforts in demanding an end to the Iraq war.

We are facing the sixth year of the war in Iraq - a war that has claimed the lives of more than 4,000 American soldiers and has left 30,000 servicemen and women injured. I am grateful for the courage, skill and dedication with which these Americans have served their country. But like you, I adamantly oppose the mission the Bush Administration has assigned them.

As you may know, I was part of a minority in Congress that opposed the unilateral invasion of Iraq five years ago. I voted against the war for many reasons. Not only do I believe we owe it to the men and women of our armed forces to do everything we can to avoid putting them in harm's way, but we also need to make smart economic decisions that promote peace and protect our communities at home.

On this May Day, I applaud your efforts and determination to demand peace and justice, both abroad and at home. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope we can mark the end of this war one day soon.

Very truly yours,  
Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress





's An Injury To All  
WTT



**Action up and down the coast:** (clockwise) In San Francisco, Local 10's Drill Team led marchers to a large rally where actor Danny Glover spoke and community activists made their voices heard. Tacoma security guards wore yellow shirts and received solidarity support from longshore workers at an afternoon rally on May Day. In Portland, longshore and community members held their event on the Willamette River where they heard from veterans who oppose the Iraq war. In Stockton, a former U.S. Marine delivered a powerful speech that thanked the ILWU for standing up against the war. Seattle members marched along the waterfront and held rallies that featured impressive community support.

# Thousands rallied and marched on ILWU from San Francisco and Stockton

continued from page 1

"Our message about ending the war was received loud and clear in Washington, D.C., and the response there was overwhelmingly positive," said Local 63 Secretary Peter Peyton who was in the Capitol on May Day to help spread the word with a team that included International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 40 Vice President Dawn DesBrisay, plus Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin and Legislative Assistant Kyle Weimann.

Local 29 members in **San Diego** protested the war in Iraq on May Day, and President William Silva was interviewed on local TV news stations.

"All of us agree that it's time to get out of Iraq now," Silva told the local CBS and FOX outlets. "We care too much about America to stand by while our country, our troops and our economy are destroyed by the Iraq war. Soldiers from working families are fighting and dying for a stupid war." Local 29 member Ray Leyba was also interviewed by TV reporters. "We stand together not with signs but with human beings, with bodies and families who are united against the war," he told CBS, adding: "This doesn't have anything to do with our contract or negotiations."

Public support for the action by ILWU members was overwhelming, with

over a thousand unsolicited "thank-you" messages that poured into ILWU locals and International headquarters. A relative handful of complaints were received – and most of them came from anti-union employers.

President Joe Cortez of Local 13 said their office received many offers to help from concerned citizens in their community. The same was true at other ILWU locals in the Southland, according to Local 29 President William Silva in San Diego and Local 46 President Dan Hultgen in Port Hueneme.

Local 46 workers in **Port Hueneme** took the day off to reflect on the war. One member, Victor Gallardo, was pro-

testing 35 years ago against the Vietnam War. Today his two daughters are serving in the military, one of them on her second tour in Iraq. "Our union has always been anti-war," he told the *Ventura County Star*.

"We don't have any kind of picket line today," Local 46 President Dan Hultgen told the *Star*. "We're just letting the country know that we're supporting our troops and asking for an end to the war."

In addition to sending messages and phone calls, some community members brought boxes of donuts and other goodies to ILWU members as a way to show support. Paul Krehbiel





## May Day with the ton to Seattle.

was one private citizen who drove an hour from his home in Pasadena after hearing about the ILWU action on the radio. He arrived at **San Pedro** with five fresh apple pies; each was decorated with an American flag and a “thank you” message. The former truck driver and construction worker said, “All of you are true patriots for what you did today, your courage is inspiring to everyone who wants the war to end.”

At Local 19 in **Seattle**, the docks were quiet and cranes were “boomed-up” – a sign that usually signals a serious tragedy such as a death on the job, but not on May Day.

“Normally, when I see all the cranes

boomed up, it makes me sad,” ILWU Local 19 President Herald Ugles told a crowd of nearly 2,000 marchers at a waterfront rally in Seattle. “But today it’s a great sight to see all those cranes boomed up – not just here, but all up and down the whole West Coast!”

With that comment, the crowd erupted in cheers, whistles and sign-waving. A diverse group of ILWU workers, community groups, and fellow union members were on-hand to celebrate the coastwide solidarity action against the war in Iraq.

Ugles noted the toll that the war has been taking on the troops – and

*continued on page 6*

### Why did you decide to give up a day’s pay on May Day?



“We protested to help bring our troops home. I have a son who’s 19 years old and in the Marines. That’s why I didn’t go to work on May Day. That’s why the cranes were boomed-up and nobody was working. We want our young men to come home to make our country better.”

– **Al Webster Local 19, Seattle, WA**

“About 99% of our local was for the May Day action. I know there are issues where we don’t agree, and that’s OK, but on this one it was just about everybody – and we always stick together. Our union has always taken sides on issues that are controversial, especially on wars. I went to see Harry Bridges at his retirement dinner in San Pedro, and I remember him saying: “wars are always gonna happen, and sometimes we’ll have to oppose ‘em, because it’s the working class that always ends up doing the fighting and dying.”

– **Tony Castillo, Local 29 San Diego, CA**



“I had a real positive feeling about what we did on May Day. Bush lied to the public and now we’re losing a lot of young kids for nothing, so I think we had to take a stand. I’m glad that we did, and glad that our leaders backed us up. That’s important because a number of foremen had their jobs threatened, but they still did the right thing and stood together with us. We’re now talking in the local about how we can help military families that have lost someone in Iraq. We lost 12 of my family members in WWII, which is why my dad taught us that it’s always better to talk things over instead of going to war and killing.

– **Mark Grgas, Local 94 San Pedro, CA**

“Like every other American worker, I understand the harm this war is causing. That is why I’m glad we’ve worked out a way peacefully to show our concern. The loss of a day’s pay is not very much in comparison to those 4,000 who will never see another payday.”

– **Christopher Cadelago Local 10 San Francisco**



“I was really proud to be a part of May Day. I support our troops, but enough is enough and it’s time to bring them home. I consider myself an American, but we’ve been over there five years now, and I see some of these boys coming home hurt, or not at all, and there are so many suicides. I’d like to see it end.”

– **Michelle Forehand IBU, San Francisco**



# Making history on May Day

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on America's economy. He attacked the "decline of our country's infrastructure, including roads, rails, and bridges that have been neglected with dire results, such as the tragic deaths of innocent people who perished in Minnesota when an aging bridge collapsed." Ugles then pointed to the nearby Alaskan Way Viaduct, an elevated, double-decker highway along Seattle's waterfront that *USA Today* has called "a catastrophe waiting to happen." Interviewed by KOMO News 4, Ugles summed-up the views of many by saying, "We need to stop this war, bring our troops home, and let's rebuild America – not just Iraq."

The spirited rally in Seattle capped a 2-mile waterfront march that began near the Local 19 union hall. The march was led by Local 19 members, and included representatives from most other Washington ILWU locals.

In **Portland**, several dozen members of Columbia River ILWU locals gathered with peace activists on a floating walkway in Portland to place flowers in the Willamette River that represented more than 4,000 American soldiers killed in Iraq.

The event was heavily covered by local media. Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Holte told the *Portland Business Journal* that all 1,300 workers from Locals 8, 40, and 92 in Portland, Local 4 in Vancouver, Local 50 in Astoria and Local 21 in Longview, were joining the members in 25 other ports to "take a stand for the majority

of Americans who oppose the war in Iraq." Members from Local 5 in Portland were also on hand to lend their support.

Holte told Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), "We're very proud union members, and we feel strongly against the war. Believe me, they know back in Washington, D.C. that we're not working today – and why we're not."

When asked if he was afraid of getting fired for skipping work to protest the war, Local 8 member Jerry Lawrence told OPB News, "If that's what they wish to do, then they gotta fire all of us, 'cause we stand in solidarity."

Local 8 President Jeff Smith published an opinion piece on Oregon's most influential blog on May 3rd, thanking the community for their generous expressions of support. He wrote, "We've run out of patience with the endless excuses for why this war goes on and on with 'goals' that seem to change all the time. It's time to thank our troops for their service by bringing them home so they can raise their kids."

Smith's opinion piece drew effusive positive comments from readers statewide who thanked locals and the International Union for taking a stand against the war.

In **Tacoma**, Local 23 workers also protested on May Day, and got good media coverage for their strong show of solidarity.

"We have a long history of taking-up social causes even if they aren't popular," explained Local 23's Scott Mason



Family and friends from the Bay Area gathered at Local 10 on May Day.

to the *Tacoma News Tribune*, "Our job is to get ships in and out, but today we need to get those troops home."

Local 23 members showed some solidarity on the home-front by attending an afternoon rally to support security guards at their port who want to join the ILWU, but are getting the run-around from management.

Local 54 members in **Stockton** took the day off to protest the war. At a local May Day rally, teachers, Teamsters, nurses, and Stockton City Councilwoman Susan Eggman joined two veterans who spoke against the war.

"It's a small group, but we have a statement to make," Secretary-Treasurer Gene Davenport said. "It's time to end the war—now."

One of the ILWU's largest May Day events happened in the **San Francisco Bay Area** where union members and community supporters gathered at the Local 10 hall until Local 10's Drill Team members led-off a waterfront march at a smart clip. Longshore workers followed behind with family and friends, passing old piers where longshoremen once loaded ships by hand and fought to establish the ILWU. They passed the Ferry Building and Harry Bridges Plaza near the spot where longshoremen were gunned-down in 1934.

Joining longshore workers were a colorful mix of supporters that included teachers, nurses, activists from the "Raging Grannies" and unionized exotic dancers from the Lusty Lady Theater. Together they filled the plaza with more than a thousand protestors who gathered for a noon rally where Local 34 President Richard Cavalli was one of the first speakers.

"This war, like all wars, is killing the sons and daughters of workers. George Bush's daughters are getting married in the White House while our daughters are getting buried in Iraq. The politicians in office have failed to end this war—and it's not going to end until we get people into the streets."

ILWU International Executive Board Member Lawrence Thibeaux read a statement from ILWU International President Bob McEllrath:

"The corporations that control global shipping today aren't loyal or accountable to any country. To them, it's all about making money. But longshore workers are different. We're loyal to America, and we won't stand by while our country, our troops, and our economy are destroyed by a war that's bankrupting us to the tune of \$3 trillion dollars."

Actor Danny Glover was on hand to lend his support and thank longshore workers for taking a stand. Local 10 members Jack Heyman and Clarence Thomas also spoke, joining a host of community activists.

After the San Francisco rally, some members from Local 10 and 34 attended the Immigrant's Rights Rally at Dolores Park, then marched to San Francisco's Civic Center. ILWU members in the East Bay also attended an immigrant's rally in Oakland at the Fruitvale BART station, then marched to Oakland City Hall.

Local 34 capped-off the day of action by hosting a Community May Day Potluck Celebration with Local 10 at their union hall on the waterfront. Special guests performed at the event, including singer Renee Gibbons, signer/poet Raymond Nat Turner from the group Upsurge, signer Elisa Welch from the activist group Code Pink, and entertainers Kingpin Row & Lady Yen who performed songs and poetry as the Elite Team.

Local 34 members Jacqueline Hart, Guillermo Morales, Messina Bishop, Karl Bishop, Sean Farley, Juan del Pozo, Tony Boyadzis – plus Christopher Cadelago of Local 10 – all worked hard to make their celebration a successful conclusion to a historic day for all ILWU members.

– contributors to this report included Craig Merrilees, Russ Miyashiro, Tom Price, and Jennifer Sargent



The ILWU's fan club includes these supporters in Rome, Italy.

Trent Willis, Business Agent at Local 10 and Northern California Regional Representative for the 2008 Longshore Safety Negotiating Committee, joined other union leaders and Congressman George Miller to highlight the dangers of longshore work at a press conference for Workers' Memorial Day on April 26, 2008. Willis remembered the 13 longshore workers who have been killed on the job since 2002, including Reggie Ross of Local 10 who died at the Port of Oakland on Sept. 24, 2007. In 2006, more than 1.2 million workers were injured and 5,703 workers killed as a result of workplace injuries in the U.S, and another 50,000 workers died from workplace disease and exposures, according to the non-profit group WORKSAFE! that sponsored the event.







**Solidarity in the high desert:** In their two-year fight to join the ILWU, workers at the Rite Aid distribution center in Lancaster, CA learned what a lift solidarity can give. So when 300 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) with American Medical Response struck in disgust over the company's contract offer, members of the Rite Aid organizing committee walked the picket line with them.

"I just feel that the only way we're going to change the way employers treat employees in the Antelope Valley is by standing together in solidarity," said committee member Angel Warner.

The EMTs went back to work April 29 after three days on the line, having reached agreement with AMR on their wage and benefit issues.



**Solidarity with Guards:** Security guards at the Port of Longview told Commissioners on May 13 that the Port would be better off hiring them directly rather than contracting out the Port's security. Eleven of the 14 guards have signed cards asking to be represented by ILWU Local 28, but their contracted employer has refused to recognize their union of choice. The guards got support from more than a dozen Local 21 Longshore workers and pensioners who attended the meeting. The Port Commissioners said they would consider the request.



The "Legacy of 1934" exhibit made its first appearance in the Northwest on May 13 at Local 8 in Portland. Viewing the exhibit prompted a spirited discussion on the union movement among Auxiliary Local 5 member (and wife of Longshore worker Cubby Moody) Alberta Moody, 28-year Local 8 member Debby Stringfellow, and retired Local 8 member Sandy Harris. The exhibit is available for display at all locals coastwise; interested officers should contact the ILWU Library for more information.

**Unions at Chinese Wal-Marts?**

Wal-Mart executives hate unions as much as they boast about low prices. In the U.S., Wal-Mart maintains an anti-union team that attacks employees who express pro-union views. When workers get ahead of company union-busters, as they did in Canada several years ago, Wal-Mart simply shut down that store in Quebec instead of dealing with the union. That's why observers were shocked last year when Wal-Mart announced that 60 of their stores in China would have a union. A new report by Chinese labor expert Anita Chan helps explain how and why it happened. Her account, based on interviews and translations of worker blogs, provides a fascinating look into the complex reality of the All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU). Chan uses four "case studies" to highlight examples of worker activism – while also documenting some depressing details of collusion between corporate Wal-Mart managers, Chinese political leaders, and ACFTU officials. Chan believes emerging union leaders will continue organizing to reform unions at Wal-Mart and other workplaces in China. Read her report with links to translations of Chinese blogs at [http://www.clntranslations.org/file\\_download/49](http://www.clntranslations.org/file_download/49).

**Chinese arms mystery continues**

South African dockworkers became international heroes last month for refusing to unload over a million dollars worth of Chinese arms heading to Zimbabwe for use by the dictator Robert Mugabe against citizens who are rising-up against decades of his tyrannical rule. Chinese officials said the COSCO ship would return home with the weapons, but concerned union activists in South Africa, Angola, and Zambia report that the vessel remains off the Southwest coast of Africa – raising fears that Mugabe may try to quietly offload his weapons at sea into a smaller craft that would smuggle them ashore. All dockworkers in the region have refused to handle the arms.

**Labor leaders arrested on May Day**

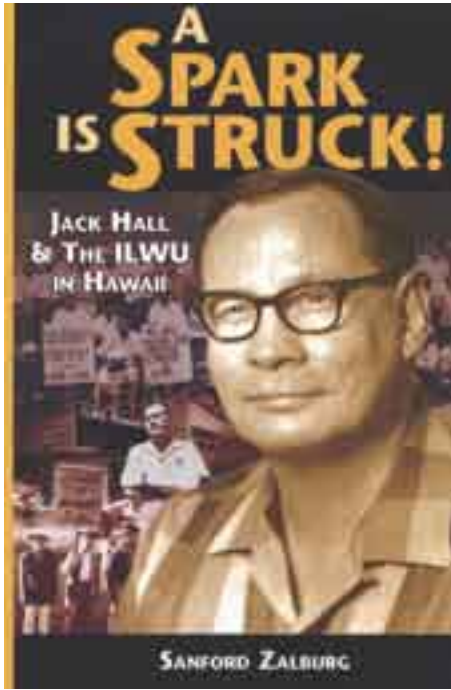
Labor leaders in Zimbabwe have taken risks for decades by speaking against violence and human rights abuse by their government, but Mugabe's regime really snapped when union leaders gave speeches this month about May Day – the international workers holiday that celebrates Chicago labor activists who fought to win an 8-hour work day in 1886. Mugabe targeted officials from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions; President Lovemore Matombo and General Secretary Wellington Chibebe, who were both arrested and detained by police on May 8th for giving May Day speeches that the regime claims were "inciting people to rise against the government and reporting falsehoods about people being killed." Other trade union leaders were arrested and tortured for criticizing the regime in 2006. Support to free Lovemore Matombo and Wellington Chibebe is being organized by groups including Amnesty International and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). For more information and to help, see [www.itfglobal.org](http://www.itfglobal.org) and [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org).



Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. recently met with Harbor College students to explain how ILWU members overcame the 2002 employer lockout and how the union is now pushing for good jobs, safer ports, and cleaner air in the community. Student in this special class, organized with help from the Dolores Huerta Institute, and viewed the "Eye of the Storm" video about the 2002 lockout. For more about labor classes in the LA Area, see [www.glennvice.com/pace.htm](http://www.glennvice.com/pace.htm)



## BOOK REVIEW



**A** new edition of *A Spark is Struck: Jack Hall and the ILWU in Hawaii* has just been re-issued by Watermark Publishing at the urging of ILWU Local 142. Long out of print, this epic account of the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii is filled with anecdotes and details about Hall and his union. Written by journalist Sanford Zalburg, with unofficial input from several ILWU leaders, the new edition adds size and better reproduction of photographs to the original—which greatly enhances the quality and readability of the thick volume.

University of Hawaii Press published the book in 1979 in paperback and sold it at \$5.95 per copy, and it was quickly adopted by Local 142's educa-

tion program. When the book went out of print, Local 142 purchased the remaining copies and made the book available to members at a discount to members. By the year 2000, the book had become a collector's item and the idea of having it re-issued was often discussed at the Local. In mid-2006, though a chance conversation, Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura was put in contact with Sanford Zalburg and the serious pursuit of the book's reprinting began.

In late November 2006, George Engebretson of Watermark Publishing expressed interest in reprinting the book with the Local's cooperation in production and distribution. The Local provided photographs from its archives and technical assistance to the Watermark staff.

The decision was made to scan and reprint the book without modifications to the text, with a new cover design and page layout, and with a new foreword to be written by Ah Quon McElrath, the longtime Local 142 social worker, social justice activist, and University of Hawaii regent. Sanford Zalburg was able to hold the second printing of the book in his hands in November 2007. The entire process from contacting the publisher to the finished book had taken about a year. Sanford Zalburg died on February 16, 2008 at the age of 90 in Petaluma and was buried at the Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe.

"The reason why it is important for new members to read 'A Spark Is Struck today,' said Ah Quon McElrath in a recent interview, "is to get clarity with regard to the nature of people



ILWU Local 136 Longshore workers on strike in 1949.

Photo—Kauai Ahukini, Send Studio

who led the growth of the ILWU during a very fascinating period in the development of Hawaii as well as the United States... Even though the book may lack a sense of the broad history of Hawaii it nevertheless contains the feeling that the multi-ethnic groups of Hawaii could indeed take hold of their destiny and determine what it should be for them as well as their families. That is the primary lesson of the book—industrial organization, political action, and democracy in action."

The value of the book for all ILWU members lies also in learning about the struggles and decisions of Hall himself, and the price he paid for his left-wing politics. As A.Q. McElrath writes in her foreword to the new edition, Hall's legacy includes the right of workers to belong to unions, to engage

in political action, and to control and shape the conditions under which they work. Reading "A Spark Is Struck," she concludes, "can provide some of the answers as to where the labor movement will go in the future and how union ideology, policies and structure can direct labor in a changing worldwide economy. This book is a powerful reminder that the legacy of Jack Hall continues to today's labor movement."

By special arrangement with Local 142 and Watermark Publishing *A Spark Is Struck* is now available through the ILWU book sale at the discounted price of \$13.50, including shipping and handling.

—Rae Shiraki, Local 142 Library Services Coordinator & Gene Vrana, ILWU Director of Educational Services

## ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

### BOOKS

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

**Along the Shore/Por la Costa—ILWU Coloring Book.** A bi-lingual English/Spanish coloring book about waterfront workers and their union. Originally developed by the California Federation of Teachers' Labor in the Schools Committee in consultation with member Patricia Aguirre and the ILWU Local 13 Education Committee. Meets K-3 classroom standards for History and Social Studies. Two (2) for \$5.00

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

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

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

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

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

**A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco.** By David Selvin. Perhaps the most comprehensive single narrative about the San Francisco events of 1934. \$16.50

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

### VIDEOS

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

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

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

## ILWU BOOK & VIDEO ORDER FORM

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