



THE DISPATCHER

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The Year in Review

ILWU 2008

As we celebrate the holidays and get ready for the New Year, we hope you'll take a few moments to reflect on our work in 2008.

On behalf of the ILWU International officers and staff, we wish you and your family a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Hundreds of events happened in the ILWU world during 2008. These are some of the highlights, as reported in *The Dispatcher*.

JANUARY

Dozens of Local 29 workers at Harborside Refrigerated Services in San Diego had already been on the picket line for more than a month when the New Year started. They won their fight for a better contract in early 2008, thanks to solidarity from co-workers on the docks and support from other workers in the community who were organized by the San Diego Labor Council. Picket lines went up just after Thanksgiving and continued through Christmas, and the San Diego Chargers playoff games. Not a single worker crossed the line. Their unity allowed them to win most of their demands – including controls on an abusive hiring system that cheated warehouse workers out of permanent jobs and health benefits.



That issue over longtime temps without benefits sparked the strike after longtime worker Efren Montes, Sr., died without health insurance despite having worked for seven years at Harborside. Workers also won their first raise in six years, and an agreement to assign work by seniority.

“Before the strike, we were divided,” said Harborside worker James “Bo” Bellina. “But during the strike, we put things from the past aside. We learned if we strike together we can accomplish great things.”

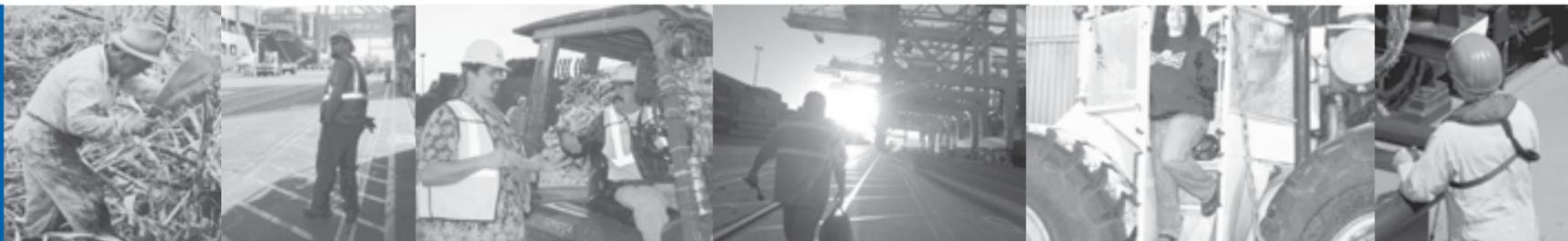
FEBRUARY

ILWU's Longshore Caucus met in San Francisco during the last week of January and first week of February to hammer-out a negotiating approach for the new contract covering more than 25,000 dockworkers. Over 100 delegates elected by the rank-and-file attended, debated, and ultimately agreed on a package of proposals to guide the negotiating process in the months ahead. Among the many resolutions passed was one introduced

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LETTERS



Following the victory of President-elect Barack Obama, the ILWU received many letters and messages of congratulations from unions around the world.

Dear Editor,

This time, why not let the oil companies bail out the big three automakers? These two have worked hand and hand all these years.

Some are blaming the autoworkers for the decent wages, health benefits, and pensions that they fought hard to win over many years of contract negotiations. They weren't a gift from the big three.

The reason why the big three need a bailout now has more to do with the fact that the companies never took responsibility for building smaller, better, more fuel-efficient cars that we need in this country. The incompetent CEO's are taking home salaries equal to hundreds or even thousands of men and women who work hard on the line building these vehicles.

**Michael Mullen, Pensioner's Club, Local 14
Eureka, CA 95501**

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

Dear Editor,

I retired on October 1, 2004 after 41 years on the waterfront. A lot of my brothers wanted to know how it feels to be retired. It's hard to answer that question unless you've been retired for awhile, but now after four years I can honestly say it feels great! My wife and I have done a lot of travelling. We spend time with our children and grandchildren.

I want to thank the ILWU for making it all possible. I also want to thank all my union brothers in Locals 13, 63, and 94 for their support during all of my 41 years.

I just hope that every member of retirement age will retire, spend time with their families, enjoy life, and do things that that they never have done. Every member deserves to have some fun years instead of just working. I had so many friends that never made retirement, and that is tragic.

Congratulations to you and the staff for the great work you have done on the *Dispatcher*.

**Henry Sedillos, Jr.
Buena Park, CA**

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ILWU 2008

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by Local 10 delegates that, as amended, called for coastwide stop-work meetings on May 1st to support U.S. troops in Iraq by bringing them home safely. Delegates also elected a 15-member Negotiating Committee and 8-member Safety Negotiating Committee. ILWU long-timers noted that this meeting was more united and less factional than previous Caucus gatherings.

“Everyone at the Caucus was trying to address issues and solve problems,” said Jennifer Gumm, a first-time delegate from Local 12 in Coos Bay, Oregon. “The debates were intense, but almost always respectful. I was impressed with the process and all the unity in the room, even when there were disagreements.”

APRIL

Another tragic death on the docks in early April highlighted the deadly side of longshore work. Carlos Rivera was a longtime and well-known longshoreman who was killed while working on the job in Long Beach on April

4th. More than a dozen longshore workers had been killed in the previous six years, making longshoring a more dangerous occupation than working as a police officer or firefighter. ILWU's Coast Negotiating Committee was raising the issue at the negotiating table and pushing for stronger Safety Code language.

MARCH

Two years of tough organizing resulted in a win for 650 warehouse workers at Rite Aid's million-square-foot distribution center in Lancaster, CA, who voted to join the ILWU on March 14, 2008. Workers in the high-desert facility receive container loads of merchandise from the Ports of LA and Long Beach which they distribute to 500 Rite Aid stores throughout the Southwest. Like most workers who want to join a union, Rite Aid workers faced an almost impossible barrage of anti-union propaganda and attacks. Workers were fired for supporting the union, including Ignacio “Nacho” Luna, who explained, “We showed that if we stand together, we can make changes for ourselves, our families, and the people who come after us.” Nacho was finally rehired after six months, but his termination increased the fear among



Ignacio 'Nacho' Meza

many workers, which is why employers usually fire union supporters during union organizing campaigns, and why passing the Employee Free Choice Act in Congress remains so important.



Family, friends, and co-workers paid their last respects to brother Carlos Rivera who was killed on April 4th while working at the Port of Long Beach



Hundreds of ILWU members joined thousands of other union activists to kick off a three-day “Hollywood to the Docks” march that began on April 15th to highlight all the different union contracts expiring in the Southland in 2008 that cover 350,000 workers. ILWU members made up the largest contingent of walkers who marched the full 28 miles. A rally at the San Pedro docks concluded the event.



Rite Aid workers at the Lancaster distribution center won their union vote last March with help from ILWU volunteers at Locals 13, 26, 30, 63 OCU and 63. Activists from other unions also helped including the Teamsters.



“We showed that if we stand together, we can make changes for ourselves, our families, and the people who come after us.”

– Ignacio 'Nacho' Meza, Rite Aid distribution center, Lancaster, CA

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ILWU

The Year in Review

2008

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MAY

Ports closed up and down the coast on May Day when nearly 10,000 longshore workers voluntarily gave up a day's pay to protest the war in Iraq, support the troops, and call for their safe return. Large public protests were organized in Seattle by Local 19 and in San Francisco by Local 10. Smaller

actions were held in Tacoma, Portland and Stockton. Hundreds of unsolicited "thank you" letters poured into the ILWU headquarters, including many from families with current and former members in the military. The media coverage was extensive and positive with reports in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, and dozens of other outlets.



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.

JUNE

The Coast Longshore Negotiating Committee reached a preliminary agreement with ILWU employers represented by the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) that maintained health and welfare benefits. The remainder of the contract was still being negotiated, but the announcement on June 17th of a tentative agreement which preserved health and welfare benefits was taken as a positive sign by the media, and industry observers that contract talks were on-track and moving in the right direction. Negotiations would require five more weeks of difficult bargaining to resolve the remaining issues.



ILWU's Coast Negotiating Committee settled the Longshore Contract on July 28, 2008.

JULY

Preliminary agreement on a new 6-year longshore contract covering 25,000 workers was reached on July 28th, four weeks after the previous contract expired. The Negotiating Committee declined to extend the old agreement when it expired on July 1st, and when further progress was elusive, workers at the major ports in Califor-

nia and began taking "unit breaks" to show their unity and determination to win a fair agreement which came after several weeks of measured, disciplined action. Respect for the ILWU's democratic process required the agreement to be carefully evaluated by Coast Caucus delegates in August, followed by open discussions at local membership meetings, then voted on by Longshore Division members in September. The agreement was ratified by a 75% margin.



Workers took "unit breaks" in July to show unity and help win the longshore contract.

AUGUST

Emergency response workers in Tacoma who protect the waters of Puget Sound went on strike the week of August 18th to protest discrimination by their employer, the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC). Support on the picket line included Local 23 longshore workers and supporters from the local Jobs with Justice chapter. National Labor Relations Board officials in Seattle issued complaints against

MSRC for coercing and discriminating against employees. In addition to these labor law violations, MSRC had also been dragging their feet on a new contract for workers in Tacoma and Long Beach. Shortly after the strike ended, the company began working seriously with the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) on a contract settlement. Workers soon won a first contract with raises and pay up to \$32 an hour, a grievance and arbitration procedure, maintenance of health benefits, and a union security clause.



Marine Spill Response Corporation workers won their strike and first contract in August.

"We just want to do the best job possible... The environment is our number one concern."

— Klete Freudenstein, MSRC worker, Tacoma, WA

SEPTEMBER

With the arrival of Labor Day, election season went into high gear and the ILWU kicked off a campaign to educate members, mobilize volunteers, and hold politicians more accountable. The goal was to elect representatives and a new president who would stand up for working families. ILWU's International Executive Board carefully reviewed the records and positions of all the candidates earlier in the year. In April, the Executive Board unanimously agreed that Senator Barack Obama was the best candidate for working families. Important local, regional and state elections were motivating locals to take politics seriously, including Locals 54 and 6 which spent more than a year preparing to elect a Mayor and City Council members in Stockton who would be more friendly to working families. In San Diego, Local 29 members geared up to fight a local developer who wanted to convert their port into what one member described as a "Disneyland development."



In San Diego, Local 29 members volunteered many weekends to protect good jobs at their port by defeating Measure B on the November ballot.



OCTOBER

Hundreds of ILWU volunteers were pushing hard in the final weeks of the campaign to make phone calls, walk precincts, and talk with other union members about the most important election in decades. These high stakes were behind the ILWU's decision to send 50 members to join other union members in nearby "swing states" where the Presidential and U.S. Senate races were expected to be close and decisive: Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon and Nevada.



NOVEMBER

ILWU members helped make history on November 4th when Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. There were also important U.S. Senate victories in Alaska, Oregon, New Mexico and Colorado. At the state and local level, members helped re-elect a friend of working families, Christine Gregoire as Governor of Washington State, and defeat a slew of anti-union measures in Oregon and Colorado. The developer-sponsored initiative to destroy San Diego's port was crushed, and Stockton voters elected a Mayor and City Council expected to be more friendly to working families.

"...the men and women of the ILWU, and working people across this country, deserve a president who doesn't choke on the word "union" and is willing to fight for the right to organize..."

– Barack Obama



NEWS & NOTES

Local 5 reached a tentative agreement on 11-25-08 for a new contract with Aramark Foodservice in Olympia, Washington, that covers 45 foodservice workers at Evergreen State College. The contract will be up for a membership ratification vote in the coming weeks...Local 5 opened nominations at their general membership meeting in November for local officers and delegates to affiliate organizations. The election will be conducted with mail ballots that should be received by members in December. New officers and delegates will be announced in January and take office in March.

Local 6 members who provide alcohol and drug rehabilitation support services at San Francisco's Mission Council are struggling against unresponsive management and a state and local budget crisis that is squeezing their program hard. San Francisco's \$100 million budget deficit is forcing cuts to drug and alcohol treatment programs, mental health, and medical services. "It's a terrible time to be negotiating," said Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker, "but we won't back down from our view that people who do this important work should be paid fairly and treated decently." Workers plan to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors to line up support for quality service, fair pay, and more respectful treatment of employees...The local hosted a workshop for more than 40 stewards at City College of San Francisco in November, part of the ongoing effort to

rebuild a strong stewards' network in Local 6 workplaces.

Local 8's container volume increased 2 percent in October, and the November numbers were looking good as well. "We've been welcoming our brothers and sisters from the Puget Sound who are coming down as travelers to work with us," said Jeff Smith, Local 8 President. The October increase brought the total TEUs to 21,458, or 446 more than a year before. Other than the recent increase in containers, overall traffic for the Port is down 5.8 percent from last year. Autos were down, but grain and mineral shipments were up.

Local 10's drill team took first place in San Francisco's annual Veterans' Day Parade on November 9. Captain Josh Williams and the drill team racked-up an impressive haul of trophies, medals, and awards in 2008. As an end-of-the-year bonus, Williams just learned that filming of a documentary about the drill team is expected to begin in early 2009. The California Council for the Humanities awarded a grant for the project to Ian Ruskin, founder of "The Harry Bridges Project."...Local 10 President Melvin Mackay sent a message of concern to officials in the State of Georgia, urging them to halt the execution of Troy Davis, a man convicted of murder and scheduled for execution. But new evidence in the case has won support for a re-trial from Amnesty International and former FBI Director William Sessions. After receiving letters and calls of concern, officials agreed to stay the execution and review the case...the Local wants to help struggling families in Haiti and Honduras. They're trying to round-up containers and

hope to fill them with urgently needed supplies for some of the poorest residents in the world who survive on a few dollars a day. The goal is to send out the containers by Christmas.

Local 12 members are encouraged by the Port of Coos Bay's decision to purchase the 111-mile-long Coos Bay rail line that connects the bay to the inland city of Eugene. The federal government's asking price was higher than expected, at \$16.6 million, and the Port is appealing that amount as it moves forward. Local 12 Secretary-Treasurer Jennifer Gumm said, "This purchase is good news for us. It shows signs that the Port is looking for economic development opportunities for our community." If the Port had not agreed to the purchase, the rail line would have been abandoned, cutting rural Coos Bay off from critical transportation routes.

Local 13 member Vivian Malauulu gave birth to a beautiful 9 pound, 4 ounce baby boy on October 6th, named Koa George. The postcard announcement sent by Vivian and husband George promises this will be the last baby!... Local 13 member and Health Benefits Officer Jerry Avila got his family members involved in purchasing and delivering turkeys and other food items to local families who are hurting this holiday season...Longtime activist, former Local 13 President, and former ILWU International President Dave Arian has formally announced his retirement. He'll attend his last local meeting as a member on Thursday, December 4th. A party in Dave's honor is set for Saturday, January 24th at the Port Town Cafe in San Pedro. For more information, contact Norman or Patricia Tuck: noshee@cox.net

Local 14 members are hopeful after a Novem-

ber 14th vote by the Eureka Harbor Commission to authorize an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) to assess the impact of upgrading their existing facilities to include cruise ship, break bulk and short-sea shipping terminals. Local 14 members think this may lead to future development of the terminal into a full container facility, pending extension of a rail line. President Damien Mooney says the terminal conversion would increase local employment which has suffered since the local pulp mill was closed by overseas owners for 3-6 months, or until the global economy begins to recover.

Local 19 had their busiest cruise season ever in 2008 at the Port of Seattle. For the first time, Seattle surpassed Vancouver B.C. in passenger numbers. Seattle welcomed 210 cruise ships and 886,039 passengers while Vancouver reported 854,453 passengers. The cruise business in Seattle generates \$274 million in annual business revenue, \$8 million in annual state and local taxes, and 2,380 jobs. The 2009 season will see the opening of a new facility on Pier 91, near the Magnolia Bridge. Current projections for 2009 estimate there will be 211 cruise ship visits and 801,080 passengers, with the Port serving as home for 11 vessels.... The Port Commissions of Seattle and Tacoma met recently in a joint session for the second time this year in an effort to forge better cooperation on infrastructure, regional promotion and environmental issues.

Local 21 stands to gain about 50 jobs if the Port of Longview is able to secure the 6.2 acres of land necessary to build a \$150 million grain terminal. Kalama-based RSG Forest Products Inc. owns the land and says it wants to build

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS

Local 7: Richard M. Lindquist; **Local 10:** Eugene D. Vrana; **Local 12:** Clair C. Hansen; **Local 13:** Edward L. Loy, Arthur T. Galindo, Ralph J. Melgoza, Carl G. Bugarin, James E. Hiser, Michael Negrete, Gabriel H. Padron; **Local 19:** William P. Spear, James E. Turner, Leonard W. Atlee; **Local 23:** Monte H. O'Brien; **Local 27:** Daniel P. Dougherty; **Local 29:** Irene R. Smith; **Local 34:** Leland J. Sandahl; **Local 46:** Richard M. Lopez, Moises S. Galindo; **Local 63:** Andrew R. Marinkovich; **Local 75:** Raymond F. Defanti; **Local 91:** Eddie J. Bell; **Local 92:** Larry G. Cooper; **Local 94:** James H. Clemons, Ralph Espino.

NEW SURVIVORS

Local 8: Loritta Kuehl (Robert), Mandy J. St John (Larry); **Local 14:** Frances A. Mc Naughton (James); **Local 18:** Sherly A. Foreman (Bobby); **Local 21:** Velma M. Jacobs (Keith); **Local 32:** Jane M. Paglia (August); **Local 52:** Gloria L. Crepeau (Donald); **Local 75:** Rosalina B. Delirio (Leon), Barbara J. Gregory (Richard); **Local 94:** Roberta E. Rodin (John), Juana Diaz, Kane A. Ceja, Noe Risler, Latoria liams (Michael).

DECEASED PENSIONERS

Local 8: Marion L. Howton, Larry K. St John, Samuel Backman; **Local 13:** Thomas J. Hofve; **Local 14:** James H. Mc Naughton; **Local 19:** Patrick G. Vukich; **Local 27:** Vern C. Garling; **Local 52:** Louis H. Shearer; **Local 75:** Leon M. Delirio; **Local 92:** Wesley V. Baker; **Local 94:** John R. Rodin

DECEASED SURVIVORS

Local 8: Esther Brakebush; **Local 10:** Anna M. Skalko, Helen M. Jameson, Elvira Walker, Emilia Ramirez; **Local 12:** Nelda A. Crawford; **Local 13:** Rita Gregg, Jewell Johnson, Eloise R. Sandoval, Violet Williams, Lillian R. Sapien, Nancy Taylor; **Local 19:** Kathryn M. Miniken; **Local 23:** June E. Lefler, Ollie M. Cox, Ida M. Currie; **Local 27:** Cherrie L. Cooke; **Local 29:** Paula Salazar; **Local 34:** Doris M. Johnsen, Ruth H. Gurley; **Local 54:** June C. Rendell; **Local 63:** Joyce E. Schroeder; **Local 94:** Kathleen Mata



Blue Diamond workers lost their union vote in November, but not their dignity.

After a hard-fought 4-year campaign, Blue Diamond workers in Sacramento were unable to overcome a vicious anti-union campaign by the company that threatened workers by claiming that they would lose their jobs and see the plant close if they voted for the union. The experience at Blue Diamond confirms the necessity of passing the Employee Free Choice Act, which President-elect Obama promised to sign, so workers can join unions without being fired or threatened with losing their jobs.



What are you and your local doing to help others this holiday season?



"We lost our home to foreclosure this year but still feel blessed to be able to help those who are in worse shape than us. My family and I are cooking, feeding and clothing the less fortunate in the City of Richmond on Christmas Day from 11am-5 pm. It's an event we call "Christmas in Richmond," and our goal is to accommodate at least 350 recipients at three different locations.

My daughter, Burgundie Spears, started C.I.R. in 2006 while she was home for the holidays from college. We fed more than 100

the first year and have vowed to continue this every year. We've increased our numbers every year since. Donations come from our doctors, dentist, neighbors, local business owners, co-workers and anyone who can contribute to the cause. The proceeds are used to buy essential supplies like food, drinks, books and diapers, as well as toys for the kids. We spend the week prior to Christmas preparing to cook, separating and washing the donated clothing, organizing teams, chopping vegetables and wrapping toys. It's a lot of work, but it is worth it. On Christmas Day, we'll be feeding people in Richmond's Nevin Street Park and at the Senior Center in North Richmond. We will also donate prepared food to the local Meals-on-Wheels."

**Edna Campbell, Local 10
Richmond, CA**

"In this time of giving, I am supporting a program in my church, the United Church of Christ Christian Fellowship, that provides food and toys to the needy. I am also helping the poor and needy in my child's junior high school by donating to a program that the school administrates. I am also active this year in the Southern California locals' Feed the Community Day, giving food baskets out to those in need in our community. Even though we are dockworkers, we are only one step away from the serious problems facing family and friends who are coming up short this year. It hits especially close to home when you're looking out for an immediate family member who is suffering this holiday season."



**Gene Bandy, Local 94
San Pedro**



"The bike drive we did for abused and underprivileged kids worked so well last year that we're doing it again. The officers challenged the membership to buy a bike for kids in two local charities, The Childrens Justice Center and The Childrens Home Society. The results were inspiring. We contacted the Vancouver Fire Department, and they jumped on-board by pledging to buy safety helmets for every bike donated. The final tally was 128 bikes equipped with helmets. Members would

stop by the hall on their lunch hour just to help assemble bikes. We had everything from Spiderman bikes to Harley choppers, trick bikes to three wheel trikes. It was quite a display. Local 4 members, Local 40 Clerks, Local 92 Walking bosses, and the Vancouver Fire Department all helped make a difference in some child's Christmas. As for Local 4 kids, our Auxiliary has been restarted after more than a decade, and they're bringing Santa Claus to the hall this year. Longshore kids will get pictures with Santa, and they'll participate in cookie decorating and other Christmas craft activities. Hopefully it will be a Christmas to remember for all children involved."

**Troy Olson, Local 4
Vancouver, WA**

"We know there's more of a need this year than before for families and kids to have a great holiday during tough economic times. This year, in addition to what Local 23 member Dragan Butorac has done in the past - like donating union store gift cards to students in financial need at local schools, and organizing members to donate toys and bikes - we have some fun incentives to encourage Longshoremen to donate. There's a friendly competition between terminals to raise money, and the terminal that raises the most will receive a catered breakfast. In addition, any Longshoreman who donates \$100 receives an original ornament to take home. One of the choices is a hand-made Longshore hook by our own Mike Neff, who's also giving a large hook to the person who donates the most!"

**Mandy Peterson, Local 23
Tacoma, WA**



a sawmill instead. When Port Commissioners voted unanimously in late October to authorize eminent domain and force RSG to sell, the company challenged the vote, and the matter is now before a Cowlitz County judge. Local 21 president John Philbrook said, "For a lot of reasons, it makes sense for the port to have this land and build the grain elevator. We'll be working to help move the project along and bring more good jobs to Cowlitz County." About 300 construction jobs, 50 permanent longshore jobs, and 20 ancillary jobs would be created by the project, which would be financed by Bunge North American Inc. and the Japanese company Itochu Inc. ... The port is also planning to build a new \$6 million Berth 9, which is expected to make it a major West Coast player in the grain export business.

Local 23 welcomed its most stellar political line-up in 70 years when it hosted a 300-person rally on Nov. 2nd with DNC head Howard Dean, Gov. Chris Gregoire, Congressman Adam Smith, U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, and local luminaries. The last time the local held such political punch was in May of 1936, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt came to Tacoma to congratulate the longshoremen for their role in the successful 1934 strike that led to the union's formation and Congress' 1935 passage of union rights. Pensioner Bob Tschida had the honor of attending both rallies, as he attended the Roosevelt event as a young child and supported last month's rally 72 years later.

Local 28 will start negotiating a first contract for 21 security guards at the Port of Longview after the Port's contractor, Reliant Security, finally recognized the union this month. The guards started organizing in February, and had 100 percent support from co-workers who signed union authorization cards. But the company declined to recognize the union. That's when Local 21 longshore workers began turning out in force at Port Commission meetings to support the guards. Longshore workers even assessed themselves to pay for a fund to help any guards who might suffer reduced hours due to retaliation. In the end,

it was pressure from longshore workers, concern from Port Commissioners, and unity from the guards themselves that combined to make the victory possible. Local 28 President Devin Lingo said, "Local 21 recognized the value of solidarity and backed-up the guards' desire to join the union. That strong showing of support raised the guards' morale and made a big impression on the Port and the company. The guards will now be able to start improving their working conditions with the help of the ILWU."

Local 50 nominated their local officials in November and will vote at their December membership meeting. ... The Port of Astoria is trying to secure lottery funds to acquire a 40-acre industrial property at North Tongue Point, which includes five finger piers and 140,000 square feet of building space. They will discuss the loan of an undisclosed amount at the County Commission meeting on December 3. The Commissioner has said that "The Port cannot successfully grow into the future, providing countywide economic development, without adding marine-related properties such as North Tongue Point."

Alaska longshore local members were instrumental in the Senate seat victory for Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich. Begich defeated incumbent Alaska Senator Ted Stevens who was indicted on seven felony counts earlier this fall. According to Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dawn DesBrisay, the AFL-CIO credits the campaigning of Alaskan ILWU members as the deciding factor which swung the election for Begich. Begich—a strong supporter of the Employee Free Choice Act and pro-worker policies on jobs, trade and health care—told Alaskan union members on the day before Election Day that they would make the difference in this close contest, and he applauded their hard work.

Local 92 lost 41-year member Arlen "Hank" Fuller back on May 11, 2008, according to his wife Marilyn who wanted to make sure that his co-workers knew that Hank passed away this past Spring.

A report from the ARA...



An ARA Communications and Electronics Officer repairs the Information Technology Network aboard an APL ship.

ILWU affiliate, American Radio Association, seeks a new agreement with APL

ILWU's affiliate, the American Radio Association (ARA), is considering various options as the expiration date of their collective bargaining agreement with American President Lines (APL) approaches on December 15, 2008.

ARA claims that misrepresentations made in 2005 by APL's former ship manager, American Ship Management, induced it to enter into an agree-

ment to eliminate the MREO/EO billet. The company intends to reassign work currently done by ARA Electronics Officers to other officers on APL ships. ARA has asked sister maritime unions to not cooperate with this practice, and to inform their union members to decline these work assignments.

"The ARA and ILWU are committed to do what can be done to preserve these jobs for our members," said William Schuman, President of the American Radio Association.

30th Annual Labor History Calendar Order ONLINE

<http://www.pnlha.org>

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ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St. #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Northern California
Norm McLeod
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8363

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5W9
(604) 254-7911

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS

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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

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