The ILWU political program is now in full swing as the election nears on November 4th. Hundreds of member and pensioner volunteers are talking to voters throughout the Western United States.

This year, the ILWU is making a special effort to participate in the AFL-CIO’s Labor 2008 campaign, allowing the union to go beyond the coastal states where members live and work in order to reach AFL-CIO members in nearby “swing states” who could easily determine the presidential election.

“George Bush has stuck working families with a two-trillion dollar tab for the Iraq war and another trillion dollars for the Wall Street bailout,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath. “Our country is in real serious trouble, so we’ve got to help people cut through all the baloney and see where these candidates stand on real issues.”

The ILWU has identified a number of issues that matter most to union members and working families, including:

The right to join a union: Do the candidates support the Employer Free Choice Act (EFCA) that would make it possible for workers to join a union without being fired or terrorized?

Better health care: Do the candidates support the Employer Free Choice Act (EFCA) that would make it possible for workers to join a union without being fired or terrorized?

"...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

ILWU election effort: holding politicians accountable
Dear Editor,

I’m against the bailout for those Wall Street fat cats, and I’m sure other ILWU members are too. Everybody I talk to is against the bailout, and that includes both union and non-union workers. I can’t believe the problems our country is having is since they did away with regulations. That idiot Bush and the rest of them tried to get rid of our Social Security and replace it with personal investments in the stock market. Thank God that didn’t happen, but it still could with McCain. We’ve got to vote for Obama. He’s the only hope we’ve got in this election.

Earl Landsborough
Vancouver, WA

Dear Editor,

My late husband, Guadalupe A. Vasquez of Local 10, would be so proud of Robert McEllrath’s “President’s Message” in the September, 2008 Dispatcher. The sacrifice of the generations before us is still being honored by continuing the legacy for future generations. As a pensioner’s widow, I will do my part to support and help the working families in the union by casting my vote at the polls.

Mary C. Vasquez
San Lorenzo, CA

I want to congratulate the ILWU negotiating team for securing our latest longshore contract. At a time when so many other workers are losing their jobs, pensions, health benefits, and pay, the ILWU negotiating team was able to sustain and even increase the benefits we had before. This is a great accomplishment. Many times in my retirement years I’ve said: “Thank God for the ILWU.” I’ve been retired for 15 years and this week will cash my 180th pension check. Each time I look at those checks, I think back on the wonderful men who fought for this union and had the foresight to make the union strong so we could negotiate the benefits that we enjoy today. Fifty years ago, we had to spend our own money on health care; it was like a chain around the working man’s neck. Growing up in the Depression years, those health care bills were a common disaster for all of us. Now there are times when we go to the pharmacy and pick up a thousand dollars of prescriptions and pay maybe $5. People say to me, “wow, what a plan you have!” I tell them, proudly, about all the members who struggled to make this union what it is today. From my heart, I thank you for upholding our pride in the union.

Wesley T. Johnson
Bend, OR

P.S. We support Barack Obama and think he will support unions and be a great President.

Mary C. Vasquez
San Lorenzo, CA

Longshore contract ratified

Longshore Division registrants have ratified the new Pacific Coast Longshore Contract Agreement by a 75% margin. The vote totals were: 7,567 “YES” and 2,506 “NO.” The vote was certified by the Coast Balloting Committee, selected by the Longshore Caucus.

PMA implemented the new wage rates on Saturday, October 4, 2008. PMA will also implement container gang manning changes in LAVLB and Oakland on October 4th.

Retroactivity from Saturday, June 28th, 2008 through Friday, October 3, 2008 will be paid in checks issued on Friday, October 24, 2008.

Pensioners Convention Rocks Portland

More than 200 ILWU pensioners and spouses met in Portland on September 15-17, proving the old adage to be true: “We may have retired from the job, but we’ll never retire from the union!”

The 41st annual convention of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association marked the first time they were joined by the International Executive Board and titled officers of the ILWU. The lively event focused on the pensioners’ goals for the November elections, supporting a national single-payer health care plan, and international solidarity.

PCPA President Rich Austin kicked off the convention and told the delegates, “This election, more than any other in our lifetimes, has stakes so high that none of us can afford to sit on the sidelines. There is, in the words of words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the fierce urgency of now!”

The pensioners cheered when Austin noted the importance of volunteering and voting for candidates who support working families and issues like health care and union rights. Oregon State Senator Margaret Carter echoed Austin’s remarks and added that we need to elect lawmakers who support social and economic justice, and peace.

Because the ILWU has a rich history and pensioners are often asked for interviews about their life in the union, delegates were given a set of guidelines to follow before and during an interview to protect themselves and to avoid revealing sensitive information about union issues. Gene Viana, Director of Educational Services and ILWU Librarian, along with Harvey Schwartz, Editor and Curator of our Union’s Oral History Project, presented the topic and provided a checklist which is available through pensioners clubs.

International President Bob McEllrath addressed the pensioners and thanked them for their continuing support of the ILWU’s policies and programs. He received a standing ovation in recognition of his leadership as spokesman for the ILWU Longshore Negotiating Committee. Longshore Division Benefits Specialist George Romero and all area benefits specialists informed the pensioners about key provisions in the new 2008 Longshore Contract that relate to medical care and pensions. They also explained the many ways that ILWU’s Benefits Specialist serves both active and retired members, dependents, and surviving spouses.

The pensioners thanked Romero—who is retiring and was accompanied by his wife Diane—for his years of service, and presented him with a plaque honoring his tireless work on behalf of every member in the “ILWU Family.” John Castanho of Local 10 has been named the new Benefits Specialist.

continued on page 9

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Ending the War in Iraq: Will the candidates commit to bringing our troops home safely by a certain date, and will they use better judgment before sending U.S. troops abroad? The ILWU Executive Board carefully evaluated all the major candidates to see where they stood on these and other important issues.

“While no Presidential candidate is perfect, on every issue, it’s clear that Senator Barack Obama was a much better choice for working families,” said Vice President Joe Radisch.

Compared to Senator Obama, Senator McCain failed on almost every issue:

✔ McCain’s health care plan calls for taxing employer-paid health care benefits.
✔ McCain opposes the Employee Free Choice Act and helped kill it in the U.S. Senate.
✔ McCain supports more tax breaks for corporations and the super-rich.
✔ McCain opposes universal health care and is strongly against the ILWU’s “single-payer” approach that saves money & increases care.
✔ McCain refuses to set a timeline for bringing our troops home from Iraq and said they could remain for “100 years.”

Getting these facts into the hands of working families is the job that volunteers are now tackling in local communities and nearby “swing states” that could tip the election one way or another.

Recently, the ILWU Longshore Division decided to support 40 member unions and pensioners who are volunteering to work on AFL-CIO campaigns in Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon. The key “swing states” in the west that are most likely to determine the Presidential race are Nevada, New Mexico, and Colorado.

“By expanding our campaign in five key states, the ILWU can help shift the balance of power in Washington, D.C. more towards working families,” said Local 40 member Dawn Des Brisay, who is overseeing the traveling volunteer program. “We need to make sure that working families in these states have accurate information about the candidates to make good decisions.”

In Alaska, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens was indicted for corruption. McCain refuses to set a timeline for bringing our troops home from Iraq, is working full-time to recruit other maritime union voters, and is working hard to re-elect Gov. Chris Murray for his leadership on behalf of working families, while Sen. Smith won a Gold Medal from the Oregon AFL-CIO for his leadership on behalf of working families, while Sen. Smith has been voting with George W. Bush 90% of the time. Voters are also facing - for the fourth time - an anti-union “paycheck deception” ballot measure that aims to weaken public employee unions by prohibiting members from paying dues through automatic payroll deduction. The Obama/McCain contest is too close to call in Oregon.

Colorado’s nine electoral votes are up for grabs in the Presidential race. There’s also a hotly-contested U.S. Senate seat that’s a toss-up between former oil company executive and anti-union candidate Bob Schaffer, and ILWU-supported Congressman Mark Udall who has a 93% lifetime AFL-CIO voting record. Colorado voters are also facing a baffling ballot propositions, including three anti-union measures funded by 28-year-old beer heir Jonathon Coors. Amendment 47 is a “right to work (for less)” scheme that would ban union shops. Amendment 49 would strangle public-sector unions by banning dues check-off, and Amendment 54 would prohibit union political contributions. There are also ballot measures on abortion and affirmative action that conservatives hope will confuse and divide working families around controversial cultural issues. Labor unions have responded with their own ballot measures to increase penalties for white-collar crimes and protect workers from being unfairly fired. The underlying story is that public employees have been organizing and getting stronger, putting big business and conservative leaders in a panic because their dominance in Colorado is being challenged.

Nevada’s five electoral votes are up for grabs and being aggressively sought by both the Obama-Biden and McCain-Palin campaigns. If the race is close, Nevada’s handful of electoral votes could make a big difference.

New Mexico has five electoral votes and two U.S. Representatives who are competing to fill one U.S. Senate seat held by retiring Sen. Pete Dominici. The outcome in this race is one of several that could shift the balance of power in the U.S. Senate more toward working families. Candidate and current Congressmember Tom Udall has a history of voting for working families 97% of the time, while Congressmember Steve Pearce has supported working families only 13% of the time, according to AFL-CIO records. New Mexico polls show Obama and McCain are running in a dead heat. Oregon voters are enduring a nasty U.S. Senate race that pits Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley against incumbent Senator Gordon Smith. Merkley won a Gold Medal from the Oregon AFL-CIO for his leadership on behalf of working families, while Sen. Smith has been voting with George W. Bush 90% of the time. Voters are also facing - for the fourth time - an anti-union “paycheck deception” ballot measure that aims to weaken public employee unions by prohibiting members from paying dues through automatic payroll deduction. The Obama/McCain contest is too close to call in Oregon.

Local 8 member Shanti Lewallen is working full-time to recruit other union members into the Oregon campaign. The volunteers he is recruiting are canvassing door-to-door and making phone calls to reach ILWU and other maritime union voters.

“The U.S. Senate races are really important because our right to organize unions is at stake,” said Lewallen. “We need change in Washington, and one way to do that is by getting more people to volunteer and vote this November.” Lewallen says that volunteers are needed to counteract the expensive advertising campaign that Senator Smith is using to make the longtime politician appear more “worker-friendly” than he really is.

Washington state volunteers are working hard to re-elect Gov. Chris Gregoire and send Darcy Burner to the U.S. House of Representatives. While noting that “there’s no perfect candidate,”
in "Lou Grant" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," is also a longtime union activist who served as President of the Screen Actors Guild. "It’s Labor Day so we’re all together now, but it can’t just be today – we’ve got to stick together everyday!"

Asner said the Screen Actors Guild is having trouble negotiating a new contract and urged unions to help each other. Asner also encouraged union members to get involved in politics and support good candidates who support unions, such as Steve Young, who’s running against an anti-union opponent in August 22nd.  More than 150 religious and labor leaders attended.

“I’m very grateful for the work of my brothers and sisters in the inter-religious community and my brothers and sisters in the labor community who were willing to come together and see what we could do in anticipation of Labor Day,” said Bishop Jaime Soto, Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento. “I hope this is the first of many events where we can come together and support each other.”

A large delegation of Local 17 members joined dozens of other volunteers who spent part of their holiday weekend preparing and serving meals for the hungry on Labor Day. The community group “Leaves and Fishes” served more than 700 meals this year. Sacramento’s Labor Council has been volunteering to help the project for 25 years.

Joining the ILWU volunteers were State Senator Darrell Steinberg, Galt Mayor Andrew Meredith, Congressional candidate Bill Durston, Rancho Cordova City Councilmember Ken Cooley and many others. Local 17 won special praise for having the largest number of volunteers at the event.

A record crowd – including ILWU members – turned out for the Annual Labor Day Picnic at Sacramento’s William Land Park. In addition to the complimentary BBQ, there were children’s activities, karaoke, a Texas hold-em poker tournament, bingo, and a raffle. Politicians were out in force, including Lt Governor John Garamendi, State Senator Darrell Steinberg, Assemblymember Dave Jones, Congressional Candidate Charlie Brown and many others.

California’s official State Fair in Sacramento runs two weeks through Labor Day, and Local 17 members were part of this year’s event. They staffed the “Turn Around America,” booth that was visited by fair-goers who signed over one thousand petitions supporting the Employee Free Choice Act. Visitors also learned about the workers at Blue Diamond Growers in Sacramento who want to join the ILWU.

San Francisco…

Members gathered at Local 10’s dispatch hall to celebrate Labor Day in the Bay Area. In addition to plenty of food and drink, ILWU’s “Min Along the Shore and the Legacy of 1934” historical exhibit was on display. Also on hand were staff from San Francisco State University’s Labor Archives, who brought an exhibit of local labor history.

Oregon…

Oregon ILWU members know that Astoria is the place to be on Labor Day, and this year was no different. The food is always fantastic, with plenty of barbecued salmon and fresh crab. For folks in Portland who couldn’t make the trip, there was the traditional Northwest Oregon Central Labor Council picnic at Oates Park that attracted members from more than 30 unions, including ILWU locals 5, 8, 40 and 92 – with some Washington vis-

Bob Gould, center, helps his Local 23 team pull the letter carriers’ team past the center line to win a tug-of-war contest at the Labor Day picnic in Tacoma. Other members pictured include Tracy Montgomery, Scott Lattrell, Walter Wallis, Ron Pearsall and Ron Jenkins. Barbara Alverson is cheering them on.

Labor Day: West Coast Style

Los Angeles/Long Beach…

Hundreds of union members and supporters joined public officials and former Screen Actors Guild president Ed Asner at the Southland’s largest Labor Day celebration. The event began with an ILWU-sponsored parade through the streets of Wilmington that ended in Banning Park where ILWU families joined members from many different unions. A live band belted out the blues and kept the speeches from getting too long. ILWU Coast Commissioner Mario Cordero.

Among the many elected and appointed officials at the event were Los Angeles Councilwoman Janice Hahn, who served bowls of chili to attendees; Long Beach Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, Congresswoman Laura Richardson, State Assemblyman Mike Eng, Carson Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Gibson, and Port of Long Beach Harbor Commissioner Mario Cordero.

Richardson, a former Long Beach Councilwoman, mentioned her labor roots. “My mother is a retired Teamster,” she said. “She was a single mother who raised two kids on her own. A lot of the things that we had, like braces for me and my sister, were possible because we were part of a labor union.”

Sacramento…

Sacramento’s Interfaith-Labor Coalition kicked-off a week of Labor Day activities in California’s Central Valley, with a breakfast on Friday, August 22nd. More than 150 religious and labor leaders attended.

“I’m very grateful for the work of my brothers and sisters in the inter-religious community and my brothers and sisters in the labor community who were willing to come together and see what we could do in anticipation of Labor Day,” said Bishop Jaime Soto, Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento. “I hope this is the first of many events where we can come together and support each other.”

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ILWU locals sponsored the annual Labor Day march from Wilmington to Banning Park in San Pedro.
The politicians were there to give and 21.tors from across the river at Locals 4 Holte. Congressman Earl Blumenauer urged the crowd to work hard to pass a bill that allows workers to collect unemployment insurance during a lockout. The Senate must no longer be a place where good House bills go to die, but a place where good House bills can go to thrive. Wouldn’t it be great if we could do what we did in the Oregon House and Senate in the U.S. Senate and House?" During the 2007 Oregon Legislative session, Merkley was instrumental in passing a bill that allows workers to collect unemployment insurance during a lockout like the one the ILWU suffered in 2002. Washington and California had allowed UI benefits for locked-out longshore workers, but Oregon did not.

WASHINGTON...

Some ILWU members in Tacoma were among the 400 people who attended the Tacoma-Pierce Country Labor Day picnic at Wright Park. Local 23 members competed in the annual "tug-of-war" contest and won the top honors, beating out last year’s Letter Carrier champions. Their accomplishment was featured in the local newspaper, which reported that "the longshore workers won two straight rounds in less than a minute each." Local and state candidates including Darcy Burner, John Ladenburg, Jim McIntire, Steve Conway, Tami Green, Calvin Goings, Troy Kelley, Tim Farrell, Rob Cornqui, Debi Stal and Dawn Morrell attended the event. ILWU members from Locals 19, 52 and 98 in Seattle participated in the annual King County Labor Council picnic.

How will the election impact you, your family, and your union?

“We’re now engaged in two wars, our economy is in a shambles, banks are failing, the Constitution has been eviscerated, we torture people, our schools are overcrowded and under-funded. 47 million Americans still don’t have healthcare, our “energy policy” means record profits for the oil companies while gas prices have tripled. The National Labor Relations Board has rolled back workers’ rights, thousands of homes are being foreclosed, and the list goes on. My children and I deserve better than this. So do you and yours. So does America. That’s why I’m voting for Barack Obama and Joe Biden this November and I urge all of my ILWU brothers and sisters to do the same.”

Linda Kennedy, Local 63 OCU
Lakewood, CA

“This election is about preserving the middle class in our country. If McCain is elected, he will continue the Bush-lite attack on our union families and our jobs. McCain wants to tax us on our health care premiums, and more Americans would have to go without health care. In Oregon, we’re working to elect Jeff Merkley to the U.S. Senate. He’s a friend of labor who passed a bill that allows workers to collect unemployment during a lockout like the one we had in 2002. An anti-worker candidate wouldn’t do that.”

Torrace Delacruz, Local 8
Portland, OR

“Why is this election so important? I think about my 15-year-old son and, to be honest, I’m worried about a draft. My uncle fought in World War II and we both thought McCain was crazy enough to draft kids like my son to fight for oil. I’m not going to send kids to die for greedy corporations. This economy, this whole country is at stake. Our whole existence is at risk, and Obama is the best candidate to put things on the right track.”

David Serrato, Local 13
San Pedro, CA

“At a personal level, Barack Obama’s campaign gives me hope. His education as a Harvard grad and law professor is reassuring, and he tempers his intelligence with compassion. Even though I may pronounce “new clear-ar” wrong sometimes, I don’t expect my president to do so! As an independent voter, I appreciated Obama’s early opposition to the War in Iraq when so many Congressional Democrats were voicing their support for military action. Obama also said he would vote for the Employee Free Choice Act. This sends a strong message to workers like me that he supports us. A lot of working people do not vote in their self-interest, but I think that if more of us voted for Obama, then working Americans will be better off.”

Jacqueline Peigare, Local 17
West Sacramento, CA

So Cal Drill Team Debut: The newly-formed southern California Marching Drill Squad looked sharp at the annual Harbor Area Labor Solidarity March.

Tors from across the river at Locals 4 and 21.

“The politicians were there to give some speeches and hug some babies,” said Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Holte. Congressman Earl Blumenauer urged the crowd to work hard to elect working families’ candidates in November.

“Barack Obama didn’t go to Wall Street; he went to the south side of Chicago to work with the steelworkers who had lost their jobs,” said Blumenauer. “This is an opportunity to put someone in the White House who will be an ally for working America. With Obama in the White House, Jeff Merkley in the U.S. Senate, and Kurt Schrader in the U.S. House of Representatives, we’ll have a pro-working families legislature.”

Representative David Wu spoke in support of Merkley, reminding union members of the importance of the Employee Free Choice Act. When Merkley took the stage, he said, “We need to make America a place that works for working people again. We need to end the war. We need to provide affordable, accessible health care for every man, woman and child. We need to end trade and tax policies that are unfair to the American worker. We need to pass the Employee Free Choice Act! This race is a tipping point in the U.S. Senate. The Senate must no longer be a place where House bills go to die, but a place where good House bills go to thrive. Wouldn’t it be great if we could do what we did in the Oregon House and Senate in the U.S. Senate?”

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Jacqueline Peigare, Local 17
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DISPATCHER • October 2008
2008 ILWU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northern California District Council

PRESIDENT: Barack Obama

US CONGRESS
CD 1: Mike Thompson
CD 3: Bill Durston
CD 4: Charlie Brown
CD 5: Doris Matsui
CD 6: Lynn Woolsey
CD 7: George Miller
CD 8: Nancy Pelosi
CD 9: Barbara Lee
CD 10: Ellen Tauscher
CD 11: Jerry McNerney
CD 12: Jackie Speier
CD 13: Pete Stark
CD 14: Anna Eshoo
CD 15: Mike Honda
CD 16: Zoe Lofgren
CD 17: Sam Farr
CD 18: Dennis Cardoza

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE
SD 1: Anselmo Chavez
SD 3: Mark Leno
SD 5: Lois Wolk
SD 7: Mark DeSaulnier
SD 9: Loni Hancock
SD 11: Joe Simitian
SD 13: Elaine Alquist
SD 15: No Endorsement
SD 17: No Endorsement

MAYOR
Mayor (Stockton): Ann Johnston
Mayor (Sacramento): Kevin Johnson

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Dist. 1: Eric Mar
Dist. 5: Ross Mirkarimi
Dist. 7: Sean Elsberud
Dist. 9: (dual endorsement) Eric Quezada / Mark Sanchez
Dist. 11: John Avalon

2008 ILWU DISTRICT COUNCIL

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY
AD 1: Wes Chesbro
AD 2: Paul Singh
AD 3: Mickey Harrington
AD 4: No Endorsement
AD 5: Dan Leahy
AD 6: Jared Huffman
AD 7: Noreen Evans
AD 8: Mariko Yamada
AD 9: Dave Jones
AD 10: Alyson Huber
AD 11: Tom Torlakson
AD 12: Fiona Ma
AD 13: Tom Ammiano
AD 14: Nancy Skinner
AD 15: Joan Buchanan
AD 16: Sandré Swanson
AD 17: Cathleen Galgiani
AD 18: Mary Hayashi
AD 19: Jerry Hill
AD 20: Alberto Torrico
AD 21: Ira Ruskin
AD 22: Paul Fong
AD 23: Joe Coto
AD 24: Jim Beall
AD 25: Taylor White
AD 26: John Eisenhut
AD 27: Bill Monning
AD 28: Anna Caballero
AD 29: Humberto Avila

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF EDUCATION
Dr. James Calloway
Sandra Power
Janny Mak
Normand Yee

SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
Chris Jackson
Milton Marks
Steven Ngo

BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT BOARD
Dist. 7: Lynette Sweet
Dist. 9: Tom Radulaovich

SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL MEASURES
Bond Measure A: SF General Hospital & Trauma Center Earthquake Safety Bonds: YES

SAN FRANCISCO CHARTER AMENDMENTS
B–Affordable Housing Fund: YES
C–Prohibiting City employees from serving as members of charter boards and commissions: NO
D–Financing Pier 70 Waterfront District Development Plan upon Board of Supervisors’ approval: YES
E–Changing the number of signatures required to recall City officials: YES
F–Holding all City elections only in even-numbered years: YES
G–Allowing retirement system credit for unpaid parental leave: YES
H–San Francisco Clean Energy Act: No RECOMMENDATION
I–Creating the office of an Independent Rate Payer Advocate: No
J–Creating an Historic Preservation Commission: No
K–Changing the enforcement of laws related to prostitution and sex workers: No
L–Funding Community Justice Center: NO
M–Changing the residential rent ordinance to prohibit specific acts of harassment: YES
N–Changing real property transfer tax rates: YES
O–Replacing the emergency response fee with an access line tax & revising the telephone user tax: YES

CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITIONS
Proposition 1–High Speed Passenger Train Bond Act: YES
Proposition 2–Treatment of Farm Animals: NO RECOMMENDATION
Proposition 3–Children’s Hospital Bond Act: YES
Proposition 4–Waiting period and parental notification before termination of minors’ pregnancy: NO
Proposition 5–Nonviolent offenders, sentencing, parole, and rehabilitation: YES
Proposition 6–Criminal penalties and laws. Public safety funding: NO
Proposition 7–Renewable Energy: NO
Proposition 8–Limit on marriage: NO
Proposition 9–Criminal justice system victims’ rights, parole: NO
Proposition 10–Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy Bond: NO
Proposition 11–Restricting: NO
Proposition 12–Veterans Bond Act of 2008: YES

For a more complete list of NCDC city and county office endorsements please visit the ILWU website (www.ilwu.org).
Oregon Area District Council

**PRESENTER:** Barack Obama

**US CONGRESS**
- **US Senate:** Jeff Merkley
- **CD 1:** David Wu
- **CD 3:** Earl Blumenauer
- **CD 4:** Peter DeFazio
- **CD 5:** Kurt Schrader

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**
- Multnomah County Commissioner (D4): Carla Piluso
- Columbia County Commissioner (Pos. 3): Pat Zimmerman

**Oregon Attorney General:** John Kroger
**Labor Commissioner:** Brad Avakian
**Oregon State Treasurer:** Ben Westlund

**STATE BALLOT MEASURES**
- Measure 56 – Voting Matters: YES
- Measure 57 – The Better Way To Fight Crime: YES
- Measure 58 – Limiting English Learning: NO
- Measure 59 – Sizemore's Double Deduction: NO
- Measure 60 – Paying to the Test: NO
- Measure 61 – Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: NO
- Measure 62 – Diverting Lottery Funds: NO
- Measure 63 – Bad Neighbor Building Permit: NO
- Measure 64 – Don't Silence Our Voice: NO
- Measure 65 – Top Two Primary: NO

Puget Sound District Council

**PRESENTER:** Barack Obama

**Governor:** Christine Gregoire
**Lieutenant Governor:** Brad Owen
**Attorney General:** John Ladenburg
**Insurance Commissioner:** Mike Kreidler
**Public Lands Commissioner:** Peter Goodmark
**State Auditor:** Brian Sonntag
**Secretary of State:** Sam Reed
**Sup't of Public Instruction:** Terry Burgess
**U.S. House of Representatives, CD 1:** Darcy Burner

**STATE SUPREME COURT**
- State Supreme Court Pos. 3: Mary Fairhurst
- State Supreme Court Pos. 4: Charles Johnson
- State Supreme Court Pos. 7: Debra Stephens

**STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES**
- **CD 1** Senate: Rosemary McAuliffe
- **CD 1** House: Al O'Brien
- **CD 2** House: Mark Ericks
- **CD 2** Senate: Lisa Brown
- **CD 3** House: Alex Wood
- **CD 3** House Position 2: Timm Ormsby
- **CD 5** House Position 1: Jon Viebrock
- **CD 5** House Position 2: Joel Kretz
- **CD 8** House Position 2: Larry Haler
- **CD 9** Senate: Mark Schoesler
- **CD 10** Senate: Mary Margaret Haugen

Note: Slatecards with complete endorsements will be sent in the mail, with extra copies available at dispatch halls.
Local 4 proposed a resolution at the recent International Longshore Division Caucus that passed unanimously to support the Fort Van- couver Tea Leaffs, a non-profit public benefit corporation that provides facilities and services for merchant seafarers calling at the port. The Center is financially supported by do- nations from the Vancouver community, includ- ing Local 4, and by grant money from the Inter- national Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF).

Local 5 members lent their voices to a 300- person rally on Oct. 1 calling on Congress to craft a reasonable bailout plan that would support working families – not Wall Street. Local 5 Secretary-Treasurer Brima Duncan spoke at the rally at the Federal Building in Portland, saying, “How can Wall Street tell us that we haven’t been managing our money properly, when we have no control over util- ity and medical costs?” Northwest Natural just announced a 20% rate increase, and 50% of bankruptcies are tied to people’s medical costs. All of us are one accident or diagnosis away from financial ruin.” The organizers called for a responsible bailout plan that includes ac- coumability for private financial institutions and other protections for taxpayers and work- ing families. Local 5 members who work in food service at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wa., are starting contract nego- tiations Oct. 13 with Aramark Food Services.

Local 8 President Jeff Smith was incensed when he saw the Oregonian newspaper publish- ing a dock and container photo to sup- port a right-wing columnist’s bashing of an ILWU-endorsed candidate for U.S. Senate. Smith was livid about the photo and which set the record straight: “David Rein- hard should join me working on the docks at the Port of Portland,” wrote Smith. “We used to ship up to eight containers loaded with U.S. goods for every one container that we unloaded. Today, that ratio is almost 1:3 – and many containers are going back out to sea empty. America’s working families are paying a terrible price for the ‘free’ trade. It’s asco that’s been so popular with Wall Street investors and Bush White House officials. Jeff Merkley’s approach to fair trade is thoughtful, balanced and long overdue in Oregon, where we need more well-paying jobs with real ben-efits to support working families.” Local 8 member Shann Lewallen has been working as a release timer to support the Labor 2008 campaign by recruiting and training mari- time union volunteers, planning and staffing phone banks, organizing precinct walks, staff- ing rallies, and other events across the state.

Local 10 scheduled a rally for October 6 at the Yolo County Courthouse in Sacramento to support two longshoremen who were ar- rested at the Port of Sacramento on August 23, 2007, after objecting to their car being searched after returning to work from lunch. Two buses of Local 10 members came to the courthouse last October to show sup- port when Aaron Harrison and Jason Ruffin first appeared in court. Local 10 members responded with solidarity when Local 75 members established a picket line at the Port of Oakland’s Berth 57 related to diffi- cult contract negotiations. Local 10 member and International Executive Board member Lawrence Thibault worked with the watch- men to help them win a new agreement.

Local 10 Pensioners are inviting everyone to join their bus trip to the Jackson Rancheria Casino on November 9th. The bus will pick you up in San Francisco at the Local 10 Dis- patch Hall (400 North Point) at 7:30am or in Oakland at 7:30 and Bancroft at 8:15am. The cost is $25 and there are no refunds, but Bertha Miller (510-362-1830) and George Cobbs (415-474-0300) think you’ll have a good time and invite you to call for a ticket.

Local 34 members lent their voices to a picket line out of Coos Bay that would connect to Eugene, Oregon. Governor Ted Kulongoski and Governor Tom Kitzelmann and Congressman Peter DeFazio both support saving the rail line, which has fallen into disrepair, from abandonment by the Central Or- egon and Pacific Railroad. According to Lo- cal 12 President Marvin Caldera, rail service could help attract Maersk Shipping, which expressed interest in locating a container facility in the North Bend-Coos Bay area.

Local 13 member Rich Dines is coordinat- ing a large phone bank operation with Lo- cal 63 and the Los Angeles County Federa- tion of Labor that is marshalling volunteers to make calls from Local 63 offices. Local 13 members honore a picket line on Sun- day, September 23, at the Port of Long Beach, Berth B-229, that was established by seafarers of the Liberian-flagged MV Cap Spotter The sailors were protesting their low wages and poor working conditions. Later that day – with help from the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) and ILWU — the crewmembers were able to secure back wag- es, letters of indemnity, and an ITF-approved contract. ILWU members understand that solidarity between seafarers and dockworkers is the best way to stop union busting on the waterfront. With so many attacks on mar- iners, workers around the value of longshore that gives solidarity today may be needing it tomorrow,” said Ray Famillec, ILWU’s Coor- dinator of International Relations. Famillec alerted dockworker unions in Australia and New Zealand so that workers and ITF of- ficials in those countries can check in with the MV Cap Spotter crewmembers who are expected to arrive “under cover” in the com- ing weeks. Dave Aron is meeting with LA Harbor Community College students on Oc- tober 15th. He’ll show them the “Eye of the Storm” video, then talk about ILWU history.

Local 14 members are critiquing an at- tempt by the Wall Street investment firm Goldman Sachs to raise funds for a scheme that would put shipping traffic and development of the Redwood Marine Termi- nal at the Port of Eureka in California.

Local 17 held a press conference on September 28th to support hundreds of workers em- ployed by Blue Diamond Growers who won the right to join the ILWU. After organizing for several years and enduring illegal firings and harass- ment by the company’s anti-union manage- ment, Blue Diamond workers have decided to go forward with an election that will be conducted by National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The vote will be closely watched by leaders from local churches, community groups, and political leaders who support the workers. At the September 26th event, letters of support from U.S. Senator Barack Obama, Senator Ted Kennedy, and local House mem- ber Doris Matsui were read and distributed to workers. The date for the union election will be set by the NLRB, but could be de- layed if Blue Diamond tries to include su- pervisors or temporary workers in the vote.

Local 19 was featured in an article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and used the oppor- tunity to promote the ownership and development of longshore workers and their union. “The ILWU wants to move into the future with the shipping carn- er and bring more cargo to the West Coast,” President Herald Ugles said, referring to the Negotiating Committee’s secure ILWU ju- risdiction over new technology on the docks in the 2008 Longshore Contract. The Con- tract sends a message to the whole shipping world: If you want to invest big bucks, this is the place.” Ugles said, “We want to make them a whole bunch of money while we keep our jobs.” The ILWU is an acknowledgment by both sides that we need to work together. Why spend time fighting when we can fig- uren out how to make the terminals work better? The P-I also noted that longshore- men had placed a priority on taking care of the pensioners in the new Longshore Con- tract. Dabula Getahun, a 14-year longshore- man, told the newspaper why loyalty to the pensioners was important: “We are where we are because of the sacrifices they made.”

Local 21 is busy working a boom in what exports at the Port of Kalama, the state’s larg- est grain export facility. The two terminals had already loaded a total of 160 ships by the end of August, compared to 125 at the same time last year. The Daily News attributed the boom to high world prices, a weak U.S. dol- lar, a decline in international competition, and increased demand from China. Port of Kalama officials expect that exports will de- cline in a few months after U.S. farmers sell their existing crops. Local 21 President John Philbrook acknowledged in the article that more ship traffic was good for the longshore- men, and he told the Dispatch, “The more we work, the more money we bring into Cowlitz County. The local economy can really use the boost in our schools and public ser- vices.” Philbrook said the local is focused on getting out the vote for upcoming local, state, and national elections. Re-electing Gov. Chris Gregoire is a priority for Local 21. Local 21 is also evaluating candidates who are running for Cowlitz County Commissioner. The local will decide who can best represent working families on the County Commission.

Local 34 awarded its annual Franklin Billee Scholarships to students Gina Van Loon and Mark Radanovich. The scholarship honors re- members who are being dispatched to Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon. Oregon’s main focus is the election of Oregon House
continued from page 2

South African Guests

Two labor leaders from the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) recounted their experience in fighting for workers’ rights under their country’s apartheid government. At a time when unions were banned or segregated “associations” were permitted, Vagalamng “Tony” Naidoo, and Kgobodi “Moses” Sehlola risked severe physical punishment, including imprisonment, torture, and even death, to fight for the right to organize into unions and negotiate for better working conditions.

Thanks to SATAWU and the Nelson Mandela-led African National Congress, South African unions have since merged, integrated, and increased their power. The motto of SATAWU is the same as the ILWU’s: “An Injury To One Is An Injury To All.”

To recognize the honored guests’ work for the international union movement, the Oregon Area PCPA presented Naidoo and Sehlola with PCPA Life-time Membership jackets, longshore hats, and lapel pins. Their wives, Anni and Enica, received bracelets, corsages, and flowers.

Addressing the Health Care Crisis

Dr. John Geyman, author of the health care advocacy book “Do Not Resuscitate,” spoke about the urgent need for universal, comprehensive health care that is high quality and affordable for all Americans. Geyman is an advocate for HR 676, the United States National Health Insur- ance Act, which would create a single-payer health care plan endorsed by the ILWU’s 2006 Convention.

“Dr. Geyman made a strong case for why we need to move beyond the incremental ‘band-aid fixes’ that have plagued our nation’s health care system for decades,” reported Austin. “Even with all the tinkering that has taken place over the years, nearly 50 million residents of the U.S. still lack health insurance, and tens of millions more are finding it more and more difficult to afford whatever coverage they have.”

Geyman warned that if Congress fails to address the crisis by the year 2025, health care costs for workers and their families will equal the wages they receive.

Resolutions and Changes

Delegates voted and approved sev- eral issues, including:
• Continued support for the California Rite-Aid workers who have voted to join Local 26 and are now negotiating their first contract.
• A resolution calling on former Coast Committeeman Bill Ward to write about his life in the ILWU.
• Honoring former PCPA President and outgoing Recording Secretary Arne Auvinen with President Emeritus status.
• Honoring outgoing PCPA Vice-President Lou Lovernridge with Vice-President Emeritus status.

Pensioners Convention Rocks Portland

Negotiators who helped Local 75 members with the new contract covering nearly 100 Watchmen in the Bay Area (L-R): Patrick Kim, Thomas Koon, Russ Bargmann, Law- rence Tribeaux, Dave Terry, Michael Terry, Ron Defanti. (not pictured: Joe Pingnoelo, Darrell Hans, Darrell Barrow)

Pensioners celebrate solidarity in Portland: Arne Auvinen, outgoing PCPA Recording Secretary and past PCPA President, greets South African labor leaders time honor a “Day of the PCPA Convention” in Portland. The guests included Moses Sehlola (SATAWU Pensioner Delegate), his wife Enica, Arni Naidoo and her husband Tony Naidoo (SATAWU Pensioner Delegate).

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This notice applies to all ILWU-represented employees, ILWU members, nonmembers and new workers in the ILWU union, including members and individuals who happen at any time to become financial core members by any means, including by choice, suspension or expulsion from union membership in any local or division affiliated with the ILWU, for the one year period following the date of this notice or until such time covered by a later notice of similar kind.

The information contained herein applies to ILWU International per capita and,...
F or the past five years, Local 4 dispatcher Troy Olson has been helping students at high schools in Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon develop an innovative film and mentoring program that has produced safety training videos to protect longshore workers—while providing students with valuable skills and experience about local jobs and unions.

In 2003, Olson contacted video production teacher David Blackwell at Fort Vancouver High School about working with students to produce a safety video for the Port of Vancouver. Blackwell agreed that it was an excellent opportunity for his students to get hands-on experience and learn more about longshore work. Over the next several months, Olson worked closely with Blackwell and two students to make the vision come alive.

After Olson wrote a script, the students spent several days on the docks shooting video footage and getting a good education about the kind of work that takes place at the port. The final product was finished in 2003 and called: “United Harvest: Get in the Game.” The video is being used to educate new longshore workers about the safety “do’s and don’ts” at the grain processing terminal on the Columbia River in Vancouver. The training films instruct new workers how to safely handle other machinery in the grain elevators.

“The final DVDs are grade-A productions that are cost-effective and independently produced without the usual employer slant,” said Olson. “This program provides students with valuable ‘hands-on’ experience about filmmaking and offers them some important lessons about working for a living and the role of unions.”

The initial project was so successful that Olson continued the local’s relationship with Blackwell and after the teacher moved to nearby Mountain View High School. Since then, Local 4 has funded other student video productions there, such as “First Days on the Front” (2006) and “Retirees Dinner Local 4 Historical Video” (2007).

“The union is working with students, teachers and schools in such a positive way,” Blackwell said, “This partnership has far exceeded everyone’s expectations.”

Local 4 also cooperated with Portland’s Reynolds Learning Academy—a vocational school for high school students that runs a “Trading Up” program. The program helps students learn about job opportunities by combining classroom training with hands-on experience at local union job sites.

On Nov. 29, 2007, eight students went to work for the day as longshore workers at the Port of Vancouver. Local 4 “A” men walked the Reynolds students through the dispatch process, taught them about the equipment, then provided lunch. After a quick tour of the port, students were broken into two groups and learned how to drive equipment at four worksites.

“This experience was life-altering for our students, because most never experienced this type of an environment before. It’s an incredible opportunity to be trusted with a chance to operate such valuable equipment,” said Angie Gilbert, who coordinates the School-to-Work program at Reynolds. “We were all incredibly impressed with the longshore workers’ professionalism and their knowledge. We were also overwhelmed by their good humor and ability to connect with kids. These one-day, hands-on experiences help our students move into a trade after they graduate.”

Olson is excited about his next chance to work with 14 Reynolds students on October 13th and 15th, adding with a laugh that the kids seem eager to return to the docks.

“When was the last time you heard a teenager say that they were looking forward to spending more time at work?”

Local 4 members and students direct longshore videos

“Every election is important, but this one is historic...The tide is going to change. The posterity of working families is up for grabs. The ILWU is not taking anything for granted. We will win on November 4th.”

– ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams

Local 8 member Torrea DelaCruz (far right) joined other union members to question U.S. Senate candidate Jeff Merkley from Oregon on September 29th. Merkley pledged to support the “Employee Free Choice Act” that will help workers join a union without being fired. Merkley’s opponent, U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, cast a vote to kill the legislation.

ILWU election effort continued from page 3
date,” Rich Austin, President of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, pointed out strong contrasts between the candidates in these two top-priority Washington races.

“Gov. Gregoire has created 285,000 new jobs and extended health care benefits to 84,000 uninsured children,” reported Austin. “Her opponent, Dino Rossi, is a devotee of the Bush economic policy, has an abysmal labor voting record, and wants to privatize our roads and other public resources.”

Austin said that ILWU volunteers are also helping to elect Darcy Burner over incumbent U.S. Representa
tive Dave Reichert, who has a dismal 21% rating from the AFL-CIO, and was given the dubious honor of being ranked among the lowest 10% of all members in Congress by the non-partisan Roll Call magazine.

“Dave Reichert continues to support Bush’s unending war in Iraq and is one of the least effective members of Congress,” said Austin. “Darcy Burner supports the orderly, safe withdrawal of our troops. She also favors real health care reform, is a very strong advocate of public education, and she supports the Employee Free Choice Act.”

California isn’t a swing state in the presidential race because support is already so strong for the Obama-Biden Presidential ticket. But volunteers in Southern California are working with the AFL-CIO to reach across state borders to contact union members in Nevada, New Mexico, and Colorado.

“ILWU volunteers are calling long-distance from Local 63’s phone bank to reach union members in those three key states,” explains Rich Dines, who heads the ILWU Southern California District Council which coordinates political and legislative work in the region.

Their goal is ambitious: “We’re joining other unions in the LA Labor Federation who want to reach a half-

million union homes in Nevada, Colorado, and New Mexico. We’ve already got volunteers on the phones calling Monday through Thursday nights, so we’re on track to meet that goal” said Dines.

“Every election is important, but this one is historic,” says ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. “Another Great Depression is staring us in the face. The tide is going to change. We must wrap our brain around this election. The posterity of working families is up for grabs. The ILWU is not taking anything for granted. We will win on November 4th.”

Election volunteers in Oregon are contacting ILWU members with information about candidates who are supporting working families.
A Helping Hand...

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San Pedro, CA 90731  
(310) 547-9968

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

ADR—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 SWR  
(604) 259-7331

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 Aquire 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 unravels 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 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. $5.00

VIDEOS

“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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___ copies of Eye of the Storm @ $5 ea. = $______
___ copies of We Are the ILWU DVD @ $5 ea. = $______
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___ copies of A Life on the Beam DVD @ $5 ea. = $______

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No sales outside the U.S.

We regret that U.S. Customs and postal regulations create too great a burden for our staff to maintain book sale service to our members and friends outside the United States.

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