ILWU members were active in the November 4th elections. Hundreds volunteered to help with phone banking, precinct walking, and get-out-the-vote activities. The union helped nearly 50 ILWU members work full-time during the final weeks of the campaign in the western “swing states” where the presidential and U.S. Senate races were expected to be close and decisive: Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, and Nevada. Dawn Des Brisay from Local 40 managed the field effort.

“ILWU members did an awesome job out there talking with other union members about how we can make America better for working families. Those member-to-member conversations are the most powerful resources we have to make change,” said Des Brisay.
O
n November 4th, Amer-
icans made it clear that
they want our country to
move in a different direc-
tion.

There’s good reason to be hope-
ful. President-elect Barack Obama says
he supports unions. He’s walked on a
picket line. He’s worked as an organizer.
He says workers aren’t getting our fair
share while the rich and corporations
have been getting too much. He says
we need more good-paying jobs and
should stop subsidizing companies that
send jobs overseas. He says he’ll raise
taxes for anyone making over $250,000
and cut taxes for the rest of us. That
sounds like a breath of fresh air.

But after the dust settles from
Obama’s victory, we’ll have some heavy
lifting to do if we want to see real
change. That’s because there’s a war
being waged everyday between those
of us who work, and those who own
the places where we work, where we
bank, where we pay our mortgages,
and where we shop. It’s what we call
the class struggle, but whatever word
you use today, it’s as much a fact of life
today as it was 75 years ago when our
union was founded. Looking back at
our history suggests that we can’t afford
to sit on the sidelines – especially when
an opportunity like Obama’s election
comes along.

When Franklin Roosevelt was
elected president in 1933, workers had
been organizing unions for decades,
but they weren’t making much prog-
ress against vicious employers who
were at the root of both the 1929 Stock
market crash and today’s financial cri-
sis. Another common thread between
then and now is that unions are declin-
 ing just as they were in the early 30’s,
along with falling standards for most
workers. While unemployment today
is nothing like it was in the Great
Depression, there are concerns that it
could get a lot worse.

What remains to be seen is whether
unions today can rise to the opportuni-
ties created by Obama’s election in the
same way that activists in the ILWU
made their mark three generations ago
when Roosevelt was elected. The ILWU
is trying to meet our historic responsi-
bility on several fronts.

First, we’re following through on
our commitment to help new work-
ers organize and join the ILWU. Our
Organizing Department has scored
some impressive victories during the
past year: helping 600 workers vote
to join our union at the Rite Aid Distribu-
tion Center in Lancaster who are now
bargaining their first contract, helping
dozens of security guards in the North-
west go union, and assisting IBU efforts
to organize Marine Spill Response Cor-
poration workers in Long Beach and
Tacoma. Soon, the 500 workers at Blue
Diamond in Sacramento will be voting
whether to join the ILWU. Local 142
in Washington will also shortly organ-
ize a major organizing victory for hundreds of hotel work-
ers in Princeville, Kauai, who won their
first contract this fall. Each of these
campaigns has required an immense
focus of energy and resources. Last
month, Obama sent the Blue Diamond
workers a personal message of sup-
port. We’ll know in a few weeks if his
message of hope can overcome the
climate of fear and employer threats
that have plagued Blue Diamond work-
ers for years.

Second, we have to help Obama
follow through on his promise to pass
the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA),
the new federal law that would allow
workers to join a union without being
threatened or fired. The law already
passed the U.S. House of Representa-
tives, but a minority of 40 U.S. Sena-
tors (including John McCain) killed it
in the Senate. We need 60 Senators
who supported EFCA in this last elec-
tion, and they’ll continue fighting us in
the months and years ahead.

Finally, Local 13 members set an
example for all of us by collecting more
than a thousand petition signatures for
the EFCA during the past few weeks.
The effort by Local 13 members along
with other ILWU locals, combined with
thousands of union members around
the country, has generated over a mil-
lion petition signatures. Those peti-
tions will be presented to President-
elect Obama in the coming weeks.

Hundreds of ILWU members
worked hard during the past year to
elect President Barack Obama, Vice
President Joe Biden, and other can-
didates who pledged to help working
families. All that unglamorous work
of phone banking, precinct walking,
and envelope stuffing has made new
opportunities possible. We can’t sit
back now – let’s finish the job and keep
up the pressure to deliver the kind of
change that working families and
America need now.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

I sit here wondering how, at this time in our history, people
could have thought about putting John McCain into the White
House? I remember when Ronald Reagan was elected governor
of California. He closed the mental hospitals and soon we started
seeing homeless people on the street. I remember the first home
less man I saw after Reagan closed the hospitals, he was sitting on
a heating grate with a blanket wrapped around him to keep warm.
Those hospitals never re-opened, which is why me and other Local 10
members called Reagan the “father of the homeless.” When Reagan
left the White House, he left us with trillions of dollars in national
debt. Our country went from having the most credit to having the most
debt. Now Bush is spending trillions on his unjust war in Iraq.

J. Al Austin
Oakland, CA

Dear Editor,

The October issue of the “Dispatcher” quoted PCPA President Rich
Austin, as saying nearly 50 million U.S. residents do not have health care.
I believe it is closer to 70 million.

continued on page 7
Workers employed by the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) at Long Beach, California, and Tacoma, Washington, have won their first IBU/ILWU contracts after years of organizing and two strikes.

“It took a long time, but we stuck together and got more than we would have if we had divided,” said Klete Freudenstein, a Tacoma-based MSRC responder who served with other rank-and-file members on the union negotiating committee.

The new three- and-a-half-year agreement was ratified with 100% approval by workers at both Tacoma and Long Beach on October 10th. The contracts include hourly wages up to $32 an hour, with increases up to 13% in the first year followed by 3% raises in each of the following three years. They also contain a grievance and arbitration procedure, maintenance of health benefits, and a union security clause. The retirement plan is a 401(k) with an employer contribution.

The victory came after a successful week-long strike in mid-August by MSRC workers in Tacoma. A strong showing of solidarity on the picket line was made by IBU members, Local 23 longshore workers, and Jobs With Justice activists. Tacoma’s News Tribune featured the strike and a photo of Local 23 supporters on the front page of their business section.

MSRC workers in Long Beach hit the picket lines for five days back in 2005 after MSRC took over a harbor area response company, then refused to honor the existing union contract. The 2005 strike in Long Beach inspired the MSRC workers in Tacoma to start organizing their shop and join the ILWU.

Spending long hours on the water covered in crude oil or bunker fuel is just part of the job for MSRC workers, who are trained to scramble on short notice when there’s a spill involving oil or other hazardous materials. Staffing policies have been a concern and were an important issue in bargaining. The company has used a system they call “cascading” which requires redeploying of their 200-person workforce from across the country when there’s a spill.

“Working with unions has been a new experience for MSRC, and we’re still getting to know each other,” said IBU President Alan Cote. “But there’s a lot we could do to help each other on issues of common concern, such as our mutual commitment to protecting the environment – and the ILWUs expertise in working with state and federal legislators.”

“There are still plenty of respondents working on the West Coast who want a contract, so this agreement is an important step in helping them join the union,” said Cote.

Spill workers organize and take action to win contract

Canadian union honors ILWU members for May Day action

The courageous action by ILWU longshore workers who gave up their pay on May Day to support our troops and protest the war in Iraq continues to win praise at home and abroad. I recently had the honor of receiving an ILWU Peace Prize awarded on behalf of these workers who inspired Canadian union members at a time when they need a boost.

One of Canada’s largest private-sector unions, the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP), honored rank-and-file ILWU members for the May Day action at the CEP convention in Montreal on Oct. 26-30.

Union members in Canada are facing problems much like our own due to anti-union governments and attacks from big business. The 150,000 members of the CEP have been hit especially hard because 32,000 Canadian forestry workers have lost their jobs in the past five years as plants closed, investment went offshore, construction has declined, and forest resources have dwindled. President Dave Coles gave a stirring address that emphasized the need to organize, stay active, and build solidarity.

The CEP is facing a tough fight in their energy sector, where 260 employees have been locked out for the past year by Petro Canada which wants to break CEP’s pattern labor agreements. CEP delegates passed a resolution calling for a boycott of Petro Canada to continue until the lockout is ended and workers are treated fairly.

It was in this context of troubled times that CEP members found inspiration in the action taken by the ILWU workers who protested the war on May Day. I had the honor of traveling to Montreal at the request of International President Bob McElrath to accept an award on behalf of ILWU members from their brothers and sisters in the CEP. When I was called to the stage, the convention exploded in a lengthy standing ovation to acknowledge the courage that our members and union showed on May 1st. I was deeply moved and touched by their expressions of gratitude and appreciation.

The award itself was very special: a hand-carved “talking stick” prize from Canada’s CEP that was carved by artist Eugene Stuart who is a member of the Haisla Nation in British Columbia. CEP delegates passed a resolution calling for a boycott of Petro Canada to continue until the lockout is ended and workers are treated fairly.

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Mr. Stewart for carving such a beautiful and powerful symbol of the bond between workers in our two nations who are connected by a commitment to solidarity and social justice. Upon my return, I presented the Talking Stick to President McElrath, who is arranging to have it displayed at our union headquarters in San Francisco.

The 1,500 participants at the CEP convention were excited to hear about Barack Obama’s impending victory in the presidential race and hope it will inspire working families in their country to reject the conservative, corporate-friendly, anti-union governments that have dominated Canadian politics for more than two decades. I appreciated the warmth and hospitality that the delegates and officers showed me during my visit, and look forward to reciprocating with CEP members in the future.

– Willie Adams
"What did you learn from working on the elections?"

"I spent more than 8 weeks working on campaigns here in Oregon. My main job was to encourage members of the ILWU and other maritime unions to volunteer and support working families' issues. We got quite a few volunteers to come out for phone banking and canvassing. We spent all our time talking to union households. I'd volunteered myself a little bit before this election, but this was my first experience working on a big campaign, and it helped me see the strengths and weaknesses of the labor movement. It was inspiring to see so many new voters get registered and involved for the first time. I had some amazing talks with voters at their homes, including a woman who began by telling me that Barack Obama might be the "anti-Christ," but I spent time talking and listening to her until we found common ground.

I've run for office and served in the Alaska State Legislature, but I've never worked with so many different unions as we did on this election. There was a lot of energy coming from labor. We were out campaigning with the Local 13 members at 7 a.m. when it was 7 degrees outside, and they did a great job! We organized rallies and visited union households. In a few cases, people had concerns about issues like guns and abortion, but it was really only a handful — and most of them were worried because they had so little information. For the most part, we got a positive response — people were giving us the thumbs-up, and handing their horns to show support."

Cliff Davidson
Kodiak, AK

"I spent two weeks up in Reno with six of us from Locals 13 and 63. Four years ago, I also went to Reno where I did campaign work, but it seemed like a lot more neighborhood parties were pro-Bush back then. It was different this time. I knocked on doors for two weeks with hardly any negative responses. There were about 50 union members walking each day, and about half of them lived in the Reno area. On the weekends, we had up to 200 union volunteers join us from nearby and out of state. We trained some new activists who were doing this for the first time, and I learned a few things myself. The organizers always had a plan. They kept us busy, and asked as for ideas and suggestions to make things better — which made our participation more enjoyable. I was really excited to be a part of this historic experience."

Al Green
San Pedro, CA

**FIELD REPORT: Southern California**

Reporter: Fred Pechter, Lee Zurbahl, Erica Grodins, Lawrence Thibeaux

Top Priorities: Ayn Johanson, Mayor of Stockton, North America, Mayors of Sacramento, Jerry McKeown, Congress, 11th District, Charlie Brown, Congress, 4th District, Joe Baca, Congress, 24th District, Tom Budge, Board of Education, 15th District, Measure P, North Bay communities

Biggest wins: Joaquin Christopher was elected Mayor of Stockton, Kevin Johnson was elected Mayor of Sacramento, McKeown, Baca, Buchanan, and Measure P won. San Francisco won included many Labor-endorsed candidates for School Board, Community College Board, A Board of supervisors

Biggest losses: Charlie Brown seemed to be losing his fight in the 4th Congressional District by less than 500 votes, but there were 40,000 uncounted absentee and provisional ballots that could make him a winner.

Where we can improve: We need to do a better job mobilizing and training more volunteers to help with phone banks and get-out-the vote.

**FIELD REPORT: Oregon**

Reporter: Fred Pechter, Lee Zurbahl, Erica Grodins, Lawrence Thibeaux

Top Priorities: Jeff Merkley, U.S. Senate, Kurt Schrader, Congress, 5th District, Carla Piluso, Multnomah County Commissioner

Biggest wins: Jeff Merkley won his U.S. Senate seat, defeating a right-wing candidate. Carla Piluso's Commissioner race was too close to call. We also elected more state reps who support working families to our legislature.

Biggest losses: None. We had the best election in years.

Where we can improve: We need to do a better job mobilizing and training more volunteers to help with phone banks and get-out-the vote.

**FIELD REPORT: Southern California**

Reporter: Rich Ridley-Thompson, LA County Supervisor

Top Priorities: Mark Ridley-Thompson, LA County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thompson, LA County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thompson, LA County Supervisor

Biggest wins: Mark Ridley-Thompson was elected Mayor of Los Angeles, Mark Ridley-Thompson was elected Mayor of Los Angeles, Mark Ridley-Thompson was elected Mayor of Los Angeles

Biggest losses: None. We had the best election in years.

Where we can improve: We need to do a better job mobilizing and training more volunteers to help with phone banks and get-out-the vote.
“I worked in Denver, Colorado, with ILWU members and people from 25 different unions that came from everywhere. There was a huge campaign here because anti-union forces around the country know that unions are getting stronger in Colorado, especially the public sector unions. There’s a big power struggle happening there between unions and these out-of-state, anti-union forces, and it’s a fight we can’t afford to lose. For us to reach where we need to be as union members in America, it’s going to take a collective effort, and this campaign was a good example of that. We even worked with some business groups that were on board with us. We put in long days and nights doing phone banking, canvassing, handing out pamphlets, and getting people to vote early. The spirit and energy level was high and the camaraderie was unparalleled. We began our days with song and labor chants. The bonding among different rank-and-file members, pensioners, locals, and internationals was fantastic.”
Herbert Johnson, aka “Laptop”
San Francisco, CA

“I went to Las Vegas where I had an amazing, eye-opening experience. I didn’t know what to expect when I arrived, because I’d never done anything like this before. When they said we’d be going door-to-door, I was worried. But when 12 of us from the ILWU arrived at the head-quarters, we got a warm welcome from other union members. I did my first door with Mike Fennelly from Local 6 who’d done this before, so he knew what to say. Our first house was in a working class neighborhood where a woman answered the door and was really excited to see us. By the time we got to the next house, I was really into it and ready to do something I didn’t think I could. We only had one or two negative people each week; most people were positive. I liked being part of a bigger cause to get our country going in the right direction again.”
Hector Aguilar
Los Angeles, CA

“We worked on the campaign in Albuquerque with a great group of union members who came from California, Texas, and the state of Washington where we live. Some of the volunteers from other unions had already been working in New Mexico for months before we arrived. It’s time for people to consider the fate of our great country rather than purely their own personal situations. We think Obama will work to this end, and he’s pro-labor – which will help get Americans back to work. He’ll also help the U.S. regain our stature in this troubled world. We feel enlightened to have worked with the ILWU and other union members who were a part of this campaign that made history in America.”
Robert & Claire Everett
Nahcotta, WA

ILWU members in Oregon helped win a close race for U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, defeat an anti-union ballot measure, and elect Barack Obama by a healthy margin.

Nahcotta, WA

The Las Vegas team pounded the pavement to help deliver the “Silver State” for Barack Obama.
Local 4 members hosted a 2-day training in October for students from an alternative high school who were interested in learning about union work. Of the 11 students in attendance, only one of them had grown up in a union household, and most said they knew no union members at all. After talking with Local 4 members, watching films about the ILWU, and taking a 2-hour course from Organizers Mark Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann from Kraft Foods and Bill Sligar from Nestle, veteran stewards were on hand to help; Bob Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann were on hand to help; Bob Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more. Members who attended were newer stewards, and the training provided an all-day session. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more.

Local 5 officers voted on October 21 for a new business agent, Cesar Garbay. The local has also hired a new dues clerk, Rita Manriquez, along with a new office manager, Barbara Bon- ner. Contract negotiations between the local and San Leandro Hospital started on November 6. Discussions with C&H Sugar over a mock union election and enthusiastic support for an all-day session. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more.

Local 6 members voted on October 6 for a new business agent, Cesar Garbay. The local has also hired a new dues clerk, Rita Manriquez, along with a new office manager, Barbara Bon- ner. Contract negotiations between the local and San Leandro Hospital started on November 6. Discussions with C&H Sugar over a mock union election and enthusiastic support for an all-day session. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more.

Local 10 members rallied to support their brothers at the courthouse in Woodland, CA.

Local 11 members voted on October 6 for a new business agent, Cesar Garbay. The local has also hired a new dues clerk, Rita Manriquez, along with a new office manager, Barbara Bon- ner. Contract negotiations between the local and San Leandro Hospital started on November 6. Discussions with C&H Sugar over a mock union election and enthusiastic support for an all-day session. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more.

Union-Pacific railroad just signed a contract with the Port of Tacoma which will bring more work to the local. The new contract should also create a healthy competition between Union-Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe, which has had a monopoly on rail cargo from the port for many years, said Local 23 President Conrad Spell.

Local 24 has 160 members working at Port Hueneme, California who elected new officers on September 18. President Milo Valdivia and Secretary-Treasurer Jesse Herrera were sworn in on Oct. 3rd. Port Hueneme, like many other West Coast ports, is experiencing significant monthly declines in import revenues. At Port Hueneme, it’s down between approximately 20-25 percent. So it was with some relief and celebration that Local 46 members loaded 2,000 General Motors autos onto the vessel Shanghai on Oct. 21 for sale in China. Normally, the port imports Mauseras, Volvos, Suzuki and other foreign-made autos, in addition to handling breakbulk, bananas, and other cargo. Rising demand for bigger and more expensive cars in China is leading the auto industry to produce vehicles for Chinese consumers. Port Hueneme is beginning to prefer American-made autos over their own. Buicks are espe- cially popular! Herrera thinks the port will continue regular exports of GM autos to China.

Local 52 and 19 were recognized on Oct. 11th by Washington State Jobs with Justice with a special award for outstanding labor role in the 2007 May Day job action when thousands of longshore workers gave up a day’s pay to support the troops and protest the war in Iraq. At the ceremony, Jobs With Justice Co-Chair Teri Mast (who also serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Inlandboatmen’s Union) recognized Puget Sound members onsite, including ILWU Leg- islative Committee Chair Max Velich, with the following remarks: “We honor the members of the ILWU for their commitment to using work- ers’ power to demand peace and justice, for their commitment to rank-and-file democracy which made this action possible, and for their leadership in helping to mobilize labor and community supporters in the Puget Sound to reclaim May Day as a workers’ holiday.”

Local 19 members hosted a 2-day training in October for students from an alternative high school who were interested in learning about union work. Of the 11 students in attendance, only one of them had grown up in a union household, and most said they knew no union members at all. After talking with Local 19 members, watching films about the ILWU, and taking a 2-hour course from Organizers Mark Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann from Kraft Foods and Bill Sligar from Nestle, veteran stewards were on hand to help; Bob Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann were on hand to help; Bob Vrana and Research Director Russ Bargmann. The training covered the roles and responsibilities of a steward, grievance procedure, how to do an investigation, how to prepare for an arbitration, and more.

Local 23 members placed first in Tacoma’s dragon boat races.
works in the Bristol Bay region and other parts of Alaska. Fishery forecasts for the season ahead predict that catches will be down as much as 27 percent for prime species like pollock that are used in many processed fish products. This would be the second year of declining catches.

Schools of fish continue to migrate further north, making it harder for shipping fleets to catch them. Pacific cod continues to press for offshore drilling rights in Bristol Bay, but local fishermen are concerned that the drilling activity could hurt the salmon, crab, cod, and pollock fisheries. Last year, Dutch Harbor’s longshore workers traveled to a remote area of Bristol Bay during the salmon season to demand their right to loading work on trampers owned by the Seadrade and Boyang companies. Jobs for Alaskan longshore workers are supposed to be protected by the Alaska Exclusion to the Longshore and Navigation Act. But companies refused to honor the agreement, so the union filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor. A year later, with help from ILWU attorneys, heavy lines were levied against the two companies. Seadrade has paid the fine, but Boyang has appealed. The fees have asked the union and Boyang to reach a settlement and the negotiations are continuing.

Two Dutch Harbor longshoremen have been elected to the Unalaska and Port of Dutch Harbor City Council. Earl “Skip” Southworth and Dennis Robinson won their seats on a platform that promised to improve the quality-of-life and well-being for the town’s 3,000 residents. Among the initiatives that Southworth said he’d like to promote is the creation of a geothermal energy production plant for the city that could be financed from an interest-earned investment. Non-polluting electricity produced by the area’s volcanic geology could power an entire fleet of electric trucks and other vehicles at the port which exports more seafood than anywhere in the world. Southworth also wants to focus resources on job creation at the port through enhancing trade via the Northwest Passage, as global warming opens faster routes to Eurasia because the polar ice cap is melting.

ILWU Canada Local 502 is calling all songwriters and musicians! If you play or write songs about longshore work or the union, Tim Farrrel from Local 502 in Vancouver would like to hear from you. He’s putting together a CD, and wants to hear your song. A friend with a studio and record company is helping with the project. They’re talking about organizing a weekend where ILWU musicians could meet and play music together. Please send your songs to Tim Farrrel at c/o ILWU Local 502 Social Club 11182 Tannery Road Surrey BC Canada V3W 3W7

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER
continued from page 2

It is criminal that the world’s greatest economic power, at this time, anyway, is the only industrialized country in the entire world that does not produce a single pound of dock work in the Bristol Bay region and other parts of Alaska. Fishery forecasts for the season ahead predict that catches will be down as much as 27 percent for prime species like pollock that are used in many processed fish products. This would be the second year of declining catches.

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GETTING FORWARD TO A NEW CHAPTER IN U.S. HISTORY

Mumbai, India

November 2008

DISPATCHER

1. powerful and continuing nationalism; 2. disdain for the recognition of human rights; 3. identification of “enemies” (scapegoats) as a unifying cause; 4. supremacy of the military; 5. rampant sexism; 6. controlled mass media; 7. obsession with national security; 8. religion and militarism are intertwined; 9. corporate power is protected; 10. labor is suppressed; 11. disad for intellectuals and the arts; 12. obsession with crime and punishment; 13. rampant cynicism and corruption; 14. fraudulent elections.

Sound familiar? That’s why I believe that the 2008 was a do or die election for America’s working class. And that’s why I did all I could to help elect Obama and other progressive Democrats.

Rich Austin
Mount Vernon, WA

Dear Editor,

We recently received a copy of your new collective bargaining agreement for Longshore workers. This document will help the Indian dockers who are in the final stages of negotiating their own collective bargaining agreement. The Indian economy is declining because of the global recessionary trend. We are eagerly looking forward to the results of your U.S. presidential election, and hope it will help reverse the current trend. We are looking forward to a new chapter in U.S. history.

P. K. Raman
Secretary
Transport & Dock Workers Union
Mumbai, India

Members from Local 54 and Local 6 helped elect Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston and put the ILWU on the local political map.

EARL “SKIP” SOUTHWORTH WAS ELECTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN UNALASKA AND DUTCH HARBOR.

RALPH V. C. MCMAHON; Local 10: Reginald L. Mayfield; Local 12: Dennis L. Gerber; Local 13: Rudy M. Diaz; Local 14: Charles G. Roland; Local 18: Edward J. Currie; Local 21: Kenneth Marshall; Local 24: Daniel C. Peterson; Local 26: Gregorio G. Chavez; Albert Hobbs; Local 34: Hansom Lee; Local 36: Manuel D. Sanchez; Local 52: Frances C. Hayes-Herrera; John G. Kritsonis; Herbert L. Nesson; Local 53: Robert A. Richie; Robert J. Stahl; Delfin D. Eache; Local 59: Jorge E. Partida; Local 62: Erin E. Owen; Local 64: Manuel Cabrera

DECEASED:

Local 7: Rudy A. Scepich; Local 13: Samuel Rye; Jesus A. Talamantes; Kenneth D. Todd; Samuel Andrade; Local 14: James H. McNaughton; Yoshio Tomita; Local 18: Bobby J. Foreman; Local 21: Keith J. Jacobs; Local 23: Kenneth Marshall; Clyde Currie; Local 24: Charles W. Ingram; Local 26: Charles G. Roland; Local 27: Andy W. Michiels; Local 32: August P. Paglia; Local 34: Paul P. Mendola; Local 40: Alfred E. Olson; Local 52:

Corrections

Local 13: Rudy M. Urquidi was erroneously listed in the October issue as “deceased” but should have been listed as “retired.” We regret the error and apologize to the families and co-workers.

Local 26: Charles R. A. Sotul was erroneously listed in the October issue as “retired” but should have been listed as “deceased.” We regret the error and apologize to the families and co-workers.

Local 10: Mercedes A. Bangay (Joe); Local 12: Jan C. Hively (Delbert); Local 13: Mary L. Donett (Carleton); Beatrice C. T. Al-Amin (Jesus); Albertha M. Martinez (Levi); Mary Malnar (Michael); Slavia Herrera (Ernesto). Local 21: Kay P. Goodrich (Clyford); Local 23: Sharon D. Rinhardt (Toni). Ida M. Currie (Clyde); Local 26: Linda D. Roland (Charles); Local 29: Eloisa Lopez (Victor); Local 34: Elizabeth Mendiola (Paul); Zaira J. Tardro (Frank); Frances A. Erickson (Leonard); Local 52: Josepine J. Pirak (Tony); Local 63: Margaret Manzo (Quirino); Florida Vilseca; (Richard); Jing Zhang (Benito M. Juarez); Joyce E. Schroeder (William); Cheri C. Drudge (George); Local 59: George E. Jacobson; Local 94: Evelyn K. Bell (Raymond); Connie Pacheco (Frank); Local 98: Ruth A. Alexander (Jack);

(deceased in parenthesis)
Dear Editor,

Thanks for covering our Bloody Thursday Picnic in the July-August Dispatcher. Fairies and pirates from locals 19, 52, and 98 were all there celebrating ILWU solidarity. Scott Martinez from Local 19 did an excellent job organizing the event as he has for the past six years. His family also helped, including his father Danny Martinez (retired from Local 19) who was there setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning, and tearing down. Wes Young was the chief BBQ chef; this must be his twentieth year. Scott and Wes both said this would be their last year; I hope not!

I’d also like to thank Teresa Lewis from Local 52 who held a BBQ outside Local 19 in memory of her late husband Butch Bowman from Local 19. He was one of the most phenomenal crane operators and human beings I have ever known. Over 700 people attended his memorial. Teresa paid for the entire BBQ then donated every dollar to the Picnic Fund! Like most “doers” in our union, she doesn’t want credit but truly deserves it.

Sean O’Donnell, Local 52
Seattle, WA

Editor’s notes: Each month, The Dispatcher reprints a monthly report from the ILWU Benefits Plan office which they compile from several sources, including locals. We apologize to families and friends for any errors that occasionally happen when we retype this report in our “Columns” column.

Last month’s report on the Harbor Labor Day Parade could not have noted that the current parade dates back to 1979 when many unions originally formed the LA/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition including ILWU locals 13, 20, 26, 56, 63, and the International Longshoremen’s, plus the Teamsters, Food and Commercial Workers, Machinists, Movers & Pickers, Marine Engineers, National Maritime Union, Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers, Newspaper Guild, United Electrical Workers, Painters, Ironworkers, Pipefitters, Lumber and Sawmill Workers, and Sailors Union of the Pacific. Local 29 President Luisa Gratz coordinated the event for the last 27 years, which has drawn up to 10,000 participants and involved over 100 unions.

Rudy M Urichides
San Pedro, CA

Letters to the Dispatcher continued from page 7

Dear Editor,

The October issue of the Dispatcher listed me as deceased, but I’m alive and well! I did retire on October 1st, so I should have been listed under the “Retired” column in your Transitions section instead of “Deceased.” Could you please correct this in the next issue – I’m already getting phone calls!

Thank you!

Rudy M Urichides
San Pedro, CA