



The DISPATCHER

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Special 33rd International Convention



and International Election Issue



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Brothers and Sisters:

When we last gathered for our International Convention in San Francisco three years ago, we had just emerged victorious from the biggest attack the employers had made on the ILWU in more than 50 years. We were challenged, but not beaten.

We came out stronger, having exercised our power and learned what we could do. And we were wiser, knowing where our weaknesses were and moving to shore them up. And we applied what we learned not just in our crucial Longshore Division, but across the board, in all divisions and groupings in our union.

We need to review those actions this week and figure out what we need to do to further strengthen and build this union so that we and other future ILWU members can continue to enjoy the benefits of this great union.

Because the ILWU is a rank-and-file union, you, the elected delegates, have a heavy responsibility to those you represent and to those who came before us and to those who will follow. This task is all the more difficult because we have just one short week to do it in. I urge you all to seriously dig into your committee work and fashion the best programs and resolutions you can. Your union is counting on you.

In 2002 we faced an all-out war, declared by our employers in alliance with George Bush and most of the Republican Party. The employers' lockout, shutting down the U.S. West Coast, was a high-stakes, bold move that reverberated through the American economy and the international maritime trade system. Bush's threat to have the military seize our ports, his threat to outlaw the ILWU's right to strike and collectively bargain, and ultimately, his imposition of the Taft-Hartley injunction, were all aimed at ending the ILWU as a progressive force for working people around the world. Our victory over the combined wealth and power of the international maritime trade industry and the most anti-labor administration the U.S. has ever seen was tremendous. But it is temporary.

Right now I would like to stop and acknowledge our hosts, our brothers and sisters of ILWU Canada. We had many friends who helped us win in 2002, but today we are again receiving the hospitality of those who know what solidarity is. During the lockout, our employers tried to move their cargo through the ports of British Columbia. But they ran right into ILWU longshore workers. If there was U.S.-bound cargo aboard a ship, they wouldn't move it. If U.S.-bound containers were in the way of Canadian-bound containers, they removed the U.S. ones, unloaded the Canadian ones and then put the U.S. ones back on the ship. They showed the employers and the world the true meaning of "An injury to one is an injury to all."

As I said, our victory in 2002 was tremendous, but temporary. We now face a different type of warfare, a war of attrition, a constant test of our strength and endurance. They are pounding us with incessant legislative and political attacks, trying to use legitimate port security concerns to screen our members off the waterfront and take over much of the work of our marine clerks. Under the guise of Social Security reform and pension reform, the employers are trying to eliminate our retirement.

Under port security concerns and mandates they continue to try to ruin our reputation, painting us as the terrorist risk to port security, while they avoid Coast Guard security regulations that require terminal operators to check and monitor containers. They try to paint us as greedy while they post record profits.

Their economic policies, their globalization and free trade agreements are feeding us with one hand and hurting us with the other. Sure our Longshore Division is doing well, but our sugar and pineapple in Hawaii and our manufacturing on the mainland are being devastated. Then, as corporations' overseas businesses drive their American and Canadian divisions bankrupt, they claim they can no longer afford the health care and pensions they have long signed contracts to provide.

This is the battleground they have chosen to challenge us on. But it is one we can fight on.

It's what the ILWU has always done, the not-so-secret formula of our union's success through

the decades—and that is to mobilize the power of the rank and file. That was the most effective tactic we used in 2002. Training our rank and file and expanding our capacity to work effectively has been the focus of our programs and our practice in the last three years and will continue to be our priority.

As the delegates at our last Convention mandated, we have expanded our rank-and-file education program, training more and more of our members in leadership skills and providing opportunities for them to exercise those skills in service to their union. Leadership is something that needs to be learned and developed. Building a cadre of confident and capable members is the best way to protect our union and move it forward.

The budget proposal that will come before you later this week will continue our education program. We will hold another of our Secretary-Treasurer and Trustee trainings in early 2007 to

understand his policy is not worth the price.

And yet, while U.S. troops sit on the second largest oil reserve in the world, oil prices are skyrocketing. Add to that the scandals and indictments in his administration, the escalating job losses due to free trade agreements and outsourcing, ever rising health care costs, the loss of pensions and the threatened cuts in Social Security, and it's no surprise Bush's ratings have dropped to a record low.

All this presents us with a great opening to break the Republican stranglehold on Congress this November. We have the political momentum. We and the rest of the labor movement have the trained and battle-hardened troops. We must mobilize them again this election. This is an opportunity we cannot miss. It's up to us to seize the moment.

It is a sad but true fact that political action work requires money. We need to not only staff and operate our legislative office in Washington,

It's what the ILWU has always done, the not-so-secret formula of our union's success through the decades—and that is to mobilize the power of the rank and file.

keep local officers up to date on administrative techniques and the government's latest financial reporting requirements. In the fall of 2007 we will hold another of our LEAD, or Leadership Education and Development seminars, our own unique blend of skills building and grounding in the history and traditions of the ILWU.

The Titled Officers have decided to put further educational programs on hold in 2008 in order to devote all our research and education resources to the longshore contract negotiations that year.

We have been using our educated and motivated members to fight back on the political and legislative front. Following the mandate of our last Convention, we have held two Legislative Conferences in Washington, D.C., one in 2004 and another just last March. We sent about 60 rank and filers to directly lobby Congressional Representatives and Senators and their staffs. They were learning by doing. And they learned that union workers are the best advocates for their own cause.

In 2002, for the first time, we joined in the AFL-CIO's national election action and sent more than 30 rank and filers to five battleground states. In 2004 we sent more than 100 rank and filers out in a similar effort. Scores more campaigned in their local areas. Everywhere they went we heard the same story from those they worked with. They said the ILWU folks were the best. They were enthusiastic, energetic and became the natural group leaders.

In 2002 we failed to weaken the Republicans' grip on Congress. In 2004 we actually beat Bush, but he managed to steal a second election and remain president. But the arrogant way he has used power is coming back to haunt him.

His single-minded, stubborn approach to the war in Iraq has been a complete disaster. If the definition of insanity is doing the same wrong thing over and over and expecting different results, this president is out of touch. People are starting to

D.C., and send rank and filers to the Capitol to lobby, we need to contribute money to pro-worker politicians. They have to run for reelection and ward off challenges by better funded pro-business candidates or they won't be around to help us. The law requires that union donations come from a voluntary fund, so this makes our task so much harder. We are asking each member to contribute \$50 toward our Political Action Fund. Last time many members offered more, giving as much as \$500. We raised more than half a million dollars. We must do even better this time.

Many of the ILWU credit unions along the Coast are working with us to put aside a certain amount each week out of ILWU members' paychecks. In your report backs to your locals, please urge your members to sign up with their credit unions and have a small donation made weekly toward protecting their jobs.

While we battle at the national political level and in our state and provincial legislatures, there's a battle for the hearts and minds of the public that so much influences policy and law. After recognizing in 2002 that we could and must use the media, and learning how to do it, we have made the first moves towards building a Public Relations apparatus with plans to expand it.

We have done a series of public and media speaking trainings along the Coast for local officials. Last January we held a week-long seminar to train 61 rank and filers in speaking, writing and video skills. As usual, our members learned these things quickly. And many of them are ready for the advanced challenges and trainings we have planned.

Once again our trained members have gone back to their locals and put their schooling to practice. Besides making sure their regular community work is noted in the local press and that the union's political concerns are duly and accurately portrayed, they are also making sure the media and the public know that the ILWU's issues are in sync with those of our communities.

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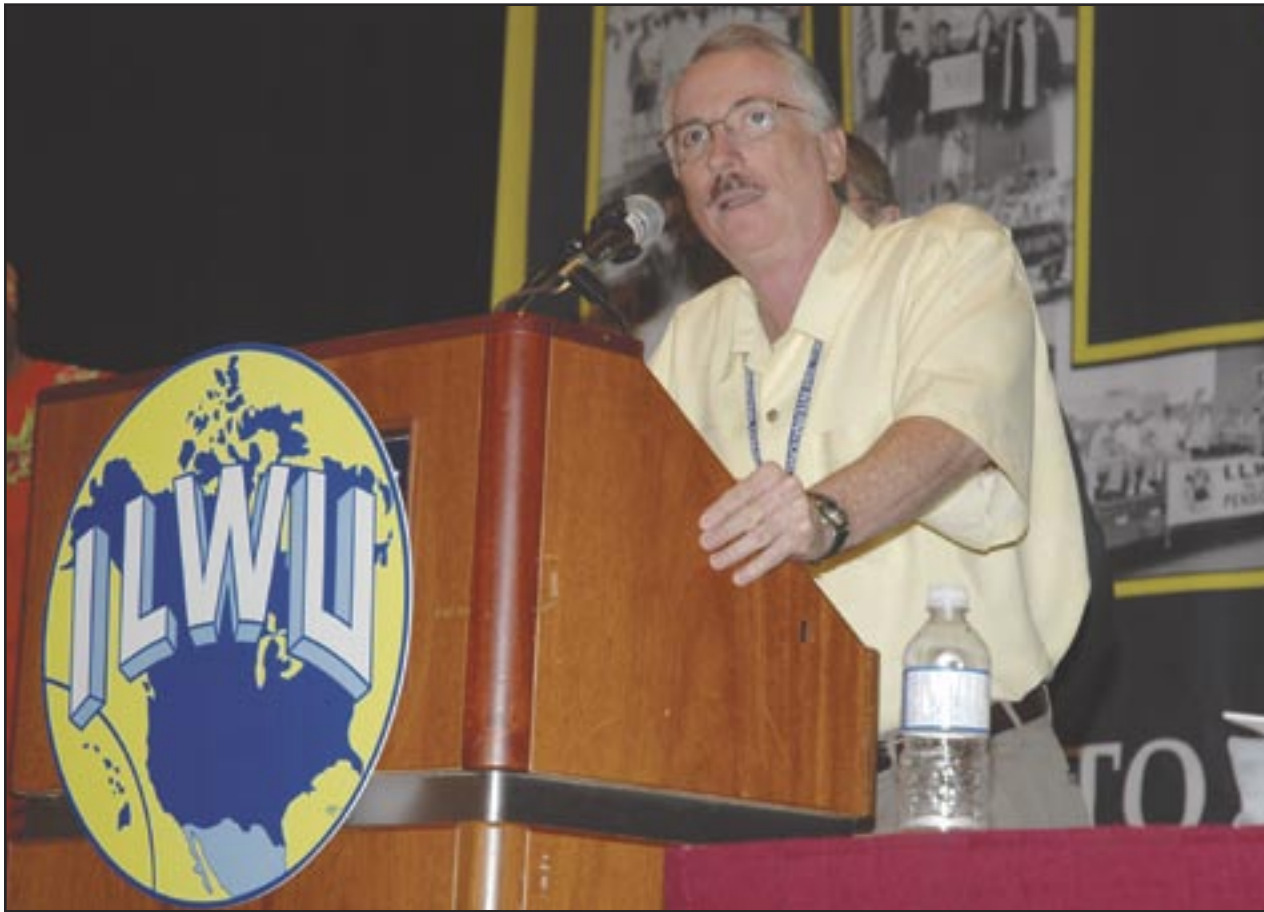
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Editor

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Assistant Editor

James Spinosa's Keynote Address International Convention



International President James Spinosa.

The best example of this is the anti-air pollution campaign we call "Saving Lives," started by Local 13 member and LA Harbor Commissioner Joe Radisich. Up and down the Coast the ILWU is backing this campaign and putting the union in front of the fight against the worst environmental problem facing all West Coast port communities. We are equating worker safety with public health. And in the process we are getting not only widespread publicity and sympathy, we have embarrassed the employers into doing far more to cut air pollution than we demanded in our 2002 longshore negotiations and couldn't get from them.

Also, we designed and had built an ILWU exhibit booth we have used to raise our profile and spread our word at numerous events, including a major goods movement conference on pollution last January in Long Beach and at the AFL-CIO's Union Label and Trade show in Portland last year and in Cleveland last week. Again, members who have gone through our education programs staffed the booth at all these events, giving the ILWU voice and face.

And of course, keeping up with the times, we've expanded our presence on the Web to give the ILWU greater visibility. Not only have we improved and updated the International's website, particularly the Longshore Division section, but many of our locals have set up their own sites or upgraded their first ones.

Fortunately we are not in this fight alone. We are part of a larger national and international labor movement with many friends, some of whom are with us this week.

First, of course, is the AFL-CIO, whose Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka is with us again. Richard was at the table during our drawn-out longshore negotiations in 2002, especially during the crucial time we were under the Taft-Hartley injunction, bringing his experience and the federation's resources. We also have with us the leader of the British Columbia Federation of Labor Jim Sinclair, who works closely with our Canadian brothers and sisters. We will be hearing from both Richard and Jim during this week. But let me say right now that we are grateful for their dependable solidarity and are proud to be an active part of their federations.

We also continue our special alliance with the Teamsters and our East Coast longshore partners in the International Longshoremen's Association. The ILA International officers have expressed continued support for our agreement. Our good friend Ken Riley, president of ILA Charleston Local 1422 and the leader of the Charleston 5 fight, is with us here today.

Also with us today is Chuck Mack, a Teamster International Vice President and leader of their Port Truckers Division. Together our two unions have embarked on an historic organizing drive to

unionize the port truckers, the worst paid workers on the waterfront. These are workers who, once organized, treated with dignity and fairly compensated, can become an essential back up for us in the ports. In the important Southern California ports we already have 2,000 truckers signed up for our union effort. Our goal is to have a Teamster/ILWU port truckers division.

Through our connections with the Teamsters we are keeping relations with the unions that have formed the new Change to Win federation. While we would prefer that the House of Labor stay united, the ILWU will continue to work with and support all workers engaged in struggle anytime and anywhere.

We are also fortunate to have many strong and strategically located international friends.

The ITF, the International Transport Workers' Federation, is one of the oldest global labor federations. The ITF's Secretary General, David Cockroft will be with us this week and will address the Convention. The ITF represents all kinds of transport workers—dockers, sailors, truckers and rail-

road and airline workers. As many of you know, the ILWU supplies the inspectors along the North American West Coast to check on the conditions of the seafarers aboard the ships we work. I'm sure Brother Cockroft will tell you more about that. You will also hear more this week about how the ITF is assisting our warehouse Local 17 in Sacramento organize the Blue Diamond almond workers.

Another one of our great friends with us this week is Paddy Crumlin, the National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia. The ties between the ILWU and Australia only started with the fact that our founder and first International President Harry Bridges was an Australian immigrant. Through years of struggle and solidarity, particularly recently, we have forged close bonds. We visit each other regularly to keep them tight. Paddy and the Australian miners union were instrumental in helping us put on the Mining and Maritime conference in Long Beach last year that brought together unions in those industries from

around the Pacific Rim to find ways to help each other with our mutual international employers. Our pensioners have even formed an alliance with the retired MUA members.

Unfortunately, our friends from the International Dockworkers Council could not join us here this week, but we stay in regular contact with them. We sent delegations twice recently to Europe to demonstrations they and the ITF organized against government and employer attempts to de-unionize their ports. We know that if it happens there, it will be tried again here. Their fight is our fight. Our actions stopped those plans. The European dockers know they can count on us and we know—and the employers know—they will be there for us if we need them in 2008.

Before we recess today we will also be renewing our Solidarity Agreement with the Japanese dockworkers of Zenkowan. For decades we have had strong worker-to-worker ties with our Japanese longshore brothers that transcend our language and cultural differences. We will once again honor those bonds and formally renew our friendship and solidarity.

But the ILWU also has internal difficulties we need to deal with this week, problems within all our divisions and groupings we need to address.

As we all know, 9-11 changed our world. The very real threat of terrorism has made us as dockworkers have to face up to the vulnerability of our ports and the need for real security. Since Sept. 12, 2001 the ILWU has been engaged in shaping port security policy.

We have been lobbying politicians, testifying before Congress, intervening in legislation and joining every committee and board on the issue we can to make sure our concerns and point of view are included. But let's be clear here—the Republicans and our employers have been just as busy devising new ways to use legitimate security concerns against our union, to handcuff us with more and more regulations and take away our jobs and dispatch halls. We have been trying to focus security efforts on the real risk—the millions of uninspected containers that enter the U.S. and Canada every year, the unchecked container seals and the empty containers.

But the employers and the Republicans have been focusing on longshore workers as the security risk and pushing for background checks and restricted access. Their plans are much less effective in providing real security, but are much easier to implement.

So now we are facing Terrorist Watch list name matching and Transportation Worker Identification Cards, TWIC cards, required to work on the docks, that include criminal background checks.

If the government uses the Terrorist Watch list and the TWIC background checks to come after our union, if they dare to turn this into a McCarthyite witch hunt, let me assure you, the ILWU will respond with our full fury and force and that of our many friends. We will not provoke this fight, but we will not back down.

In an effort to cooperate with the government, the International Officers and I are in agreement to move the union in a positive direction and seek endorsement of our locals to meet and coordinate with local Coast Guard and TSA officials in making available a list of our members' names and dates of birth as required by federal regulations. I know this is a controversial position with some of our members, but let me explain why I think we should do this.

First, the government will get the list anyway from our employers. At least if we give it to them, we know it will be complete and accurate, and if they come up with any false matches, we will be informed so we can appeal and fight them. We can't trust our employers not to try to cherry pick out some of our members, and probably some of our best and most active members. Second, we are certain there are no terrorists in our union and we want to prove that once and for all. That will

continued on next page

Keynote Address *continued*

give us solid ground to argue against members being screened off the waterfront for non-terrorist related crimes when the TWIC background checks are done. We need to pick our battles carefully and take on the ones we can win.

And let me be absolutely clear here—if any false matches come up in the terrorist name matching, we will fight them. We will demand an independent and transparent appeals process to challenge any charges. Don't let anyone, anywhere, any time question the ILWU's resolve to protect every member. An injury to one is an injury to all.

And if the government uses the Terrorist Watch list and the TWIC background checks to come after our union, if they dare to turn this into a McCarthyite witch hunt, let me assure you, the ILWU will respond with our full fury and force and that of our many friends. We will not provoke this fight, but we will not back down.

Here in Canada the port security situation is even worse. The background checks being proposed are way more intrusive, requiring detailed information not just about the longshore workers, but also about their spouses and their families. The government wants to know their credit history, their ethnic origin and even their sexual preferences. Workers could be disqualified and never learn why so they could try to defend themselves. To their credit, ILWU Canada has organized the other longshore unions in the country to fight back.

The Longshore Division has other difficulties as well, especially how new technology is being introduced. The employers continue to lie and cheat in every way they can to use technology to outsource our jobs. They try to overwhelm us with paperwork and deadlines. But our Technology Committees are up to the challenge and the Division has the money and the will to continue to fight for our jurisdiction.

It's no secret that our Warehouse Division is hurting. Most locals in the Division are at or near their lowest membership numbers in years. Just-in-time delivery and warehousing on the docks, runaway shops and outsourcing, and

house local, continues to set the standard for warehouse work, bargaining the Master Warehouse Contract along with Local 17 and three Teamster locals. But like in all the more than 60 contracts the local bargains and administers, rising health care costs and corporations' moving away from taking responsibility for pensions makes each negotiation

The plan is to follow the massive amounts of containers from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the warehouse and distribution centers in inland Southern California and use our port power to help those workers organize into the ILWU.

tougher. But the local's new leadership is rebuilding its organizing program and making progress.

Our new Columbia River warehouse local, Local 5, built on Powell's Books, is going through the growing pains of any new local, rank and filers learning how to run their own local and deal with financial difficulties. But they are not long from their own organizing drive and their leadership understands the need to organize and the benefits of it. They have plans to grow and the International Organizing Dept. will be there to help.

Seattle Local 9 is in serious trouble. This is the second Convention in a row they have been financially unable to send a delegation. Since their largest house, the Hasbro Toy warehouse at the Port of Seattle, closed a few years ago, the already marginal local was cut in half and is down to only a couple of hundred members.

Our Marine Division, the Inlandboatmen's Union, is facing similar problems in their crucial tow boat sector. Non-union com-

Hawaii Local 142 was originally built on the sugar and pineapple plantations, but most of that work has been outsourced to places where labor is non-union and cheap. Right now Del Monte is phasing out its pineapple and cannery operations on the Islands over the next couple of years. Hundreds of jobs are gone for good.

But Local 142 has followed the economy's transition from plantations to tourist destination. They've done it with good, old-fashioned organizing, working hard and working smart. And now tourism is the biggest sector of the local.

Our people in Alaska, especially in longshore, are having a hard time hanging onto their work because of the lack of union density. Employers are going unchallenged as they set up new, non-union operations, often right next to our union ones. Alaska longshore workers won a good contract last year after some very difficult bargaining. But if these new facilities and their workers are not brought into the ILWU and share in our bounty, all the work will flow there and the good contract will be meaningless. A resolution to support a new organizing drive in Alaska will be coming before you this week and we need your vote and your active support.

There's one last thing we must do before I finish. We must pay our respects to those in our ranks who have lost their lives in accidents on the job in the last three years. We all know the worse may happen every day we turn to, but it's hard to think about it and still get through the day. But every time we strap on our hard hats, slip into our neon vests and lace up our safety boots, we should think about those we are going back home to when the shift is over. Be safe for them, yourselves and all your brothers and sisters around you.

I am now going to read the names and locals of those we have lost and then I ask you for a moment of silence in their memory.

Richie Mraz—Local 13
Douglas Espinoza—Local 6
Matt Petrasich—Local 94
Robert Padgett—Local 10
Robert Smith—Local 23
Kimberly Kuchman-Miles—Local 23
Epifanio (Epi) Hernandez—Local 500
Warren Minura—Local 142

Thank you. Now in remembrance of all those who came before us and made so many sacrifices to get us here, and in dedication to those who will follow us, let's make this Convention a great success.

Every time we strap on our hard hats, slip into our neon vests and lace up our safety boots, we should think about those we are going back home to when the shift is over. Be safe for them, yourselves and all your brothers and sisters around you.

industry turnover all make it difficult to hang on to union houses and to bargain good contracts for remaining ones.

The only answer, of course, is organizing. But under these conditions that's a tough task, one that will require the strategic use of the ILWU's unique power and the commitment of its members, especially our longshore workers.

This week you will be asked to support a plan for a new "March Inland" organizing campaign. The plan is to follow the massive amounts of containers from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the warehouse and distribution centers in inland Southern California and use our port power to help those workers organize into the ILWU. This will rebuild warehouse Local 26, whose membership numbers have been stagnant as it sees its companies closing as fast as they can organize new ones. At the same time, this inland organizing will protect the strategic Southern California flanks of the Longshore Division.

The Local 17 drive to organize the Blue Diamond almond workers has the same approach. Blue Diamond is the world's largest almond processor and about 70 percent of its nuts are exported, mostly through the Port of Oakland. It is going to be a tough campaign because the company is taking a hard stand against the union. But you'll learn more Tuesday about how pressure is being applied when all you Convention delegates will get a chance to participate in an action with and for the Blue Diamond workers.

Local 17, along with longshore Local 18, have beat back developer plans to yuppify Sacramento's faltering waterfront. They have kept it for maritime use long enough for the Port of Oakland to step in as a partner and run it as part of its profitable operation. But it took long and hard political and community work to achieve. In protecting its current jobs and organizing new ones, Local 17 exemplifies the ILWU spirit.

Northern California's Local 6, our biggest ware-

panies, sometimes ones owned by the same company they have a contract with, underbid their work. Again, the response must be organizing, and you will be asked this week to support an IBU-International tow boat organizing campaign.

The IBU's San Francisco Bay Region's ferry sector has the same kind of challenge. The National Park Service just awarded the contract for the lucrative tourist ferry service to Alcatraz Island to a non-union company. An IBU company had the contract for decades. The union is now working with the new contractor to organize those jobs.



The Convention stops for a moment of silence in honor of ILWU members killed on the job.

Spinosa awarded Emeritus status

Mandatory age limits enshrined in the ILWU Constitution back in the 1970s meant International President James Spinosa could not run for re-election to a third term. Known affectionately to his union brothers and sisters as "Spinner," he has served as clerks' Local 63 President, Coast Committeeman, International Vice President, Mainland and, finally, as International President for the last six years, culminating his career by piloting the Longshore Division through the dangerous 2002 negotiations.

Spinosa long held a reputation as a tough and strategic negotiator, and that shone through undeniably in 2002. So the proposal at the Convention to confer upon him the honorary title of "President Emeritus" was a surprise only to him.

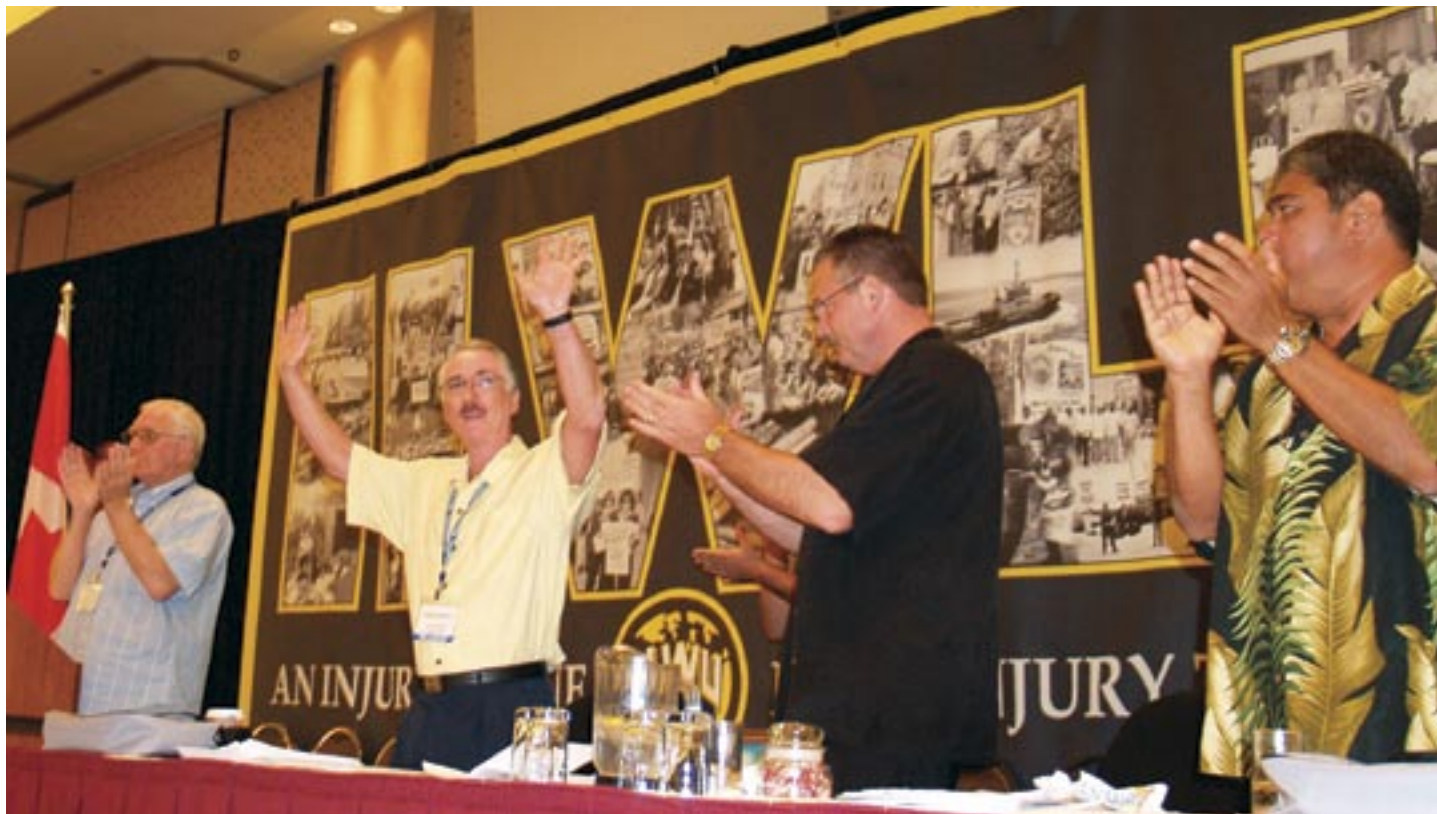
Spinosa's longtime friend and fellow Local 63 marine clerk John Tousseau, who had also worked on several Longshore Negotiating Committees with Spinosa read the resolution bestowing the title (see below) and then spoke from his heart.

"I have been privileged to know him since we were young kids together. I have seen him come up through the ranks of the ILWU," Tousseau said. "As we all know, as President and Vice President of this great International Union, he has helped us not only at our local levels and at the Coast level, but at the International level, helped us reach to the stars and reach to other realms, helping us talk to people from all over the world, whether it be the ITF or the IDC or reaching out to all the various countries of the world, through the MUA in Australia, New Zealand, up here in Canada. He has never, ever faltered and never, ever let us down. He has always given support to everybody.

"I think that the recognition, seeing the people who have come here from Japan, from Vietnam, all over Australia, every place, even from South Carolina, demonstrates that Jimmy is an honorable man."

Local 63 Vice President Joe Gasperov hit the mic and recounted the lessons he learned from Spinosa.

"I first met Spinner when I was a young and new member in Local 63. Spinner had just come back from three years as a Coast Committeeman," Gasperov said. "I quickly learned that Spinner was a fighter. I kind of sat back as a new union officer and tried



International President James Spinosa (second from left) recognizes the Convention's delegates honoring him. Applauding (left to right) clerk's Local 34 President Richard Cavalli, International Vice President, Mainland Bob McEllrath and International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado.

to learn from Spinner and the other officers on how to conduct myself with the employers, how to represent my members across the table, and how to fight for our jurisdiction.

"A few things I learned from Spinner were, number one, that you fight as hard as you can for your members and your jurisdiction. Number two, you always speak your mind, no matter if people disagree with it. You make your feelings known. And number three, that the employers never, ever are our friends."

Spinosa was obviously touched and while saying his acknowledging the honor had to pause a moment to compose himself.

"This honor is really a great send-off. I appreciate it. The Italian in me gets a little emotional sometimes," he said. "It's been just a wonderful ride for me through my career, coming into this union and then having the honor to represent you, as I have, as your President, Vice President and officer at the local level. It's just something that I am going to take with me all the rest of my life. It's been the highlight of my life."

—S.S.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER JAMES SPINOSA AND BESTOWING EMERITUS STATUS ON PRESIDENT SPINOSA

WHEREAS: Brother Jim Spinosa has been a member and also has served this great ILWU for 38 years; and

WHEREAS: In 1984 Jim was selected by the Coast and served as the Coast CFS monitor until 1987; and

WHEREAS: Since 1987, Jim has been elected as Caucus and Convention Delegate in the Longshore Division; and

WHEREAS: In 1988, 1991, 1996, 1997, Jim served as President of ILWU Local 63 Marine Clerks, Southern California; and

WHEREAS: In 1991-1994, Jim served the Longshore Division as a Coast Committeeman; and

WHEREAS: In 1993, as Coast Committeeman, Jim served as Co-Chairman of the Longshore Division Contract Negotiating Committee; and

WHEREAS: In 1997, Jim was elected as Vice President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union; and

WHEREAS: In 1999, as Vice President of the International, Jim was selected by the Longshore Division to be the Chairman of the Longshore Negotiating Committee; and

WHEREAS: In 2000 and 2003, Jim was elected President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union; and

WHEREAS: In 2002, Jim, as Chairman of the Longshore Division Contract Negotiations, and under his leadership, the Negotiating Committee successfully negotiated a six-year contract, preserving Pension and Welfare benefits for the Longshore Division; and

WHEREAS: Under Brother Spinosa's leadership, whether as serving as a Local President, Local Vice President, Vice President of the International, or President of the ILWU, the ILWU has made tremendous gains and has prospered; and

WHEREAS: Since Brother Spinosa cannot seek reelection as President of the ILWU; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: In recognition of his service to the ILWU, this Thirty-Third International Convention of the ILWU expresses its most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jim. The ILWU is a better Union because of Jim's tireless efforts. We will miss his leadership and active participation at the International level and wish him success should he decide to continue to participate at the Local level; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That this Thirty-Third International Convention of the ILWU bestow on Jim Spinosa the honor and title of President Emeritus of this great union for which he has served.

Fusion Voting and the Working Families Party

By Terri Mast
IBU National Secretary-Treasurer

The Convention passed a resolution supporting the Working Families Party and the concept of fusion voting. However, many delegates had misunderstandings about what these two things are.

The Working Families Party was founded in 1998 in New York by a coalition of labor and community based organizations including the Northeast regions of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA), locals of the garment and hotels workers' union (UNITE HERE), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and Citizen Action. The Working Families Party is also endorsed by the AFL-CIO. Its legislative agenda includes universal health-care, rent regulation, a living wage and closing the income gap through progressive legislation. Its overall

goal is to build a party that will attract blue-collar Republicans and liberal Democrats as well as the growing numbers of independent voters.

Fusion voting is a strategy used by the Working Families Party. It allows candidates to run as the nominee of more than one political party for any public office. The votes that each candidate receives are tallied by party and then combined. The combined vote has been effective in the states where it has been used by pushing the margin of victory over what it would have been if the candidate had run only as a Democrat or Republican.

This is an incentive for politicians to be Working Families Party candidates because they can see where the winning votes came from. The Working Families Party and fusion voting will give labor an opportunity to gain votes from the places we have been losing them, such as the Republican Party and Independent candidates. It will also give us an opportunity to hold political candi-

dates accountable to our issues. To be a Working Families Party candidate a politician will have to sign onto our agenda, and when they are in office and don't hold true to it, we will have the power to rescind our affiliation with them the next time around.

The Working Families Party has expanded to Connecticut and Oregon. They are now gathering signatures to place an initiative to legalize fusion voting in Oregon and there are plans for the Working Families Party to do the same in Washington in 2007.

ILWU workers seek help**Del Monte outsources its Hawaii pineapple operations**

By Steve Stallone

Globalization hit the shores of Hawaii again last February when Del Monte announced it was moving its pineapple operations, its jobs and its specially developed fruit to Costa Rica, Brazil and Kenya. At the Vancouver Convention representatives of the 700 workers who grow, pick and pack pineapple and run a juice plant, and who are now being tossed aside, turned to their ILWU brothers and sisters for support.

"Del Monte says they don't need Kunia Plantation anymore," Darlene Palmerton, a soon-to-be-unemployed pineapple worker told the delegates. "The managers met with the workers and announced the closure. They thanked the workers for their many years of service and then told them to find another job."

Del Monte planted its last pineapple seeds in February and plans its last harvest in 2008. After that, the pineapple workers who have toiled for generations in Del Monte's Oahu fields will be cut loose and the plantation community abandoned.

"Kunia Camp at one time was a place where neighbors grew old together, watched each other's children and you could keep your doors unlocked because everyone knows everyone living in the camp," Palmerton said. "Growing up as a child in Kunia Camp was a safe haven. Kunia Elementary School was up the road from our home. The church was located across the street and next to that was Kunia Gym where we could play basketball. As I got older I couldn't wait to start work and pick pineapple over the summer to make some money of my own. Thirty-four years later I'm still working for Del Monte and have raised my own children in the same environment."

Hawaii is where the new golden sweet variety of pineapple was developed that is now being grown

elsewhere by cheaper, non-union labor, leaving the ILWU workers jobless.

"When Del Monte managers from Costa Rica wanted to learn how to grow pineapples, they asked the old timers to show them how," Palmerton said. "With pride, the old timers showed them how to prep the land, plant the seed and pick the fruit. These managers thanked the old timers with a pat on the back and went back to Costa Rica to start their own pineapple plantation. The old timers were so happy to help, thinking they helped create another pineapple plantation like Kunia Camp in a different country."

But instead their conscientiousness was used against them. The workers feel particularly offended since they built the industry and made the company profitable.

"I myself and my co-workers worked very hard with our blood, sweat and tears to keep Del Monte going and become successful," Boyd Isneec, the chair of the plantation unit there, said when he addressed the convention. "Now we know what kind of people we are working for. But we are not giving up. We have a petition we would like everyone here to sign. It asks Del Monte to be fair to us, to help us with money and benefits so we can make the transition to new jobs. They owe us this much."

The workers are seeking enhanced severance pay and an extension of medical benefits six months beyond their date of final employment. Through Sen. Dan Inouye (D-HI) and Sen. Dan Akaka's (D-HI) offices



Boyd Isneec, chair of the plantation unit at the Del Monte Oahu operation, addressed the ILWU Convention.

workers have access to job training and job training funds, but the company is not willing to adjust job schedules to allow workers to attend the trainings.

The workers fear being left homeless as well as jobless. Del Monte has agreed to give the plantation camp homes to the workers—the company would otherwise be liable for demolition and disposal costs—but there is a \$190,000 per year shortfall between what the workers pay in rent and the actual costs of operating the camps. The union has asked Del Monte to fund the residents' association so they have a chance to keep the housing, but so far the company has refused.

Del Monte is not shutting down its Hawaii operations because it is losing

money—the company's gross profits have averaged more than \$300 million a year for the last five years. It can just make even more money growing pineapple elsewhere.

"We have gone through plantation closures before," International Representative Tracy Takano said. "But even sugar plantations that were going bankrupt were more willing to help than Del Monte."

To get a copy of the petition to sign and get others to sign, download it at: www.ilwu.org/about/Convention/2006/index.cfm.

Send financial support for the Del Monte workers to: ILWU Local 142 / 451 Atkinson Drive / Honolulu, HI 96814. Earmark checks for "Del Monte workers."

Flag of Convenience campaign**ITF holds docker/seafarer solidarity workshop**

About 50 Convention delegates took their lunch break one day to learn more about the mutual solidarity campaign of dockworkers and seafarers.

For more than 50 years the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a global organization of docker, sailor, trucker and rail and aviation unions, has run what it calls the Flag of Convenience (FoC) campaign. The term refers to the practice by shipowners to have their ships fly the national flag of some country other than their own, some country that—conveniently and for a small fee—exempts them from taxes and labor and environmental laws. Shipowners conveniently avoid national sailor unions and operate their vessels nearly like 17th century slave galleys, paying their seafarers very little and often subjecting them to starvation conditions.

ITF U.S. West Coast Coordinator and former IBU Puget Sound Regional Director Jeff Engels, an able bodied seaman by profession, explained to the assembly that this system has almost devastated American and Canadian union sailors.

"In the early 1950s coming out of WWII, the U.S. had over 2,000 deep sea merchant ships under its flag," Engels said. "Today there are less than 200."

With a PowerPoint presentation

Engels explained that the ITF's goal is to set up a global regulatory system for the shipping industry with minimum standards of pay and conditions. The concept is simple, but getting tramp ships scurrying over the oceans signed onto enforceable contracts isn't. That's where longshore unions like the ILWU come in.

Dockers have a stake in making sure sailors are treated well and aren't required to do cargo-handling work. The FoC campaign relies on mutual aid, the practice of solidarity as a two-way street.

While a ship is in port, longshore workers can help seafarers convince their owners to sign ITF agreements. The contracts not only set the minimum standards, but include a clause prohibiting the seafarers from doing any cargo-handling work, requiring the union dockworkers to do it. By doing all the cargo work themselves, including and particularly the lashing and unlashings, the longshore workers guarantee their work is safe, while the seafarers are guaranteed decent wages and conditions. Both benefit from the arrangement.

Peter Lahay, the Canada ITF coordinator who makes sure ships that call there are covered by ITF contracts, told stories of how ILWU Canada longshore workers had worked with him to enforce those agreements. It's a constant struggle with unscrupulous



ITF West Coast coordinator Jeff Engels explains the docker/sailor solidarity FoC campaign to delegates at a Convention workshop.

maritime employers in today's free trade system, he said.

"Transport unions are the impediment to making trade cheaper," Lahay said.

—S.S.

The ITF West Coast Inspectorate is prepared to show the PowerPoint presentation at any ILWU local. Contact Jeff Engels at: engels_jeff@itf.org.uk.

In the streets and on the floor, Convention pushes organizing

by Marcy Rein

VANCOUVER, BC—The clerk at the Robson Street Safeway seemed quite flustered. At just about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16 a crowd of people burst into his store. They marched down the aisles holding sun-yellow balloons and shouting, "I-L-W-U!" He moved to bar the door, but there seemed to be 300 of them at least and many were bigger than him. Another couple hundred people gathered in the parking lot. What was going on?

The ILWU's 33rd International Convention had recessed to take action in support of a key organizing drive, marching on the Safeway store to enlist that supermarket chain's support for the workers at the Blue Diamond almond processing plant in Sacramento.

The British Columbia Federation of Labour and ILWU Canada laid the groundwork for the march and parking lot rally, which anchored the second International Day of Action in support of the Blue Diamond workers. Affiliates of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) fired up other solidarity actions around the world, giving the delegates a glimpse of what global cooperation could produce.

As unions try to shape their strategies to today's realities, the need to "organize along the global supply chain" has come to the fore. The ILWU is looking at organizing where exports are processed and shipped, and organizing where imports are stored and sorted for distribution.

"The rail, road and dock unions are identified for special attention because of the industrial leverage we have in globalization," Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) National Secretary Paddy Crumlin told the Convention. "We have to identify those that are identifying us, the retail giants in collusion with the manufacturing giants, the logistics and transportation connections between their businesses, the mining and maritime services they require. We have to organize every part of that chain."

This puts a new twist on the ILWU's history of international work.

"We've always been connected internationally," ILWU International Vice President Bob McEllrath said. "Because the world has shrunk and the world economy is so much more connected, the connections we have internationally are now helping us organize locally."

McEllrath opened the organizing section of the Convention agenda May 16, then turned the program over to Organizing Director Peter Olney. After the briefest of introductions, Olney asked the Oxbow Carbon

and Mineral workers to take a bow.

The workers at Oxbow, a bulk petroleum coke shipper in the Port of Long Beach, had just ratified their first contract as members of ILWU Local 13-A. They surprised Olney and the officers by presenting plaques to the International and the Organizing Dept. with thanks for their support over a year and a half of organizing and bargaining.

Then three workers from Blue Diamond took the stage. They put faces to the stories ILWU members had been hearing for months and made the reasons for organizing come alive.

"One of our co-workers, Cesario Aguirre, had a bad accident a couple years ago," Ann Hurlbut told the crowd. "A piece of equipment fell on his head and hit him so hard his eyeball popped out. He was out of work for more than a year. When he came back, he lost his eligibility for medical benefits and paid time off, even though he had been at Blue Diamond for more than 20 years.

"We work hard, we're honest and we give 110 percent even though we're treated like crap," she said, holding up a picket sign à la Norma Rae. It read, "Respect for hard work is all we ask."

Larry Newsome described Blue Diamond's efforts to intimidate and divide the workers and turn them against the union. The company fired, spied on and questioned people, threatened them and tried to mislead them. Some people are scared, he said, but the organizing committee has stayed strong.

"My brothers and sisters at Blue Diamond are making demands that a change must come," Newsome said. "When they kick us, we come together and become more like super-glue. The more they strike us, the stronger we grow. We know if we walk in our own destiny we can make Blue Diamond come around and do the right thing."

The workers have already seen gains from their organizing, Randy Reyes said. Blue Diamond raised wages and lowered the number of hours people need to work to get paid time off.

"We know these things can all be taken away until we get them in a contract," Reyes said. "What can't be taken away is the learning and growing we've done as we organize. We're gaining in maturity as a community of workers standing up for what is right."

Over the last year and a half, organizing committee members have talked to co-workers, community members and political leaders, testified at the State Capitol and the NLRB, rallied, marched and talked



Lewis Wright

BC unionists joined Convention delegates and guests in marching on a local Safeway. While some people kicked off a rally in the parking lot, others took the action right into the store. Safeway sells Blue Diamond products, so the marchers asked the supermarket chain to urge the almond processor to change its anti-union ways.

with international union allies.

"People all over the international community have been involved with us and we are grateful for their support," Reyes said as he introduced ITF Dockers' Section Secretary Frank Leys.

ITF affiliates all over the world took action on behalf of the Blue Diamond workers in November 2005 and again around the ILWU Convention, Leys said. In the recent wave of actions, the All-Japan Seamen's Union wrote to Blue Diamond's Tokyo office. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) wrote to Blue Diamond CEO Doug Youngdahl denouncing the company's anti-union activities. The KCTU also promised to bring the company's labor rights record into negotiations over a U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. (Blue Diamond has asked that duties on almonds imported into Korea be dropped.)

At the ITF's "Ports of Convenience" conference in Manzanillo, Mexico the week before the Convention, delegates from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Argentina, Peru and Brazil signed on to a letter to CEO Youngdahl as strong as that sent by the Koreans. The Maritime Union of New Zealand held stop-work meetings April 27 and resolved to write to Blue Diamond as well.

Australian unionists went all out in support of the Blue Diamond workers, as Crumlin showed in a PowerPoint presentation. Australian Council of Trade Unions President Sharan Burrow sent a letter to Blue Diamond herself.

More than 1,000 people signed on to an MUA petition for the Blue Diamond workers. MUA members all over the country passed resolutions and sent letters of support, among them the crew of the *MV Goliath*, who faxed their handwritten words of encouragement via the Sydney MUA branch.

Working with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union, the Transport Workers' Union and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, the MUA held rallies in Sydney and Melbourne in front of Scalzo Foods, a Blue Diamond customer. Ten minutes into the action in Sydney, Scalzo managers agreed to send a strong letter to Blue Diamond.

"They've taken away our right to strike and even our right to organize in Australia," Crumlin said. "That's not going to stop us from supporting the Blue Diamond workers with every fiber, with every capacity within our

hearts, our minds and our souls. This is not a dispute about Sacramento so much as it is about every worker," he said.

With that, the Convention recessed for the march to Safeway. Some 500 delegates and guests, along with members of the BC Fed, took over Robson Street, one of Vancouver's main shopping drags. Pedestrians gave thumbs-up and passing trucks blared air-horns in solidarity. When the marchers reached the store, about half the crowd pushed inside.

The others yelled and cheered as unionists from Canada, the U.S. and around the world mounted the portable sound-stage lent by Teamsters' Local 31. Speakers included ILWU International President James Spinosa and Vice President McEllrath, ITF General Secretary David Cockroft, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union Secretary-Treasurer Chris Banting, and COPE representative Andy Ross. Sinclair announced that the BC Fed would follow up the day's action by directing all its affiliates in the food industry to contact Safeway on behalf of the Blue Diamond workers.

Fired up by this foray into the streets, the Convention delegates passed six organizing resolutions. The most far-reaching of these put the union on record in support of a New March Inland in Southern California. It directed the International and particularly the Southern California locals to tackle the vast non-union warehouse and distribution industry there, focusing on companies where the union can have strategic leverage. To carry out this new work, the Southern California locals are to create and fund a regional organizing committee that can work with the International Organizing Dept.

"Right now in organizing we don't have the resources we need to go where we need to go," said Peter Peyton from marine clerks' Local 63, who made the motion. "If we don't take on this piece, we will lose in our end game. This is one of the two most important things the union needs to do."

Members will need to understand what this process entails, McEllrath stressed.

"People think, 'where's your organizer, send him out,'" McEllrath said. "It's not just walking into a place and saying, 'Here, sign these cards, you're organized.' It takes the help of the locals and the rank and file, and these days it is also a worldwide project."



Lewis Wright

(Left to right) Singer Heidi Archibald capped the rally at Safeway with a rousing version of "Solidarity Forever," backed up by Blue Diamond workers Randy Reyes, Ann Hurlbut and Larry Newsome.

Interview with ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne

Tom Dufresne has been president of ILWU Canada for the last ten years. It is comprised of mostly longshore locals in British Columbia, the West Coast of Canada, from the port at Roberts Banks just north of the U.S. border to Prince Rupert and Stewart in the far north of B.C. It has other affiliates that are not part of the ILWU International, but have voice but no vote within ILWU Canada. Local 400 is its marine division, the tug and tow and ferry workers of B.C. and, out in the inland provinces, the Retail Wholesale Department Store union and the Grain Services Union.

As president Dufresne has brought ILWU Canada actively into the B.C. Federation of Labour and into local and national politics. He has become a leading national figure in the fight against government repression of workers in the name of port security. All the while, the ILWU Canada ports are booming and setting records for amount of cargo moved, especially in Dufresne's home port of Vancouver, Canada's largest port.

While in Vancouver for the International Convention, *Dispatcher* editor Steve Stallone sat down with Dufresne for this interview.

How did you come to work on the waterfront?

Strictly fate, fluke, whatever you want to call it. I was walking down the street and I was working at Bristol Myers warehouse unloading boxcars. We ran out of work. So I was walking along and I ran into a fella and he said, "Well, they're hiring up at the dispatch hall." So I went up there and they called me back. I went back the next day and put a name in the box and got hired.

Let's talk about port security. Things are stricter in Canada than in the U.S. How much more is being demanded from longshore workers in Canada?

Well, in Canada, on port security, what we've been fighting for is to have the threshold raised, the threshold where they can deny you a port pass or port security clearance. The threshold currently is "reasonable suspicion," which is a very low threshold. We're fighting to get that raised to a minimum of "reasonable cause" to deny you or "reasonable belief." Then they'd have to justify it if you're turned down.

We're also trying to have included a privacy provision so that the information collected cannot be shared with any other government departments in Canada or any foreign governments. And we want a proper, transparent appeals procedure put in place because currently there is none.

The type of information being collected is on not only the individual applying—they want your credit history, your educational background, your work history. But they also want access to the information on anybody you've had a conjugal relationship with during the last five years that's lasted more than a year. And then they're going to run a credit history check against you and against your spouse or any ex-spouses that you may have had. If you got divorced, for instance, in the last three years, and for any ex-spouse in the last five, they have to also agree to have their background checked and that of their relatives.

And it's very far-reaching. In our opinion it borders on fascism. It's certainly not a very far step from ending up in a fascist state.

And they have the right to be wrong, and you have no recourse other than the federal court of Canada, which is a long, cumbersome, expensive procedure. And ultimately the Transport Minister has the right to be wrong as do his bureaucrats.



Tom Dufresne

Photo by Mike Isinger

When you say the right to be wrong, you mean they can still deny you even if they haven't got something solid on you?

That's correct. They could say they have a suspicion. They read a newspaper story, or this whole thing is tied in with the concept of interference with the marine transportation system. So if you're a person who has participated in a picket line or in a demonstration against the government or in a demonstration against transportation, you could be denied under reasonable suspicion that you are interfering, or you might interfere with the transportation system. And, you know, it's just a totally unacceptable situation.

ILWU Canada has been lobbying heavily to try to deal with this, working with other longshore unions...

The ILA on the East Coast and CUPE 375 in Montreal. We formed a coalition called the Canadian Maritime Workers Council to deal with this issue and labor code issues or any issues where we have a common problem that may be arising. We have resolutions of support from municipalities and from the local shipping community and a lot of big businesses that see this as an unwarranted intrusion into people's personal lives. And, when you can get people in business turning around and joining the union, you've got to figure, hey, there's something wrong here.

You hold a seat on the British Columbia Federation of Labor?

Yeah. Also I'm a vice president of the Canadian Labor Congress [CLC] through a small union caucus. There are four seats reserved for small unions and the ILWU was elected to one of those positions in the last two conventions, so I'm in my fourth year there now representing the small unions in Canada. I'm also on the executive council of the New Democratic Party of Canada [NDP].

How does working with other unions affect and support ILWU Canada?

Well, it helps keep us in contact with other unions throughout the province that may be having problems with their employer, but also gives us some clout whenever a problem might come up on the docks the ILWU needs to address. We can have the support of other unions, we can explain our position to them and have them join with us to make presentations to the government.

For instance, a lot of people are opposed to port development and the number of trucks crossing the city streets. So we've got a chance to get

together with them and explain the benefits that are going to come out of the port expansion, you know, more jobs for us, but also more jobs for them, and that is good for the economy. So it helps us in getting our case out there.

You mentioned you were on the Executive Council of the NDP, a decidedly pro-labor party. What advantage does that bring the labor movement?

Well, the advantage is in the situation like we're currently in with a minority parliament. [No party in Parliament won a majority in the last election.] The NDP could hold the balance of power. So we have a right-wing government in office right now with a minority number of seats. The NDP can hold them accountable. For instance, if they want to start coming forward with some laws like in Australia, anti-union or anti-labor laws, the NDP can threaten to withhold their support for the party and actually cause the Parliament to collapse. And a lot of them also introduce bills that'll help workers.

In the last minority parliament, they passed a bill that makes it a criminal offense for the officers of a corporation to knowingly operate an unsafe work place. They can be fined or jailed. It hasn't been used, but it was put in place. They also proposed a law protecting workers' pensions in the event of bankruptcy. We've seen the same thing in Canada as in the U.S. with Chapter 11 bankruptcies and courts coming in and slicing up collective agreements and slashing pension plans. So the NDP managed to sponsor a bill that would protect workers' pensions.

What other things have you accomplished because of the NDP?

Right now we're fighting for anti-scab legislation to be introduced in Parliament. It was introduced in the last Parliament. It was just barely defeated. There are anti-scab laws in three provinces currently, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. It has been found that having anti-scab legislation lowers the number of days lost due to strikes in all sectors because employers have a tendency to focus their attention on the bargaining disputes instead of trying to operate and keeping the union outside.

Also you have card-check recognition which makes organizing a little easier.

Right. In certain of the provinces, you have card-check recognition and under the Canada Labor Code, you can show that you have 35 percent

of the members of a bargaining unit signed up to cards, you're automatically entitled to a vote. If you have more than 55 percent of the members of a plant signed up, you get an automatic certification. And you also get an automatic certification if your employer interferes in the bargaining and it can be proven in front of the Canadian Industrial Relations Board that the employer has interfered to such an extent that it'd be impossible to get a collective agreement. The board can order a certification and impose a first collective agreement.

What do you see in the future for ILWU Canada?

Well, I see us working to get certifications at the container freight stations inland. The land around the waterfront is very, very expensive no matter where you are in North America or in the world. And so the tendency of big corporations like Walmart and Canadian Tire is to want to move their storage facilities inland where they'll load their containers on trains and take them to the midpoint, the prairies, and discharge them and take them to big distribution warehouses and then distribute from there rather than going all the way back east to Toronto or Chicago, what have you. So we believe there's an opportunity there to organize those warehouses, distribution hubs, and also to organize container freight stations where they're shuffling containers and where they're loading trains and unloading trains of containers.

Is there anything else that you'd like to mention to the members?

Just the fact that we enjoyed having the International Convention in Vancouver, Canada once again, and we look forward to it being here again in 18 years. It's good because our members, many of whom may not get to travel to the distant places that the convention is held, it gives them an ability to come downtown here and sit in for a couple hours or come to the social in the evening and then meet their brothers and sisters from the International, from different locals up and down the Coast. And it gives people a chance to realize that we are one big family and that people, whether it be in Seattle or San Pedro, have many of the same problems that we have, and that we have a common enemy and that's the boss, and we have a common fraternity and that's the ILWU.

For full interview with Dufresne, see www.ilwu.org/about/Convention/2006/index.cfm

GUEST SPEAKERS

DANNY GLOVER



“It doesn’t take a rocket scientist—it really doesn’t—to figure this out. We can talk about all kinds of statistics and strategies around profit, about all the theories around markets. But there is something in that discussion that cannot be reduced, that cannot be ignored. What cannot be reduced is those who don’t care about what happens to human beings, what happens to children, what happens to those who work all their lives and who then

retire. We cannot be reduced to forgetting about that. No matter what the market strategies, whatever the market theories, whatever the current economic theories are, we cannot be reduced to believing that all of this is natural science. This is not natural science. This is about what human beings do and how human beings transform themselves or not transform themselves, how human beings themselves act and decide what is important. If life and the preservation of life is important, then that is what we have to elevate. Not the preservation of profits, not the preservation of evil-spiritedness, not the preservation of inhumanity. We have to hold on to the preservation of people. And unions do that. Unions talk about the people and they do that.”

RICHARD TRUMKA, AFL-CIO SECRETARY-TREASURER

“I want you to think about a convention hall like this that goes back a hundred years when our forefathers sat in a place like this fighting, struggling, bleeding and sometimes dying so that we could build a better country. Now they are trying to tear it all down. You see, the contradictions are stark and the damage to working families is deep. Quite frankly, when I look at it, I am ashamed of our country, what it’s doing to workers.



“Brothers and sisters, these atrocities didn’t just happen accidentally. Neither God nor the mysterious hand of the marketplace is responsible. They are the result of a corporate war on working families, and it’s been going on for 25 years now. The wounds are raw and the wounds are visible and the effect that it is having on our country is more pronounced than it has ever been.”

DAVID COCKROFT, ITF GENERAL SECRETARY



“I arrived yesterday from Washington where I was briefing many U.S. affiliates of the ITF on our action program, just in time for the Blue Diamond march which showed very clearly that the ILWU is a fighting union, ready to take its demands onto the streets. I was very happy to be part of that rally—which we will be publicizing to unions around the world as part of our electronic online news service. I’m happy to see the close cooperation here in the

beautiful city of Vancouver between two ITF affiliates—the ILWU and the Teamsters. And that in holding a rally outside Safeway you were demonstrating the importance of coordinating the entire supply chain—production, transportation and distribution—to making union solidarity effective in today’s globalized world.

PADDY CRUMLIN, MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA, NATIONAL SECRETARY

“As Einstein said, ‘there are only two things in the world that are infinite—the universe and humanity’s capacity for stupidity.’ And he wasn’t too sure about the first one.

“The length of the stupidity of these people, ironically elected to represent our interests, the interests of the public—that is the irony of it in countries like the U.S. and Australia and our wonderful constitution and the way our nations were born. These people were put in place to represent our interests. And the lengths of their stupidity are as dangerous as they are breathtaking.

“How do they achieve such high status? How do these people achieve such high station on such little decency and moral intelligence? They are bankrupt of it. Take for example, your mate, Miniace. What a genius. Locked you out, nearly destroyed the economy, prompted and promoted the strength of the labor movement through your wonderful struggle here on the docks, signed the contract, then got the sack.

“What a genius. You wouldn’t employ him to take the garbage out and have any hope it was going to get to the curb, much less let him run a dock on the West Coast of America.

“Or Bush and Howard and the ‘coalition of the willing.’ The willing what? The only thing they were willing to do was preserve the institutionalized greed and corruption of the global world incorporated, who paid for their neon-lit, sugar-coated, multi-colored lies and distortions of their election campaign—and also, no doubt, paid for some of those hanging chads on the voting cards in Jeb Bush’s state of Florida.

“Iraq is now a replay of Palestine or Northern Ireland, Serbia or Croatia, slaughter on slaughter in a wicked downward spiral of public corruption, insane revenge, and ruthless and unremitting murder and mayhem that will feed on itself and draw more and more innocents into the corruption and distortion of life there for generations.

“The final stupidity that is visited upon us in that war is that they have ensured that oil prices have soared. And, of course, who is going to pay the price?

“The savage injustices and gross stupidities have been visited upon Iraq in the name of global economic expansion by political policy—neoconservatives, they will call them—political policymakers whose cunning matches their stupidity. We know the war was really about carving up the second largest oil producer in the world. Cheney and Bush’s campaign supporters were in there like rats up a drainpipe. Halliburton, Stevedoring Services of America, all in there for the carve-up, all in there for the gourmet meal. But the gourmet meal has become sour and fetid in their hungry mouths and guts and slowly poisoning the world for all of us.

“These policymakers do not reflect on provisions and qualities of democracy, freedom, justice or equality. They do not aspire to promote, admire, or reward honest work, honest labor, but seek to exploit and control. So their policies closer to our homes reflect the same values. They wrap their public pronouncements in invocations of good versus evil, as if they actually do have a sense of morality, distortions built on falsehoods, built on lies into a citadel, a Mt. Everest of political bullshit.”



AH QUON McELRATH

“Somebody said, it’s impossible to organize among immigrants. Well, you know, the ILWU did it in Hawaii. Do you realize that in 1944 we organized all of the sugar workers, all of the progeny of people who were brought to Hawaii under the Masters and Servants Act which was enacted in 1850. We organized the Japanese, the Chinese, the Koreans, the Hawaiians, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the Filipinos. Talk about immigrants. Yes we did it!”



To see full text of guest speeches visit www.ilwu.org/about/Convention/2006/index.cfm

Longshore Caucus prepares for 2008 negotiations

Story by Steve Stallone
Photos by Lewis Wright

Continuing preparations for what promises to be another contentious round of negotiations in 2008, the Longshore Division Caucus reviewed and updated its plans to be in a position of strength.

They grappled with new government port security regulations that could screen members off the waterfront, plotted a legislative and electoral plan, strategized the continuing conflict with the employers over jurisdiction and technology, took the next steps to further the Coast public relations program, authorized the development of new member education materials, solidified its alliance with a growing international dockers organization and approved a budget for the next year to carry it all out.

PORT SECURITY

In a belated attempt to appear pro-active on port security, the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) has mandated that all longshore workers must be checked against the FBI's terrorist watch list. To do so the government has required employers and unions to provide it with the names, dates of birth (DOB) and Social Security numbers of all workers having unescorted access to U.S. ports.

To prove there are no terrorists in the ILWU, the Caucus agreed to furnish the names and DOBs in compliance with current government regulations. But citing privacy and identity theft concerns, the Coast Committee does not keep nor would it give out members' Social Security numbers, especially since recently the personal information of 26 million war veterans was stolen from government data bases. The Social Security numbers are not required, and since they show up in government data bases along with name and DOB, the government will likely only need them if there is more than one person with the same name and DOB.

If there is a match with the terrorist watch list, the government will notify the individual and the union and/or employer. The individual can file for an appeal within 30 days of notification, although DHS has not set a standard of review. The individual is responsible for filing the appeal, but the ILWU will assist any member or casual falsely snagged in the process.

PENSION AND WELFARE

The Pension and Welfare Benefits Committee reported that health care costs continue to rise substantially, driven by administrative costs and the profits required by the American



Caucus chair Joe Cortez (left) confers with International President James Spinosa (center) and International Vice President Bob McEllrath (right).

private health insurance system. Still, the maritime trade industry is booming and the Coast employers can afford the Longshore Division's demand of Maintenance of Benefits (MOB).

The committee recommended that in the 2008 negotiations the union "remains committed not to accept any increases in co-pays of any type." Once the union opens the door to co-pays, the committee contended, there's no telling where it will stop or how high it might go. To keep the ranks solid in that position the committee also recommended preparing a member education program on health care and the need for MOB and that Area Benefits Directors, Locals and Pensioner Clubs continue to remind MediCare eligible actives, pensioners and surviving spouses that they receive their prescription drug coverage through the ILWU Welfare Plan and that Medicare eligible actives, pensioners and surviving spouses are not to sign up for the Medi-Care Part D Prescription Drug Benefit. The committee also stressed the importance of checking the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) that comes in the mail to verify all the services billed were received.

While keeping its maintenance of benefits the fundamental requirement, the union continues to pursue alternative approaches to quality health care and to work to pass universal single-payer legislation as the only real solution to the national health care crisis. The union will request the employers

to join in this effort as agreed to in the 2002 contract.

The report also stressed the importance of the longshore Defined Benefit Pension plan. And the committee proposed discussing a study of the environmental health affects of longshore work on its members and port communities. The Caucus accepted all the committee's recommendations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PR Committee reviewed its work of the last year to improve the union's image and train its rank and file to do the on-the-ground work to make it happen. This included the Coastwise media trainings for local officers, its week-long communications seminar for 61 rank and filers last January and the recent projects where the skills learned were put to use—unveiling the ILWU's anti-air pollution "Savings Lives" campaign and staffing the ILWU exhibition booth at high profile events.

The committee recommended and the Caucus agreed, to continue its local officer and rank-and-file training program, build the union's website and its e-activism capacity, support the Tacoma-based "Black History and labor" celebrations produced by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, sponsor the Local 10 Drill Team to travel to three port cities to perform at public events and begin interviewing national and local PR firms in preparation for 2008 and building more internal PR capacity.

The Caucus-funded documentary film on the 2002 contract struggle—"The Eye of the Storm"—was shown to delegates. They decided to send it to the Negotiating Committee to critique and send suggestions to the Coast Committee that will make final decisions on it.

SAFETY NOW

Safety Committee chair John Castanho introduced his group's report and the importance of its work by reading the names and locals of the three ILWU longshore workers killed on the job since the last Caucus a year ago, and asking for a moment of silence in their memory.

The issue of Vertical Tandem Lifts (VTLs), the dangerous practice of lifting more than one container at a time, took an odd twist as the U.S. military proposed a Horizontal Tandem Lift (HTL), picking them up side-by-side instead of on top of each other. The Safety Committee contends there are no safe connectors for

containers no matter the configuration. Similarly, the Safety Committee remains steadfastly against driving through the gamma ray-emitting Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (VACIS), especially since at a recent Congressional hearing employers asked not to be made liable in future lawsuits by longshore workers over diseases caused by exposure from VACIS machines.

The committee's continuing work on worker exposures from leaking hide loads finally got the U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association to institute measures to improve hide load safety. Currently the largest hide-handling company, Carghill, has started using 20 mm sleeve liners to limit exposures to the most virulent E-Coli virus strains. The committee will continue to pursue other safety technologies.

The committee reported that as a result of its pro-active work on federal occupational health regulations, one of its members, Safety Committee chair John Castanho, will have a seat on the Marine Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH) once the Dept. of Labor re-charter the committee.

MEMBER EDUCATION

The Education Committee sponsored four area workshops on the Longshore Health and Welfare Benefits program last fall, explaining to active members and pensioners what they have, how to access it and the importance of demanding MOB in the 2008 negotiations. The committee is also working on a Longshore Education Class to be used as a template for local membership education programs and is reviewing and cataloging education materials for local use.

The committee is currently planning a series of workshops on International Relations and Solidarity focusing on how employers are trying to restrict or eliminate union dockers' rights and jurisdiction worldwide, and how docker unions are organizing to protect each other; on the Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code and how it has developed as part of the Longshore contract over the decades; on contract administration, arbitrations and grievance procedures; and on preparing for the 2008 negotiations.

THE POLITICAL ARENA

The Legislative Committee reiterated its recommendations from last year to continue fundraising for both national and local Political Action Funds and educate members about its importance; build the area District



Delegates line up for their turn to speak at the mic.

Longshore Safety Committees meet

By John Castanho

History was made during the ILWU Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia. For the first time in anyone's memory, the Longshore Safety Committees from the U.S. West Coast, Canada, Hawaii and Alaska all met for a meeting to discuss a variety of issues regarding the health and safety of all longshore workers.

The convention provided the extraordinary opportunity for longshore safety committee representatives, most of whom were delegates, to meet May 19, after the adjournment of the convention. The states of California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska, as well as the Canadian Province of British Columbia were all represented at this meeting. Numerous safety-related issues were discussed, including diesel and ship's emissions, Automatic External Defibrillators, Vertical Tandem Lifts, Horizontal Tandem Lifts, Multiple Flatrack Lifts, safe methods of steel discharge and discussions regarding the recent accidents and fatalities that have occurred in different ports around the world.

The meeting turned out to be an excellent opportunity for committee members to exchange ideas promoting safer longshore work prac-

tices, discuss furthering the education of our membership regarding the importance of safety awareness and discuss the need to promote the "Greener Ports" initiative that has already been undertaken on the West Coast. All Safety Committee members took advantage of the opportunity to exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses in order to improve our lines of communication. Through this, it is our intent to make all of our work-sites a safer place to work.

The following Coast Safety Committee members were present at the meeting: John M. Castanho (Local 10, Chairman), Danny Miranda (94), Jerry Ylonen (8), Mike Zuliani (63), Pete Favazza (M&R), Dennis Brueckner (54), Roger Boespflug (23), and Richard Alvarez (13). For the Hawaii longshore Safety Committee, Nate Lum (Chairman, Local 142), Ross Furoyama (142), Nathan Dudoit (142), David Jones (142), Kimo Brown (142), and Tyrone Tahara (142). For the Alaskan longshore Safety Committee, Pete Hendrickson (200) and Dennis Young (200) were present. And representing the Canadian longshore Safety Committee were Al Le Monnier (Chairman, Local 500), Bill Fraser (502), Chuck Zuckerman (500), John Collins (502), Dan Cook (505), Dave Dosen (500) and Dave Pritchett (500).



Front row, left to right—John M. Castanho (10), Pete Hendrickson (200), Jerry Ylonen (8), Al Le Monnier (Local 500 and Third Vice President, ILWU Canada), Dave Dosen (500); Middle Row—Chuck Zuckerman (500), John Collins (502), Pete Favazza (M&R), Richard Alvarez (13); Back Row—Mike Zuliani (63), Roger Boespflug (23), Dennis Brueckner (54), Nate Lum (142), Danny Miranda (94).

Frank Leys, Secretary of the Dockers' Section of the International Transport Workers' Federation was also present.

The Canadian delegation wished to inform our membership that the meeting was very worthwhile, and

the only disappointment was that we did not have more time to discuss additional safety-related issues. It is our hope that we can all meet again soon to continue exchanging ideas and share information.

Longshore Caucus prepares *continued*

Councils and coordinate strategies with all divisions of the ILWU; coordinate a political action, legislation and public relations strategy; and build coalitions with other progressive groups.

The committee further recommended designing a contract legislative strategy in preparation for 2008 and that funds be used to send members to key states in an attempt to take back the House of Representatives from the Republicans in the November 2006 mid-term elections.

Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin reported on his work in Washington, D.C., particularly on issues of port security. He stressed the importance of electing a Democratic majority in the House because then Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), a long-time friend of the ILWU, would be Speaker of the House and in a position to block any anti-ILWU legislation that might arise during the 2008 negotiations.

TECHNOLOGY AND JURISDICTION

The Clerks' Technology Committee reported that the employers are using their new technologies differently than initially presented. For example,



Northwest Coast Committeeman Joe Wenzl, who is not running for re-election, was honored at the end of the Caucus.

the PierPass program was supposed to be an appointment system for delivering and picking up containers. But now the employers are using the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags on containers for traffic tracking and control throughout the terminal. In numerous other ways they are using new technologies not just to eliminate clerks' work, but outsource as much of the documentation and coordination of cargo as they can. Their ultimate goal is to remove clerks from the docks and completely automate terminals, including longshore equipment.

But the Technology Committee is using the framework for new technology implementation in the 2002 contract to keep the jobs. The committee looks first at how a new technology modifies jobs—rather than replaces them—and sees what jobs remain and what new ones are created.

The employers' tactic is to try to use procedural reasons to deny the union an opportunity to argue for jobs. They purposefully try to confuse the issues and hide information about the new technology they are contractually mandated to give the union. They have hired additional personnel dedicated to fighting the union over technology issues.

But the union's technology committee has fought back and won about 75 percent of its arbitrations and procedural challenges. It has won additional job categories and paid trainings for new positions. But a lot of the new jobs are higher skilled, and the union needs to make sure its members are able to handle them or management will step into the void.

FINANCES

The Budget Committee reported that the Longshore Division's finances have "improved substantially" over the last year even while funding its ambitious programs. This was accomplished in part by basing its budget on the dues of 11,000 members when new registration has increased the Division's numbers to 14,000.

The committee projects that even with the expanded programs the Caucus approved, it will still remain within budget without increasing the members' pro-rata payments.

CRUISE SHIP JURISDICTION

Cruise ship work has been expanding dramatically all along the Coast, but with that growth has come problems with jurisdiction and manning.

In June of 2005 Carnival Cruise Lines and SSA challenged ILWU jurisdiction in Alaska, moving its port-of-call from the union port of Steward to Whittier. Some 90 rank and filers from all over the Coast were sent to Whittier to convince the employers of the folly of their ways. A picket line, some arrests and some union-positive media soon did the trick.

Still, inconsistent manning at different ports has caused problems, but the committee is working to establish a standard.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Director of International Affairs Ray Familathe reviewed the Division's International solidarity work over the last year. The Longshore Division sponsored a four-day Pacific Rim Mining and Maritime gathering in Long Beach, Calif. in May 2005 with the help of Boron Local 30 and borax processing Local 20. The meeting brought together unions in the critical natural resources global supply chain to discuss ways to help each other with their mutual international employers.

The following September the Coast Committee and Familathe led a 15-member delegation to England for the 10-year commemoration of the Liverpool Dockers struggle, which initiated the modern international dockers movement. The Coast Committee and Familathe also represented the ILWU in Barcelona, Spain in March 2005 for the Second General Assembly of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC), an international dockers organization formed during the Liverpool Dockers dispute. And in January 2006 International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams led an ILWU delegation to Strasbourg, France to protest a European Union plan to privatize docks throughout the continent. The European-wide demonstrations and port shutdowns organized by the IDC and the International Transport Workers' Federation's (ITF) European faction the European Transport Workers Federation (ETF),

forced the European Parliament to vote down the plan.

IDC leader Julian Garcia from the Spanish docker union *Coordinadora* addressed Caucus. He told the delegates about the recent growth in numbers and strength of the IDC and of the ILWU's crucial role in the global dockers movement. (A longer interview with Garcia will be published in the next issue of *The Dispatcher*.)

Local 63 pensioner Lewis Wright reported on a May 2006 trip he made to Mexico for the Coast Committee to meet with Mexican longshore workers there who are beginning the rebuilding of port worker unions after the government smashed them and privatized the nation's ports in 1995.

Two Mexican Pacific Coast ports, Manzanillo and Lazaro Cardenas, are expanding their container capacity and Hutchison Ports of Hong Kong is building a new container port facility 150 miles south of Ensenada. Along with a rail line running across Mexico and through Texas to Kansas City, the idea is to bypass the ILWU Los Angeles and Long Beach ports.

Wright met with the Mexican longshore unionists together with the ITF's Antonio Fritz Rodriguez and Frank Leys and Benjamin Davis of the AFL-CIO Mexico Solidarity Center to explore setting up relations and lines of communications between the ILWU and the Mexican dockers for mutual aid. Further discussions will continue.

COAST COMMITTEEMEN NOMINATIONS

As it does every three years, the Caucus nominated candidates for the Coast Committeemen positions. Incumbent California Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz Jr. is running unopposed. Since current Northwest Coast Committeeman Joseph Wenzl is not seeking re-election, the Northwest Coast Committeeman race will be between Duane Johnson (Local 51, Port Gamble) and Leal Sundet (Local 8, Portland). For candidate statements see page 19.

For full text of caucus resolutions and committee reports, see www.ilwu.org/longshore/about/Caucus/2006/index.cfm

International Convention emphasizes organiz

Story by Steve Stallone
Photos by Lewis Wright and Steve Stallone

Rank and file delegates from throughout ILWU territory—California, Oregon, Washington state, Alaska, Hawaii and British Columbia—gathered for the union's 33rd International Convention in Vancouver, B.C. May 15-19. They agreed on a strategically targeted approach to organizing; an unequivocal anti-Bush, anti-Iraq War position; a progressive domestic policy agenda, particularly on health care and the environment; a political action plan for the upcoming elections and a budget with a small dues increase to fund it all.

THE BUDGET

The budget proposal brought to the Convention delegates was worked out by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and the other Titled Officers, along with the International Trustees and with the input of Hawaii Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura and IBU National Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast. Already a consensus document, the assembly passed it without opposition and without amendments.

The budget is mostly a status quo plan, keeping most all International programs and departments funded at the same levels with small increases to account for expected inflation. It includes modest, progressive increases in members' dues, with those who make the most contributing the larger share of the increase.

ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE!

The budget adheres to the mandate of the 1997 International Convention to dedicate 30 percent of the union's revenues to organizing. The Organizing Dept. has been focusing on strategic drives, moving into areas where the union has strength

and the leverage to win, and where the newly organized industries and workers help protect where the union already is. The policy resolutions the convention's delegates passed kept to that approach.

"The New March Inland in Southern California" (P-4) is the core policy of the ILWU's new organizing program. It commits the International and the Southern California locals to focus attention and resources to following the mass migration of container cargo from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the inland areas where the warehouses and information services run by the longshore employers of the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and their subsidiaries have seen an explosion of employment.

These cargo-handling and tech workers labor without the advantages of union contracts, wages, conditions and benefits. They are prime targets for the union's organizing efforts, can be helped by the ILWU's port power and in return can strengthen the Longshore Division.

Another resolution (P-3) similarly commits the union to develop strategies for organizing in the ILWU's Marine Division, the Inlandboatmen's Union's (IBU) critical tug and towboat sector on the West Coast and Hawaii. The IBU has lost density to non-union operators, threatening not only their good jobs, but also the security of the ILWU on the docks. The organizing of these non-union towboat companies will also strengthen the bargaining position of Alaska Longshore, the IBU Alaska Region and the IBU's Region 37.

Alaska is dependent on maritime transport for receiving goods and exporting its natural resources. But union strength at ports in that state has been eroded by the continuing emergence of non-union shipping and

stevedoring companies, especially in Dutch Harbor, the largest fishing port in the world. Many of these non-union companies are also making inroads at ports in the state of Washington. So the delegates passed a resolution (P-7) committing the union to provide resources to organize in Dutch Harbor and throughout the Alaska maritime trade industry.

During the Convention the delegates heard from three workers from the newly organized Oxbow petroleum coke facility in the Port of Long Beach. Three workers from the organizing committee at the Blue Diamond Growers almond processing facility in Sacramento told the Convention their conflicts with their employer. Taking a break from their proceedings, the delegates marched 500 strong to a local Safeway supermarket where they convinced management to send a letter to Blue Diamond asking the employers to recognize the union (see story page 7).

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

The delegates took several practical steps towards the ILWU's long-standing policy goal of universal health care. The most important of these was having the ILWU join many other unions and progressive health care organizations in the growing movement to endorse HR 676, a bill currently in Congress by John Conyers (D-MI) that phases in universal, single-payer health care for every American.

The U.S. spends more than \$2 trillion per year on health care, 50 percent more of its Gross National Product than nations with universal single-payer systems. And yet 46 million Americans lack coverage and 18,000 people die each year because they cannot afford the care they need. Over \$400 billion alone is spent on paper work and administrative costs, much of it duplicative and unnecessary. HR 676 would provide equal access to all necessary medical care regardless of income level, without deductibles or co-pays. It would cover hospitalization and office visits, prescription drugs, dental and vision care, home health, nursing home, long-term and mental health care and rehabilitation, and would remain in place even if someone becomes unemployed or retires.

The delegates also passed a resolution on the prescription drug problem. It notes that the Republican-passed plan does not "make prescription drugs available and affordable for every senior who needs them" as Bush promised. Costs remain high because the law prohibits Medicare from bargaining for cheaper prices and the program is administered by private insurance companies with a multitude of confusing plans. The resolution commits the ILWU to support legislation that would restore coverage in Medicaid (for lower income people, seniors and disabled), eliminate privatization in administering the prescription drug plan and revert that back to Medicare and authorize Medicare to negotiate cheaper drug prices in the U.S. and Canada.

GREEN AND BLUE

The delegates to the 33rd Convention placed the ILWU firmly in the environmental movement, rejecting the false choice between good jobs and healthy work places and communities, and demanding both. The cornerstone of that policy is the "Saving Lives" campaign, the program for cleaner, greener ports begun by L.A. Harbor Commissioner and International Vice President, Mainland candidate Joe Radisich. As part of a larger anti-pollution effort, the resolution on the Saving Lives campaign (P-13) commits the ILWU



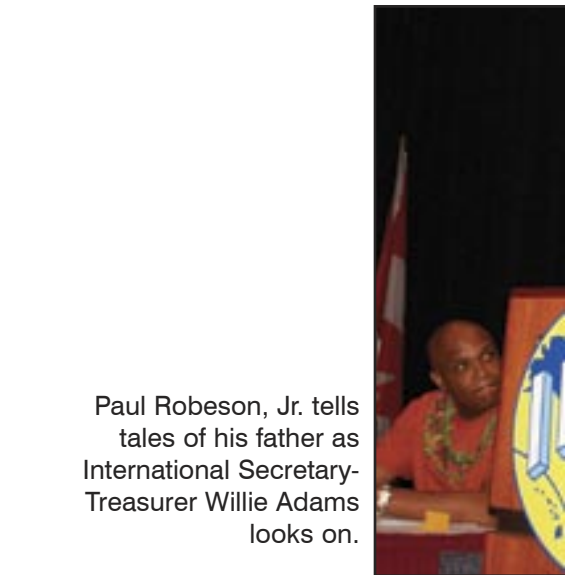
ILWU Canada pensioner Ken Merone presents painting he made as a gift from the Vancouver



Clerks' Local 63 delegation.



Hawaii Local 142 delegation.



Paul Robeson, Jr. tells tales of his father as International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams looks on.



AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka (International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams Spinosa (right) applaud.

ing, political action and member mobilization



International President James Spinosa an oil Host Committee to the International.

to press industry into cleaning up ship smokestack emissions, the single largest cause of air pollution at ports, not just at ILWU ports, but on a global, industry-wide basis.

Those trying to regulate industry pollution always run up against objections that there is no scientific proof that these emissions cause cancers and disease. Although IBU workers on tugs and oil barges in the San Francisco Bay Area have been found to have the highest mortality rate in California, statistical evidence of the causes has been lacking. The delegates passed a resolution to have the ILWU support and organize life-long port worker and resident health studies of illness and death, and to organize health and safety campaigns for port workers regularly exposed to maritime toxic hazards.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-5) brought by members of ILWU Canada demanding the Canadian government require manufacturers to disclose what carcinogens, no matter how small, are in their products, and that employers must inform their employees of any carcinogens they may be exposed to at work.

POLITICAL ACTION

The need to take action to change the political atmosphere and the social policies unions operate under in the U.S. and Canada was on the mind of every delegate and echoed in most of the guest speakers' presentations. The Convention's delegates took several steps toward that end.

They passed a symbolic "Vote of No Confidence" in George W. Bush (R-15). Then in a resolution going on for two pages listing Bush's crimes against humanity, democracy and unions, they enumerated a basic five-point program to "Take Our Government Back" in the 2006 and 2008 elections. It calls on the ILWU to mobilize its members to elect pro-labor candidates in 2006 and 2008, calls on locals to urge their members to contribute to the union's Political Action Fund, calls on every local and region to establish functional political action programs, and urges all locals to undertake workplace campaigns to educate members about the union's political action program, register members and their families to vote and get out the vote.

Another resolution (P-19) requires more communications among the District Councils, the regional political arms of the ILWU. It directs the District Councils to expand their capacity to contact and educate members about the ILWU's positions and urges all locals to affiliate with and participate in their AFL-CIO state federations and central labor councils.

Yet another resolution (P-11) urges members to make regular payroll deduction contributions to the ILWU Political Action Fund through their local credit unions and that payroll deduction authorization cards be available through local halls and at local meetings.

Many delegates expressed frustration with the Democratic Party's seemingly spineless loyal opposition to Republican policies. The need for new political formations that could stand firmly for labor principles echoed throughout the hall. A long debate ensued on a resolution about "fusion voting" (R-16), a new electoral system that can help third parties get elected and influence policies (see story page 5).

The system is in place and working in New York State and many unions in Oregon and Washington state are supporting initiatives on the November 2006 ballot in their states to legalize fusion voting. Some delegates hesitated to vote for a system

they were unfamiliar with, but the majority passed it and its position for the ILWU to promote and fund efforts to legalize fusion voting.

The delegates passed another resolution (R-36) supporting ILA Charleston Local 1422 (home of the Charleston 5 and Ken Riley) and the South Carolina labor movement's pioneering efforts to run independent Labor Party candidates for state office in November 2006.

NO WAR

Three years of death and destruction in Iraq with no end or resolution in sight have turned most Americans against the war. It has affected the ILWU too.

At the last International Convention three years ago, less than two months after the "shock and awe" invasion, resolutions against the war engendered rancorous debate even if they passed by large margins. This time four resolutions dealing with Iraq all passed without opposition. One from ILWU Canada demanded the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraq (R-4). Another (R-33) called for Congress to pass House Joint Resolution 55, called "Homeward Bound," a plan for withdrawing American troops.

Yet another resolution (R-23) called for the immediate end to military actions in Iraq and withdrawal of U.S. troops, for ILWU regions to introduce Iraq withdrawal resolutions in local and state government, for the Bush administration to fully fund veteran health care, education and housing assistance and for the Bush administration to seek diplomatic solutions to its differences with Iran.

A fourth resolution calls on the Iraqi government to cease its repression of the Iraqi port workers' union and allow the free exercise of labor rights throughout the country. It also calls on the U.S. and Iraqi govern-

ments to abandon plans to privatize that country's ports, factories and national resources, for the ILWU to establish a direct relationship with Iraqi port workers and support their organizing efforts, and promote the Iraqi port workers' union's cause among the international dockers movement.

IMMIGRATION

With the immigrant rights movement front and center on the current political scene and its mass demonstrations happening on May Day, International Workers Day, the delegates took the opportunity to reaffirm the ILWU's long-standing policy in support of immigrant rights. They passed two resolutions (R-35 and R-52) blaming the dislocation of millions of people and the recent unprecedented levels of global immigration on multi-national corporation's economic policies, and calling for a "sane" immigration policy: no criminalization of workers crossing borders; no guest worker programs designed to strip workers of human rights and the right to organize; and a clear and reasonable path to permanent resident status and citizenship.

EDUCATION FIRST

The budget approved contained the money for one of the union's ongoing member education programs. It funds another Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Institute in early 2007 and another Secretary-Treasurer training seminar for local financial officers later that year.

The delegates also passed a resolution to fund an updated and improved edition of "The ILWU Story" booklet that is used widely for new member orientation.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The ILWU's internationalism

continued on next page



McElrath and McEllrath: International Vice President Bob McEllrath listens as ILWU legend Ah Quon McElrath gives the delegates a history lesson.



(at podium) fires up the delegates as (left) and International President James



Pensioners' delegation.



Longshore Local 10 delegation.

International Convention report *continued*

was front and center at the 33rd Convention. First and foremost was simply holding it in Canada for the first time in 18 years. From the border crossing customs checks and currency exchanges, to the signage in English and French (French is the other official language of Canada), the delegates got a good dose of the cultural and political differences between the two countries as well as the similarities.

Jim Sinclair, president of the British Columbia Federation of Labour, addressed the convention, asserting that workers need to ignore national borders, especially when dealing with politics and organizing. Workers in both countries need to defend national health care in Canada and work to establish a similar system in the U.S., he said. He also noted that food unions in British Columbia are supporting the ILWU's Blue Diamond organizing drive.

The delegates also heard from Jack Layton, the national leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP), the country's pro-labor political party. While the NDP has doubled its seats in Parliament in the last two elections, it is still a minority party. Nonetheless, Layton pointed out, the NDP used its strength to stop a massive corporate tax cut and instead used the money to help working people, investing in public education, housing, public transit and cleaner air and water programs. They are continuing in that direction this year, proposing legislation to ban strike-breakers and to protect workers' pensions when companies go bankrupt.

"We're going to move forward by building on our successes," Layton said, "because the place for unions is not just on the shop floor, but on the floor of the House of Commons and the floor of Congress."

Other guest speakers added to the Convention's international flavor.

Akinobu Itoh, General Secretary of the Japanese dockworkers union Zenkowan, came to the Convention to renew his union's special Solidarity agreement with the ILWU and to present a banner to commemorate the mutual friendship. He told the delegates that Zenkowan is fighting off government attempts to deregulate and privatize Japan's ports.

"We hope to use the Solidarity statement as a lever to oppose multinational corporations that seek to control global distribution," Itoh said.

Do Van Quang, President of the Vietnam Shipping Lines Workers' Union, told the delegates that his country is moving further towards a market economy, presenting new challenges to unions there. He expressed the hope that a relationship with the

ILWU will help them through it.

David Cockroft, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a global organization of docker, sailor, trucker and rail and aviation workers' unions, told the convention of how his group coordinates solidarity actions around the world (for more see story page 6). ITF Dockers Section Secretary Frank Leys informed the delegates of specific actions the ITF and its affiliates coordinated in support of the Blue Diamond workers in Japan, Korea, Australia, India and Latin America.

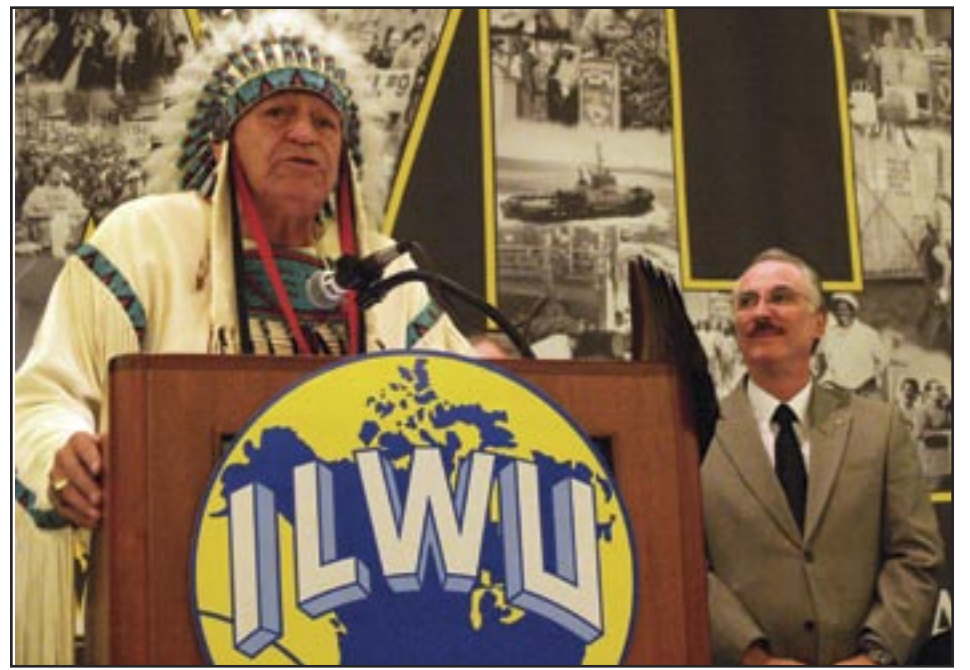
Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), railed against Bush and the right-wing Prime Minister of Australia John Howard, who he called "Bush's pet poodle." Crumlin spoke of the new anti-labor laws passed in his country that do not directly outlaw unions, but make most everything they do acting as unions illegal. Collectively bargained agreements can be terminated at any time at the whim of the employer. If in negotiations union officials dare to ask for a remedy for an unfair firing, or ask for payroll deductions for union dues or ask for union involvement in training and safety programs, the union is fined \$30,000 and the individual union official is fined \$6,000.

"If you are a recidivist like me and keep doing it, then, of course, they stop fining you and send you



International Vice President, Mainland candidate Joe Radisich (left) talks it over with International Vice President, Mainland Bob McElrath.

to jail," Crumlin added, laughingly defiantly. "We have stood together on many battlegrounds over many generations to deliver dignity and decency for all workers, all workers facing oppression and exploitation, and we will continue to, wherever there is a campaign or wherever there is a picket line."



Chief Red Baker, Honorary Leader of the Squamish Band, gives the invocation to commence the Convention.

STAR SPEAKERS

The delegates were regaled by several star-quality speakers, including movie actor and activist Danny Glover. He spoke of the importance of unions in the past and in today's world. He noted that both his parents were union workers and union organizers, and that he learned his sense of justice from them.

"We need unions more than ever now," Glover said. "People need jobs

the delegates to put their energies into defeating the Republicans in the November Congressional mid-term elections. He offered an optimistic assessment of the labor movement's chances.

"There is some good news, if you want to call it that. President Bush's approval rating is now under 29 percent," Trumka said to the delegates' applause. "But here is the question I have for you. What the hell is that 29 percent thinking? What would the guy have to do to lose favor with them?"

The delegates were treated to another history lesson from one of the ILWU's living legends, Ah Quon McElrath. Now 90 years old and still full of verve and insight, McElrath worked for the union since it first organized Hawaii's sugar and pineapple workers in the 1940s, first on its fledgling newspaper and later in its social service and educational programs.

This time she put globalization and its effects on workers in a long-view perspective and challenged the rank and file to organize or allow the employers to dictate the terms of their work and their lives.

Paul Robeson Jr. narrated between rare archival film clips from the 1940s and 1950s of his father, Paul Robeson Sr., the radical black actor, singer and activist whom Harry Bridges made an honorary member of the ILWU. Like Bridges, Robeson was harassed and accused of being a Communist and his brilliant career was stunted. But he never stopped using his art and his activism in support of worker and civil rights.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER NOMINATIONS

With International President James Spinosa retiring, International Vice President, Mainland Bob McElrath will run for International President without opposition. Those who nominated and seconded his nomination were from all over the union—Joe Cortez from longshore Local 13, Hawaii Local 142 Longshore Chair Nate Lum, Fred Pecker, Secretary-Treasurer of the largest warehouse local, Local 6 and ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne. Local 13 member, Southern California District Council President and L.A. Harbor Commissioner Joe Radisich will run unopposed for International Vice President, Mainland, as will incumbent International Vice President, Hawaii Wesley Furtado and incumbent International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams.

Most of the area seats on the International Executive Board, the union's highest governing body when the Convention is not in session, are races with several candidates. Their photos and statements, as well as voting rules, appear on pages 18-24.



The Vancouver Host Committee and its chair, ILWU Canada Vice President Tim Footman (at podium), are recognized for the great work they did planning and running the Convention.

Programs and Policies adopted by the 33rd Convention

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CONVENTION LOCATIONS (C-1)

The Titled Officers recommend that Article XI, Section 1.A of the International Constitution be updated to reflect the current Convention schedule. The revised section will read:

SECTION 1. A Convention of the International shall be held every three (3) years beginning at 10 a.m. on the second Monday following Easter Sunday. However, the International Executive Board may authorize a different Convention location and starting date, which shall be no earlier than March 1st nor later than June 30th of the year in which the Convention is to be held.

Conventions will be held on the following rotational basis in a host city of each area enumerated, except when granted an exception by the International Executive Board as stated above:

1. Washington/Puget Sound/Alaska 2009
2. Southern California Area 2012
3. Hawaii Area 2015
4. Oregon/Columbia River Area 2018
5. Northern California Area 2021
6. ILWU Canada 2024
7. Washington/ Puget Sound/Alaska 2027

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PER CAPITA (C-2)

The Titled Officers and the Trustees recommend that Article X, Per Capita and Assessments, of the International Constitution be amended to provide the per capita revenue necessary to continue the work of the International Union for the 2006-2008 three year period. The recommended per capita structure below reflects a careful balancing of the diverse membership of the ILWU; from the long-shore division to the warehouse division, from the marine division to our unique membership in the state of Hawaii, and all other industrial and geographical segments of the ILWU. In arriving at this balance the Titled Officers and the Trustees seriously considered the financial conditions of the affiliates and the ability of their members to afford the increase.

The recommended per capita structure below will fully fund the programs of the International union and should generate a modest surplus at the end of the three years. It should be noted that while a small surplus will be generated, the reserves of the International Union will still be below our historic target of six months of operating expense. Finally, the recommended per capita structure does not take into account the exoneration of any affiliates from their per capita obligations. Such exoneration, if it occurs, will reduce the anticipated surplus and could force the International into a deficit spending situation.

Attached is a table showing the projected membership for the 2006-2008 three year period, the proposed per capita rates for each of the three years, the percentage increase of those rates, the revenues that will be generated from each of the rates and the projected surplus or deficit for each of the three years. (We note that the projected deficit for 2006 is due to two factors: (1) the projected Convention expense of \$300,000 and (2) the fact that the projected per capita increase will not be implemented until June of the year. Following is the proposed revision to Article X, Per Capita and Assessments, of the International Constitution in underline (language proposed to be added) and strikeout (language proposed to be deleted) format:

Effective June ~~2003~~ 2006 per capita to the International by the locals shall be ~~Five Six~~ Dollars and ~~Eighty-One Ten~~ Cents (~~\$5.81~~ \$6.10) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is less than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) per hour; ~~Ten Eleven~~ Dollars and ~~Sixty-One Two~~ Cents (~~\$10.61~~ \$11.02) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) but less than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00); ~~Sixteen Seventeen~~ Dollars and ~~Forty-Two Eighty-Seven~~ Cents (~~\$16.42~~ \$17.87) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00) per hour; and ~~Twenty-Three~~ Dollars and ~~Twenty Seventy-One~~ Cents (~~\$20.21~~

\$23.71) per member per month for those members in a division or local where the average earnings exceed Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) per year.

Effective January ~~2004~~ 2007 per capita to the International by the locals shall be ~~Six Dollars and One Thirteen~~ Cents (~~\$6.01~~ \$6.13) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is less than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) per hour; ~~Ten Eleven~~ Dollars and ~~Eighty-Six Five~~ Cents (~~\$10.86~~ \$11.05) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) but less than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00); ~~Seventeen~~ Dollars and ~~Seventeen Ninety~~ Cents (~~\$17.17~~ \$17.90) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00) per hour; and ~~Twenty-One Four~~ Dollars and ~~Forty-Six~~ Cents (~~\$21.46~~ \$24.46) per member per month for those members in a division or local where the average earnings exceed Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) per year.

Effective January 2008 per capita to the International by the locals shall be Six Dollars and Sixteen Cents (\$6.16) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is less than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) per hour; Eleven Dollars and Eight Cents (\$11.08) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) but less than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00); Seventeen Dollars and Ninety-Four Cents (\$17.94) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00) per hour; and Twenty-Four Dollars and Forty-Six Cents (\$24.46) per member per month for those members in a division or local where the average earnings exceed Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) per year.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD REPRESENTATION RESOLUTION (C-6)

The International Executive Board (IEB) is the highest governing body of the ILWU between Conventions. As such it must be representative of the diverse membership of the ILWU. Over the years, Conventions have increased the representation on the IEB by adding a seat for Alaska in 1994 and a seat for the mining industry in Southern California in 2004.

Conventions have periodically adjusted the formula by which IEB seats are allocated. In 1994 the threshold was adjusted to prevent the loss of one IEB seat and in 1997 the thresholds were again adjusted to prevent the loss of two IEB seats.

We are now faced with the situation where, without an amendment to the Constitution, the Columbia River Area and the Northern California Area will each lose a seat as the per capita payments for members for those areas have fallen just below the thresholds for two and three seats, respectively.

The Titled Officers are absolutely convinced that greater participation in the affairs of the Union are required in order for it to grow and prosper. It would be contrary to this perspective to allow representation on the IEB to decrease when greater input is needed. We, therefore, recommend that the threshold for two and three seats be adjusted. Specifically, Article VI, section 2, third paragraph would be amended to read (in underline/~~strikeout~~ format):

The allocation of Executive Board members in the areas shall be in the following manner: for the first 1,000 members or less, one Executive Board member; over 1,000 and up to 4,000 members, two Executive Board members; over 4,000 and up to 10,000 members, three Executive Board members; over 10,000 and up to 15,000, four Executive Board members. Any area with more than 15,000 members shall be entitled to a maximum of five Executive Board members. Any local with more than 15,000 members shall be entitled to one ex-officio member of the Executive Board. (ILWU Canada and the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific - Marine Division of the ILWU shall each be entitled to one member of the Executive Board.)

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON ELECTION RULES RESOLUTION (C-7)

Over the past several years there has been a growing concern about the privacy interests of individuals and identity theft. We believe that such concerns are legitimate and that the privacy interests of our members needs to be protected. We have not had a security breach of our electronic records at the International and we take a number of security steps to protect our electronic (and other) records. Nevertheless we do not see a compelling reason to collect and retain members' social security numbers as is currently required by the International Election Rules and Procedures.

The Titled Officers and International Executive Board therefore recommend that the references to "Social Security card" in Rule 10.B and "social security number" in Rule 14.C.1 be deleted as follows:

Rule 10.B Members may be required to present proof of identification including proof of ILWU affiliate membership (driver's license or Social Security card, and pay stubs or ILWU local membership card) as may be required to verify their eligibility.

Rule 14.C.1 Within thirty (30) days prior to the Convention, each affiliate shall submit to the International Secretary-Treasurer a listing of its active members specifying name, last known home address, and ~~social security number and/or~~ membership book number, if available. In turn the International Secretary-Treasurer shall forward to each affiliate a copy of the affiliate's voter eligibility listing one week prior to the Convention for verification, corrections, additions and/or deletions. Each affiliate on the final day of the Convention shall submit to the International Secretary-Treasurer final corrections to this listing and any additions and/or deletions of its active members which have occurred since the submission of the listing. Any active members not in good standing or otherwise considered by the affiliate to be ineligible to vote shall be so noted on the listing. The address of any union office, union hall or union official's home shall not be used as the home mailing address of any member other than those union officials. Wherever possible, the listing shall be submitted on computer diskette in a format acceptable to the International Secretary-Treasurer. The listing shall be accompanied by a letter of certification, signed by the President or Secretary-Treasurer of the affiliate, certifying that the listing is accurate, complete and current as reasonably possible. This rule shall be implemented for the 2003 election cycle.

In addition, the 2003 Election Procedures Committee recommended that "Rules of Conduct" be developed and that candidates and election observers be required to sign a copy prior to being allowed into the room where the ballots are being counted. We agree with the intent of the Election Procedures Committee but believe that the Election Rules should be amended to make it clear that the Election Procedures Committee has full authority to maintain order during the ballot count. We therefore recommend that Rule 15.A "Composition and Duties of the International Election Procedures Committee" be amended to read as follows:

The ILWU Convention shall elect three incumbent members of the International Executive Board, who are not candidates for International office or IEB, to serve on the International Election Procedures Committee. If there are not three such incumbent International Executive Board members, then the ILWU Convention shall elect three Convention delegates who are not candidates for International Office or IEB to serve on the International Election Procedures Committee. Upon their election, the three Committee members shall immediately meet to designate one among them to serve as the chair. The International Election Procedures Committee shall be responsible for administering these rules, overseeing the conduct of the election, maintaining order during the ballot count, and investigating any written challenges to the conduct of the election as specified below.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON ARTICLE VI, SECTION 13 (C-8)

The Titled Officers and International Executive Board recommend that the International Constitution, Article VI, Section 13 be updated to reflect the current salaries of the Titled Officers as of May 2006, which are:

International President \$102,217.11
International Sec'y-Treasurer \$99,378.44

International Vice President—Mainland \$99,378.44

International Vice President—Hawaii \$99,378.44

PROGRAMS

ORGANIZING THE TUG AND TOW INDUSTRY (P-3)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU support the continuation of the Organizing Department and its specific commitment to organizing the towing industry; and

That the International Organizing Department assist in the development of research and strategies, including educational presentations designed to facilitate organizing in the towing industry.

THE NEW MARCH INLAND IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (P-4)

RESOLVED: That this Convention supports a New March Inland, particularly in Southern California that will organize and bring economic justice to warehouse and information services and technology workers who work for PMA companies, their subsidiaries and companies under their control; and

That it is essential that these workers be organized into the ILWU family so that the strategic flanks of the Longshore Division are protected and the ILWU remains a dominant power in the marine logistics industry; and

That this project is of such essential importance to the ILWU that it requires the focus, attention and resources of the International and particularly the long-shore and warehouse locals in Southern California; and

A Regional Organizing Committee (ROC) be created and funded by the Southern California locals to work in conjunction with the International Organizing Program to launch the New March Inland.

ORGANIZING IN ALASKA (P-7)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU International Convention declare its support by insuring the International Officers provide sufficient resources and manpower for the important work of organizing in Dutch Harbor and throughout the Alaska maritime trade services industry; and

That the Convention encourages its Alaska Longshore units to open their ranks to new registrants and devote resources and manpower to collaborating with the International Organizing Department on this important task; and

That the International Organizing Department pay special attention to the important work of growing the ILWU family in Dutch Harbor and throughout Alaska.

SUPPORT FOR ALASKA CANNERY WORKERS PERMANENT EXHIBIT (P-8)

RESOLVED: That the International lead by example with a donation to the Wing Luke Asian Museum and encourage all ILWU and IBU locals to assist in this effort with support and sponsorship of the Wing Luke Asian Museum Alaskero exhibit; and

That the convention urge our locals, local communities, and friends to spread the word and to help finance the funding of this project with financial pledges for this permanent exhibit honoring these pioneer brothers' lasting legacy and devotion to the ILWU and the cause of Labor.

DEFEND PORT WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES FROM MARITIME TOXIC HAZARDS (P-10)

(Dedicated to IBU San Francisco Region Brother Lee Faraola who recently died of a brain tumor)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU will support and organize life-long port worker and resident health studies of injury, illness and death; and

That the ILWU recognizes the necessity of life-long occupationally-based health care for port and maritime workers; and

That the ILWU shall organize the broadest health and safety campaign for organized and unorganized port workers who are constantly exposed to maritime toxic hazards and that we seek maximum publicity for this campaign; and

That the ILWU will concretely support all maritime workers with the political and economic action required to create environmental justice for this great work-

PROGRAMS AND POLICIES *continued*

force of women and men.

POLITICAL ACTION FUND PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS (P-II)

RESOLVED: That the members could designate the International Political Action Fund, their local Credit Union "Political Action Fund" or both; and

Appropriate payroll deduction Authorization Cards would be available through the Hall, the Credit Union and at meetings.

PHOTO LIBRARY ARCHIVE (P-12)

RESOLVED: That we delegates approve a union-wide project in which ILWU members, communications staff, volunteers, and other work together to create a portrait of our workers that can be presented in a variety of forms which can be members and to the outside world; and

That the details of creating the team and actual work for this project be done with an eye to keeping costs low, improving the communications skills of our members and that everything support our efforts to enhance the image of the ILWU.

SAVING LIFE CAMPAIGN (P-13)

RESOLVED: That the delegates of the ILWU in Convention approve of the steps being taken by International President Spinosa and the Union to press industry to clean up smokestack emissions and other sources of harmful pollutants in order to improve the health and living standards of our workers; and

That the delegates of the ILWU approve of actions at the local, regional, coast wide and International levels so that the Saving Lives campaign can result in rollbacks of emissions and other pollutants on a global, industry-wide basis.

UPDATE THE ILWU STORY (P-14)

RESOLVED: The Convention direct the International to take whatever means necessary to update the "ILWU Story"; and that the "ILWU Story" be reviewed and updated when necessary.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIAN DOCK AND FISH WORKERS (P-15)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU make a special effort, through the International Committee, to reach out to our Russian brothers and sisters, beginning with the dockers and fish workers in the two major ports of the Russian Far East, Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, and to explore sending a delegation to those cities in the near future.

RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY (P-16)

RESOLVED: That the International provide assistance in research and developing a strategy to raise the standard of living for workers in the recycling industry, so that government mandates regarding recycling include provisions for fair wages, health benefits and pensions for workers in the recycling industry.

ORGANIZE THE BIO-TECH INDUSTRY (P-17)

RESOLVED: That the International Organizing Department research the bio-tech industry and work with locals to begin the process of organizing the bio-tech industry.

SUPPORT OF THE ILWU MEMBERS WHO ARE OUT OF WORK! (P-18)

RESOLVED: That the Union make every effort to find jobs within our jurisdiction and aid our out of work brothers and sisters.

DISTRICT COUNCILS (P-19)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU facilitate communication between the various District Councils; and

That the International work with the District Councils to expand our capacity to contact our members regarding the ILWU positions so that we can develop a unified, strong voice. Specifically, to develop capacity for phone banking, e-mail, and direct mail to activate our membership; and

That the ILWU urge all locals to affiliate and participate in the AFL-CIO State Federations and Labor Councils so that we can make common cause with all of organized labor to build solidarity and move a progressive labor agenda forward.

ALCATRAZ FERRY WORKERS (P-20)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU support our efforts to maintain our jobs by using all resources necessary, politically and orga-

nizationally, including an organizing drive at Hornblower.

RESOLUTIONS

PORT SECURITY TRAINING (R-2)

RESOLVED: The ILWU seek the Federal Government's participation and funding in Port Security training for the ILWU Clerks and Longshore workers conducted by ILWU personnel independent of employers, in cooperation with the relevant agencies like the USCG.

PATRONIZING UNION ESTABLISHMENTS (R-3)

RESOLVED: The ILWU supports unionized workers and businesses; and

That the ILWU patronize Union hotels, airlines and restaurants whenever possible.

WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ (R-4)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU Canada continue to demand an immediate withdrawal of all U.S., British, Australian and all other foreign troops from Iraq; and

That the ILWU Canada work to increase participation in future demonstrations planned to protest the illegal occupation; and

That the ILWU Canada, with the ILWU International, increases its solidarity with the people of Iraq, and in particular with its Trade Union Movement wherever possible.

PROTECTION FROM CARCINOGENS IN CANADA (R-5)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU Canada bring fourth a motion to the CLC and as a labor community demand that our government protect its people from harmful carcinogens and require manufacturers that if their products contain a carcinogen, no matter how small, and that employers are also required to inform their employees of any carcinogens they may be exposed to; and

That this resolution be forwarded to The International (ILWU)

The International Longshore Caucus (ILWU) and

The ITF, for inclusion in their upcoming Congress.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL 20 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (R-6)

RESOLVED: That the 33rd ILWU Convention delegates pledge their support for Local 20 in their struggle in securing a fair contract with Rio Tinto Minerals; and

The ILWU Convention officers and locals within the Southern California Region do their best to support Local 20 in attending any rallies or letter campaigns which Local 20 calls for in helping their committee in securing a fair contract with Rio Tinto Minerals.

OPPOSING INCREASES IN VETERANS' HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM (R-7)

RESOLVED: The ILWU go on record as being against this cut in benefits for our military men and women.

COPRA CRANE (R-8)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU Convention and Longshore Division Caucus support the restoration of this historic Copra Crane project at pier 84 in San Francisco to full conclusion; and

The ILWU will work with the above mentioned CCLLA, Pile Drivers, Iron Workers, building trade allies, community supporters and the labor movement to help provide the material and money necessary to complete this job.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (R-9)

RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union push for and support legislation to restore prescription drug coverage in Medicaid (the program for lower incomes people, i.e., children, seniors and the disabled) that is commensurate with December 2005 costs for the 53 million people who participate in the program; and

That the ILWU, its Locals and District Councils engage their Congressional Representatives through political action to oppose privatization of the federal drug plan, but revert the administration of prescription drug coverage to Medicare; and

The ILWU call upon the state and federal government to encourage, develop and/or utilize legislation that will autho-

rize Medicare to negotiate cheaper drug prices within the United States and Canada.

PIER PASS (R-10)

RESOLVED:

a) The costing methodologies used by PierPass in setting the rates are fundamentally flawed and needs to be corrected and the appropriate adjustments made to cargo beneficiaries;

b) The ILWU seek an independent audit of PierPass revenues and expenses to be performed by a citizens' committee selected by the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners and the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners; and

c) A recommendation to investigate enacting a modified version of California State Senate Bill AB760 be made to the California legislature as a more responsible and accountable alternative to PierPass.

d) We believe that the PierPass profits should be used to mitigate environmental and infrastructure problems created by the industry.

ALL ALASKA GASLINE PROJECT (R-11)

RESOLVED: The International Longshore and Warehouse Union find that the Alaska Gasline Port Authority's All Alaskan Gasline would provide maximum benefits to Alaska's citizens in the form of:

- Commitment dates for gas line construction and gas delivery
- Project Development without the need for concessions
- Reasonably priced gas for instate use
- Potential for value added industries in Alaska
- Maximum employment during both construction and operation
- Annual project revenue sharing to all municipalities and State government
- Direct links to West Coast LNG facilities for production and distribution; and

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union supports the Port Authority's All Alaskan Gasline project including ensuring a gas supply for the project.

OPPOSE BUSH TRADE AGREEMENTS (R-12)

RESOLVED: THAT THIS ILWU CONVENTION:

1. Demands the U.S. Congress reject one-sided and unfair trade agreements such as those negotiated by the Bush Administration with Peru and Colombia.
2. Demands that Congress require that all future trade agreements enforce labor and environmental rights as effectively as property and intellectual rights and give labor unions and workers the standing to challenge violations of these rights.
3. Demands that Congress put the public welfare first and restrict investor rights in trade agreements.
4. Demands that the U.S. adopt a trade policy more like ALBA that is based on mutual benefit, sustainable economic development, and seeks to raise the level of less developed countries.

UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS (R-13)

RESOLVED: THAT THIS ILWU CONVENTION:

1. Demands the U.S. make a real commitment to uphold the "Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work" by immediately ratifying all eight core labor standards and making the appropriate changes to bring U.S. law in line with these standards.
2. Demands that Congress require that all future trade agreements must effectively promote and enforce the core labor standards of the ILO and existing trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA be modified to do the same.
3. Pledges to educate our members and the community about the shameful failure of the Bush Administration and the Republican majority in Congress to uphold basic and universal human rights at work.
4. Encourages ILWU political action initiatives with local governments to adopt the core labor standards at the community level and to pass

resolutions like one calling for the U.S. to uphold the core ILO labor standards.

PROTECT DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS AND RETIREMENT SECURITY (R-14)

RESOLVED: THAT THIS ILWU CONVENTION:

1. Demands that the U.S. Congress reject all efforts to privatize Social Security, reduce benefits, or raise the retirement age.
2. Calls upon Congress to remove the cap on Social Security taxes so that all workers contribute the same percentage of earnings to the trust fund and return the full retirement age to 65.
3. Calls upon Congress to give employers an incentive to provide employees with a pension by imposing an additional tax on companies without pension plans.
4. Demands that the Congress and the respective state legislatures reject all schemes to undermine, destroy or weaken our existing private- and public-sector pension systems.
5. Demands that the Congress force corporate America to fully live up to all present and past pension obligations and fully fund the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

TAKE OUR GOVERNMENT BACK IN 2006 (R-15)

RESOLVED: THAT THIS ILWU CONVENTION:

1. Calls on the Union at all levels to mobilize the membership and work with our allies to elect pro-labor candidates in the 2006 and 2008 elections.
2. Calls on all ILWU Locals to urge their members to contribute generously and on a long-term basis to the ILWU Political Action Fund through payroll deduction or other means.
3. Calls on every district/region and local to establish functional political action programs and to encourage participation in them.
4. Urges all ILWU locals to undertake workplace campaigns to educate members about the Union's political action program, to register members and their families, to promote the use of absentee ballots to make it easier to vote, and to get out the vote on Election Day.
5. Calls on every delegate to this Convention to make a commitment to help with the ILWU political action program in their area.

POLITICAL POWER THROUGH FUSION VOTING (R-16)

RESOLVED: The ILWU International and locals promote and fund, when possible, efforts to legalize "fusion voting"; and

The ILWU Locals encourage volunteers to gather initiative signatures and participate in the formation of working families party chapters, in order to further the ILWU political agenda and make meaningful the resolutions passed by this Convention promoting health care, social justice, world peace, and labor rights.

VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH (R-18)

RESOLVED: That this 33rd ILWU Convention go on record of an overwhelming vote of No Confidence for George W. Bush, U.S. President.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER JAMES SPINOSA AND BESTOWING EMERITUS STATUS ON PRESIDENT SPINOSA (R-19)

RESOLVED: In recognition of his service to the ILWU, this Thirty-third International Convention of the ILWU expresses its most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Jim. The ILWU is a better Union because of Jim's tireless efforts. We will miss his leadership and active participation at the International level and wish him success should he decide to continue to participate at the Local level; and

That this Thirty-third International Convention of the ILWU bestow on Jim Spinosa the honor and title of President Emeritus of this great Union for which he has served.

FIGHT FOR JOB SAFETY (R-20)

RESOLVED: That this Convention of the ILWU demands that the U.S. Congress increase OSHA's funding and restore its

PROGRAMS AND POLICIES *continued*

original mission of protecting the safety and health of working people and making and enforcing workplace standards; and

That until the day when the people and government gain the power to effectively promote the safety, health and well-being of workers, the Union must take the lead in protecting the safety and health of our members:

- By forming strong health and safety committees in each workplace;
- By providing more safety and health training for our members, such as that offered by the National Labor College;
- By educating our members to deal with workplace hazards by forcing the boss to correct them;
- By making safety and health issues a priority in negotiations; and
- By working politically to strengthen state based OSHA programs.

SUPPORT LOCAL 142 HAWAII TOUR-ISM BARGAINING IN 2006 (R-21)

RESOLVED: That the entire ILWU organization stands in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in these hotels and wish them success in these negotiations; and

That the ILWU International Union stands ready to lend assistance to these members if needed.

THANKS NFL PLAYERS UNION SUPPORT OF GRAND WAILEA WORKERS (R-22)

RESOLVED: That Local 142 Hawaii, on behalf of its Grand Wailea Resort members, expresses a heartfelt "Mahalo and Thank You" to the NFL Players Union for their support and to the ILWU International Officers for their assistance; and

That this Convention of the ILWU joins Local 142 in thanking the NFL Players Union for their support; and

That copies of this Resolution be sent to members of the NFL Players Union executive board.

END THE OCCUPATION AND BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM IRAQ (R-23)

RESOLVED: THAT THIS ILWU CONVENTION:

1. Calls on the Bush Administration to cease military operations and begin the immediate withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from Iraq;
2. Calls on the Bush Administration to talk directly with Iran, seek a diplomatic solution to differences, and present hard evidence of any wrong doing by Iran;
3. Calls on the American people and Congress to renounce war and commit the U.S. to work for world peace by reducing military spending and increasing spending on social development projects aimed at ending world poverty;
4. Calls on Congress and the Bush Administration to expand the Tricare program to take care of the health needs of those who serve in the National Guard and Reserves and fully fund the Veterans Administration to prevent delays, rationing, and limiting of physical and mental health care for veterans, including adequate funds for education through a G.I. Bill and for housing assistance;
5. Calls on ILWU regions to introduce Iraq withdrawal resolutions in local and state governments.

SUPPORT DEL MONTE HAWAII WORKERS (R-24)

RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union strongly supports Hawaii Del Monte workers in their fight for the company to provide enhancements in benefits and financial assistance to help them make the transition to a "life after pineapple"; and

That delegates to the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union agree to spread the word to their family, friends, co-workers and other ILWU members that when Del Monte shuts down its pineapple operations in Hawaii in 2008 (or sooner), fresh pineapple with the Del Monte label will not be from Hawaii; and

That petitions supporting Del Monte Hawaii workers be circulated among ILWU locals and units for Local 142 to present to the company demonstrating broad support for ILWU members at Fresh Del Monte Produce (Hawaii).

SUPPORT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IN

THE UNITED STATES (R-25)

RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union calls on the U.S. Congress to conduct a thorough analysis of health care in America, its problems and possible solutions, including consideration of a single-payer system; and

That ILWU locals go back to their states to discuss with their legislators and others the need for massive health care reform to ensure that everyone living in the U.S. has access to quality, affordable health care.

SUPPORT CHANGES TO MEDICARE PART D (R-26)

RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union urges Congress to make changes to Medicare Part D, specifically to:

- (1) allow the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug manufacturers for lower prices;
- (2) amend the benefit design to offer simplified benefits with no coverage gap; and
- (3) reconsider privatization of the program; and

That locals of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union continue to assist members and retirees to understand their rights and benefits under Medicare Part D.

SUPPORT JOB PROTECTION (R-27)

RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union support efforts of all locals to have a law enacted to require, in the event of a sale or divestiture of a business, the buyer to retain the seller's employees, provided that the continuing business is the same as the seller's; and

That locals' members pursue such legislation to protect the jobs and well-being of its affected members.

STOP THE THEFT OF AMERICA'S JOBS (R-29)

RESOLVED: That the Congress of the United States shall be required to enact laws that prohibit the exploitation of both foreign and domestic workers in accordance with the following:

1. Companies and nations doing business in or with the U.S. shall be required to adhere to the International Labor Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, including, but not limited to, the right to organize into unions and collectively bargain; elimination of forced or compulsory labor; abolition of child labor; the elimination of discrimination; the protection of the environment;
2. U.S. corporations that shut down factories or services or otherwise reduce employment in the U.S. and move those jobs offshore shall not receive any tax relief;
3. The U.S. Government shall be prohibited from sending publicly financed work offshore; and
4. In the event laws governing NAFTA, CAFTA, WTO and similar trade agreements preclude enactment and/or enforcement of any of this resolution, the U.S. shall immediately withdraw from said agreements in order to implement the will of U.S. workers as set forth above.

ENDORING H.R. 676 – THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT (R-30)

RESOLVED: Members of Congress are hereby urged to support and enact H.R. 676.

HOUSING (R-31)

RESOLVED: That Members of Congress elected to serve the needs of the people will support restoration of HUD affordable housing budgets, Department of Agriculture rental and housing monies, and the National Housing Trust Fund Act. Members of Congress will also support low interest loans to first-time home buyers with annual wages of \$150,000 or less.

REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS (R-32)

RESOLVED: That Members of Congress elected to serve the needs of the people will review the plan submitted by Dennis Kucinich and support the ideas contained in the proposal to rebuild America's infrastructure and provide living wage jobs to Americans.

WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ (R-33)

RESOLVED: Members of Congress are hereby instructed to co-sponsor, support and work for the enactment of H.J. RES. 55.

PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY (R-34)

RESOLVED: That saving Social Security be placed on the ILWU list of legislative priorities; and

That all ILWU members, Pensioners, Auxiliaries, and families be encouraged to make the time to write their legislators, Republicans and Democrats, to stop the attacks and preserve Social Security; and

That the cap be removed so that the wealthy contribute their fair share to the Social Security Benefit Fund.

IMMIGRATION (R-35)

RESOLVED: That this Convention go on record against Congressional activities to make immigrant workers felons for crossing the border without documentation; and

That this Convention go on record as opposing any immigration reform legislation that is in actuality an attack on working people and their families; and

That this Convention reiterate the second paragraph of the preamble of the ILWU Constitution, "therefore, we who have the common objectives to advance the living standards of ourselves and our fellow workers everywhere in the world, to promote the general welfare of our nation and our communities, to banish racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, (and) to strengthen democracy everywhere..."

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BY ILA 1422 AND SOUTH CAROLINA LABOR MOVEMENT (R-36)

RESOLVED: That ILWU endorses the Labor Party's effort to run independent LP candidates for State office in November 2006; and

That ILWU will consider making financial contribution to the South Carolina LP organizing drive to ensure ballot access and a successful launching of its campaign; and

That ILWU will promote the effort to support the South Carolina LP election campaign both at the Longshore Caucus and Convention of the ILWU in Vancouver, where Brother Ken Riley, President of ILA 1422, will be present as an invited guest.

OPPOSITION TO UNITED STATES INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF VENEZUELA (R-40)

RESOLVED: The ILWU oppose any U.S. government interference in the affairs of the sovereign country of Venezuela, particularly through the NED; and

That the ILWU raise this demand of non-interference at every opportunity, particularly with our political allies in the federal government.

SUPPORT LOCAL 6 C&H SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS (R-41)

RESOLVED: That the International provide full support to the negotiations in process at C&H Sugars in Crockett, California.

IN SUPPORT OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA 2007 MASTER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS (R-42)

RESOLVED: The International provided all necessary support in preparation and during the upcoming Northern California Warehouse Master Contract negotiations.

SUPPORT THE CREWMEMBER'S ASSOCIATION (R-43)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU support hired skippers and crewmembers in their efforts to receive their fair and historical percentage of any Gulf of Alaska Ground Fisheries Rationalization (GOARAT) that becomes law.

SUPPORT WORKERS RIGHTS THROUGH FAIR TRADE (R-44)

RESOLVED: That organized labor uncover the connections between trade agreements such as NAFTA and why people must leave their countries to provide for their families; and

To work toward true freedom and prosperity through support of trade agreements which protect all involved in free trade. True free trade creates true freedom; living wages not exploitation. Let organized labor get out the message, "Don't persecute people trying to better themselves." Support human rights, support worker's rights.

SUPPORT FOR LOCALS 26 AND 75'S

WATCHMEN PENSION PLAN (R-45)

RESOLVED: That the Union Trustees, fund actuaries and fund consultants assist the locals to analyze and determine the overall financial health of the funding for the pension plan; and

That the Union Trustees keep locals 26 and 75 informed of the funding status of this fund so that necessary steps can be taken to ensure that this plan is properly funded so that all participants', retirees', and beneficiaries' benefits are secured.

IN APPRECIATION OF LEADER NANCY PELOSI (R-46)

RESOLVED: That the International Longshore & Warehouse Union commends Leader Pelosi for her unwavering support for working people, most specifically the IBU workers on the Alcatraz Ferry service; and

That a framed and signed copy of this Resolution be presented to Leader Pelosi.

APPRECIATION FOR SENATOR BOXER'S SUPPORT FOR THE ALCATRAZ FERRY WORKERS (R-47)

RESOLVED: That the International Longshore & Warehouse Union, commends Senator Boxer for her unwavering support for working people, most specifically the IBU-ILWU workers on the Alcatraz Ferry run operated by Blue & Gold Fleet; and

That a framed and signed copy of this Resolution be presented to Senator Boxer.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH IRAQI LONGSHORE WORKERS (R-48)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU calls on the Iraqi government, Transport Minister Mr. Salam Al-Maleky, and the Iraqi Port Authority to immediately stop their attacks on the Port Workers' Union at Khour Al-Zubeir Port, to rescind Law 150 and all other laws which interfere in the free exercise of all internationally-accepted labor rights, and to abandon their plans for the privatization of ports, factories, natural resources and other property of the Iraqi people; and

That the ILWU calls on the U.S. State and Defense Departments to stop their support for the privatization of Iraq's economy, and for attacks on Iraqi unions; and

That the ILWU will establish a direct relationship with Iraqi port workers and their unions, so that ILWU members can learn quickly about their situation, support their efforts to organize their unions, and take effective action on behalf when necessary; and

That the ILWU will communicate with other longshore unions around the world to make them aware of the attacks on Iraqi unions, and help ensure that there is an effective international effort to protect them.

HARRY BRIDGES STATUE (R-49)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU work with the City and County of San Francisco to bring the Harry Bridges Plaza project to a conclusion.

JOBS WITH JUSTICE (R-51)

RESOLVED: That the International Longshore and Warehouse Union investigate becoming a member of national Jobs with Justice; and

That ILWU Locals and IBU Regions in areas with Jobs for Justice coalitions are urged to become active participants in those coalitions.

FOR A SANE IMMIGRATION POLICY (R-52)

RESOLVED: That the ILWU opposes the criminalizing in any form of immigration; and

That the ILWU opposes a Guest Worker program in any form; and

That the ILWU advocates a clear and reasonable path to permanent residence status and citizenship.

FOR THE FULL TEXT OF ALL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS, VISIT:

[www.ilwu.org/
convention/resolutions](http://www.ilwu.org/convention/resolutions)

International Elections Mail-in Ballot Instructions

General Notice of ILWU Referendum Election

(FOR POSTING AT ALL ILWU UNION HALLS AND OFFICES FROM JUNE 30, 2006 THROUGH AUGUST 14, 2006)

An election by secret ballot is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and, for Longshore Division locals only, Coast Committeemen. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for voting in this election. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures adopted at the April, 1994 Convention and as subsequently amended. No later than Friday, June 30, 2006 ballot packets will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List.

If for any reason you do not receive

in the mail a ballot packet by Monday, July 10, 2006 and if you believe you are an ILWU member who is eligible to vote in this election, you can obtain a ballot packet by personally calling Election Services Corporation, the outside agency assisting in this election, at 1-800-864-1263. Since most ILWU members should receive their ballot packet from the mailing, telephone calls to Election Services Corporation will not be accepted until after July 9, 2006. A ballot packet can only be obtained from Election Services Corporation and not from the ILWU, the ILWU Election Procedures Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

Please also note that all voters must mail back their ballots in sufficient time so that their ballots arrive at the designated post office box in Oakland, California, no later than 9:00AM PST, August 14, 2006. Late received ballots will not be counted under any circumstances.

To prevent ineligible persons from voting, please note that any individual who requests a ballot packet and who is not on the Voter Eligibility List will be sent a challenged ballot for voting. All challenged ballots will be subject to possible later investigation as to the voter's eligibility.

Also, the ballot packets are electronically coded to prevent anyone from having

more than one ballot counted. If a voter mails in more than one ballot, the ballot with the latest postmark or receipt stamp will be counted, and the prior one(s) will be voided. However, where it is not possible to determine the latest postmark or receipt stamp, all ballots cast by the same voter will be voided.

Any ILWU member who has a question about the election may call the ILWU Election Procedures Committee at 1-415-775-0533 to leave a voice mail message. If you call before 9:00 a.m., after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends and holidays, dial extension 150 during the answering machine message to be connected to voicemail.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

(vote for one)



ROBERT "BIG BOB" McELLRATH, LOCAL 4

Leadership at the International level means vision, discipline, organization, and most of all, accountability. Leadership means knowing the goals of the rank and file, understanding the contract and representing the Union's position to the employers. Leadership at the International level means protecting all divisions of the ILWU and enforcing all of our contractual rights and benefits. It means helping to clarify the direction of the Longshore industry. With an energized, focused and united workforce, our ILWU will continue strongly into the future.

As the Vice President of the ILWU International, my job was to serve not only as Co-Chair of the Coast Labor Relations for Longshore, but to oversee the operations of the organizing department. In the last six years I cut unnecessary items from the organizing budget which increased the funds available, allowing for more aggressive organizing programs to be taken on such as Blue Diamond, Oxbow and Kaiser Permanente Guards. Organizing inland and around our ports must continue to be a priority for our future.

Since 1934 the ILWU has had five Presidents and I have served as an Officer

under three of the five. I served one year on the Coast Committee in 1993-1994, and on the Coast Committee from 1997-2000. I was then elected as International Vice President for two terms from 2000-2003, and 2003-2006

In 1993 and 1996 I negotiated the Master Longshore Agreement as Columbia River Representative, and I was Co-Chair on the 1999 and 2002 Longshore Contract negotiations. I was Chairman of the Pacific Northwest Shipboard Grain negotiations and Chairman of the in-House Grain negotiations. I also negotiated the All-Alaska Longshore Contract and the Local #5 Powell's Bookstore contract.

After 37 years on the waterfront, I offer my energy and willingness for hard work to meet the challenges of our future. I must admit, it is not always an easy path, but I consider it a privilege to be able to spend my working life continuing the work of our founders and hard-working brothers and sisters. I am fortunate to have earned your confidence, giving me the ability to expend my daily energies on something I believe so strongly in—our ILWU.

My goal is to continue and maintain two-way communications with all the Locals. I intend to report openly and make every effort to understand each Division's concerns. I intend to work closely with the other Titled Officers, whether on the mainland or in Hawaii, and to maintain strong leadership with honesty, integrity and with an intense commitment to the ILWU.

I repeat what I have said before: I believe we must face the future as united as we were when we earned our place in Labor History. We must forge ahead with a common agenda that will allow us to prosper through the inevitable changes that will face our industries. We cannot change what happened yesterday, but united, we can change what happens tomorrow. "An injury to one is an injury to all."

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, HAWAII

(vote for one)

WESLEY FURTADO, LOCAL 142

Second generation Longshoreman. Dedicated over 20 years to serving



our union. Rank-and-file member and a lead organizer, shop steward, unit officer, and Longshore negotiating committee member. Elected as Business Agent, then appointed as an International Representative in Hawaii. Elected as the International Vice President of the Hawaii Region in 2000.

Years of supporting and leading many organizing campaigns that have added new members to the ranks of our union in various industries. Spokesperson for many contract negotiations, including first contracts for newly organized members and for contract renewals for existing union members. Also supported membership mobilizations for contract negotiations in different industrial groupings.

Attend Longshore caucuses, bargaining sessions, and meetings

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

(vote for one)



WILLIAM E. ADAMS, LOCAL 23

It has been my privilege and high honor to have served the membership of this great union for the last three years. My work is still not complete. I like to get quiet and attack through my work and I am more committed now than ever.

My varied ILWU experience includes: Longshore Caucus delegate for seven years; three-time Convention delegate (2000, 2003 and 2006); Chairman of the Coast Jurisdiction Committee; a member of the Coast Legislative Action Committee serving in Washington, D.C.; a member of the International Executive Board and IEB Trustee; and for the last three years, International Secretary-Treasurer.

On behalf of the union, I have traveled to Australia, Brazil, France, Holland, Germany, Belgium, South Africa, Cuba and Vietnam, carrying the proud banner and reputation of the ILWU.

I have rolled up my sleeves, and have worked with all divisions of our union. I have learned so much from all the divisions of our union. I have built some great relationships with key Senators and Members of Congress in Washington, D.C. and the next three years I will work even harder so we have even more friends and access.

I am really looking forward to our education programs the next three years, to reach even more of our members and to strike a chord with our new members so they get the fire. I really feel in the next three years organizing is going to really kick into full gear with a lot of energy, passion and bringing new members into our family.

And yes, the International has been there backing up the needs of any local or division, whenever we have been called. And yes, we have stepped up our game in organizing, political action, public relations, education and in the international arena.

I know that the next three years are going to be exciting times. The new leadership is very poised and ready for our many challenges ahead. And yes, we work within our budget, we work for our members. We will give them our best and then some.

to increase understanding of new technology and industry standards. Participated in past negotiations for Hawaii Longshore and satellite unit contracts.

Participated in lobbying for support for Longshore negotiations, Agriculture industry issues, Tourism industry issues, and issues concerning General Trades in both Washington D.C. and in Hawaii. Staff organizers are encouraged to participate in Local 142 and Division political action efforts whenever possible. Looking forward, we need to focus on important political races to strengthen our jurisdiction.

The International works with the IBU-Hawaii leadership in their negotiations to improve working conditions and benefits. We are currently working on organizing campaigns to help build IBU membership in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Region Organizing Department works along with Local 142 and Divisions. Hawaii Region organized new members into our union in the last three years. To increase the effectiveness of organizing efforts the International, Local 142, and Divisions, negotiate employer neutrality and card-check agreements to support strategic organiz-

ing.

In 2005, we negotiated the first Health & Welfare Trust Fund agreement for our members in the Tourism industry. This Trust Fund will help control the rising cost of health care insurance premiums.

The International supports training for union members and leadership using national resources. In Hawaii, the International has supported education and training for union members pertaining to drug awareness and treatment. The International has access to resources on the national level and internationally. The International communicates directly with other National or International unions and organizations who share common interests with our union members in Longshore, Agriculture, Tourism, and General Trades groupings.

I'd like to thank my fellow union brothers and sisters for their support and the opportunity to serve as International Vice President - Hawaii. I ask for your continued vote of support so I can continue to serve the membership.

INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, MAINLAND (vote for one)



JOSEPH R. RADISICH, LOCAL 13

Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU:

My name is Joe Radisich and I'm running for the position of International Vice President, Mainland of the ILWU. I am a 21-year member of the ILWU working mostly out of Local 13 with two years as a foreman in Local 94. I have served Local 13 over the past 14 years in various capacities including Executive Board, Caucus delegate, business agent and vice president.

Over the past eight years I have helped develop the Local 13 Political Action Committee and PAC fund. I have been involved in many political campaigns in Southern California and have tirelessly pushed the ILWU agenda in the political arena. I am the President of the Southern California District Council and have represented Local 13 at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor for the past eight years.

In the 2002 longshore contract negotiations I served as the coordinator of Public Relations and helped formulate a game plan to fight PMA's attacks against the ILWU. In 2005 I was appointed by the mayor of Los Angeles to serve as one of five commissioners on the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners. I graduated from UCLA in 1991.

I am running for this position because I believe I have the experience and connections to help the ILWU move forward in the future. My overall vision for the union is to implement strategies that are proactive, strategies that will give us our best chance for achieving good contracts and increasing our ranks.

These proactive activities include increasing our political activities, organizing and running campaigns such as the union's "Saving Lives" environmental campaign.

On the political action front, more needs to be done to raise money. I will make this a major priority, as well as making sure our legislative necessities are met.

Organizing will also be a priority. Working with organizer Peter Olney, the convention and caucus have mandated a push inland to organize the warehouses that are part of the logistics chain. I believe I can be helpful calling on the strong labor and political support in Southern California. This will be a long and probably costly task because the organizing department needs more resources.

Finally, the union learned valuable lessons in the 2002 contract that PR, community relations and labor support are critical in winning contracts. This not only applies to longshore, but to all sectors of the ILWU. Championing cleaner ports is one strategy of doing this. Also, in an era of globalization, taking our fight and programs internationally will be critical.

If you think these types of programs are important and your vision for this union is to be proactive and not reactive, I would be honored to have your vote.

California Coast Committeeman (Vote for one)



RAY ORTIZ JR., LOCAL 13

Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU, a solidarity greeting!

As a proud second-generation longshoreman, I have seen the waterfront evolve from the days of break bulk to today's world of containerization. I have been a member of the ILWU since 1969 and a member of Local 13 for nearly four decades. Serving the Union has always been my greatest passion. I have served on the Southern California District Council and in the following Local 13 leadership positions: Executive Board; Trial Committee; Chairman of the Grievance Committee; Registration Committee; Labor Relations Committee; Night Business Agent; and Delegate to the Longshore Division Caucus. With that solid foundation, I served as your California Coast Committeeman for 3 terms: 1997-2000, 2000-2003, and 2003 to the present. In that position, I work to protect your interests through Coast Labor Relations Committee meetings and the processing of all grievances and appeals, including Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accommodation requests, Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) military credit requests, registration, Coast arbitrations, participation on the Coast Benefits Subcommittee, and as Trustee of the Pension and Welfare Plans. I now humbly seek your support to represent the Longshore Division as your California Coast Committeeman for a 4th term.

As the 2008 contract negotiations approach, my experience on the 1999 and 2002 contract negotiating committees will prove invaluable. The employers will undoubtedly continue their efforts to reduce our Longshore Division jurisdiction, weaken our Dispatch Halls, and reduce our Pension and Health and Welfare benefits in the name of corporate profits. Education of our rank-and-file, especially in the ILWU history and traditions, the Longshore Contract, the Safety Code, and Grievance and Arbitration procedures will become increasingly vital. And because the Federal government, with Employer-support, continues to interfere in our Contract and labor relations, as we experienced during the 2002 Contract and currently with the screening of our workers against a "terrorist watch list" and government-mandated TWIC cards with criminal background checks, developing "our outside game" in the political and public relations arenas is absolutely critical now, and forever. Finally, we must continue to strengthen our bonds with international labor unions in this global economy. I appreciate your continued support as we move together to ensure success for the ILWU and Longshore Division.

Vote for Ray Ortiz, Jr. for California Coast Committeeman. Thank you.

Northwest Coast Committeeman (Vote for one)



DUANE JOHNSON, LOCAL 51

My name is Duane Johnson and I am a candidate for Northwest Coast Committeeman.

I am a second-generation Longshoreman from Local 51, Port Gamble. My father worked over forty years out of Port Gamble and held many Local Union offices including President and Delegate over his long career. My Longshore career started in 1976: I worked as a casual for four years before achieving "B" registration in 1980. Even as a limited registered person I was very proactive in learning the ways of our local, our contract, our industry and our Union. I was elevated to "A" status in 1986. The following year I was elected to our Labor Relations Committee. Since that time I have held several different and concurrent positions within our Local, our Area and our Division.

The following is a list of those positions:

- Local 51 Labor Relations Committee 1987-present.
- Dispatcher / Business Agent 1990-1992 and 1994 to present.
- Secretary Treasurer 1999-present.
- Convention Delegate since 1994.
- Caucus Delegate for twelve years.
- As a Delegate I have worked on different committees. I especially enjoyed being on the Cancelled Pension Years Committee and the Budget Committee.
- Joint Area LRC small ports representative for four years.
- Secretary of Area LRC for two years.
- Alternate negotiator for Puget Sound small ports ; 1996, 1999 and 2002
- Volunteered for the AFL-CIO COPE campaign in 2002 (Kansas City, Missouri).
- Participated in Education Seminars and Secretary Conferences. The protection and preservation of my Local and the ILWU has always been a high priority of mine. This has been the main factor in my deciding to run for, or accept any position. Through the years I have learned that the strength of the Division lies in the unity of all locals, both large and small.

Being from a small local might be a concern to some. I see it as an advantage. It has given me not just an intimate knowledge of the trials and tribulations of a small port, but has allowed me to travel to many ports. Working from Bellingham, WA to Coos Bay, OR has taught me a great deal about the operations of our large and small ports, as well as the diverse wants and needs of our varied membership. Working extensively in Seattle and Tacoma, plus quite a bit in Portland has given me a good understanding of many different container and yard operations. My time on the JALRC and as a Delegate has given me an insight into the workings of our major locals, and Coast operations.

The Waterfront has been my livelihood for twenty seven years; this Union has been my life. If given the honor to serve, I will work diligently and honestly on the behalf of the ILWU, the Longshore Division, our pensioners and their survivors.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane R. Johnson, 68065



LEAL "LEO" SUNDET, LOCAL 8

Brothers and Sisters, I have the privilege of being nominated for Coast Committeeman, Northwest. In a time when our Union is being challenged on multiple fronts, I ask that you carefully consider adding me to the Coast Committee Team that will take you into 2008 bargaining and beyond.

The Coast Committee is a team. I bring a strength that would add utility and, as a result, make the Coast Committee more formable in advancing the Union's interests.

I have been a registered longshoreman for nearly 18 years, and have been active in the politics of our Union the entire time. As a "B" man in Local 53, members elected me Secretary/Treasurer. I also served as the Secretary, and then Chairman, of the Area LRC. After transferring to Local 8, I continued as Area Chairman and served multiple terms as LRC/Relief Business Agent. I am a member of the District Council and am active in Local politics. I am currently serving my second term as Local 8's President.

I am an Executive Board member of the Oregon AFL-CIO and a member of the Area Maritime Security Committee.

In the last 18 years, I have processed hundreds of grievances, arbitrated with regularity, and negotiated multiple local and regional contracts. At times, it seems that is all I do. The Union is a large part of my life. That is what I bring to the table - meat and potato skills and experience in Contract administration.

With me, there is no learning curve. I am up on the issues of today and enjoy professional and personal relationships with the other members of the Coast Committee, the Presidents of the major Locals and the Presidents of many of the smaller Locals.

We survived 2002. The PMA, however, has not stopped with the signing of the 2002 Agreement. They are using Government, the Courts and the Arbitration system to wrestle away our jurisdiction, our dispatch and our culture of work. The PMA is challenging the Union's control over the point of production.

The most insidious challenge is the introduction of technology designed to assign documentation and cargo flow work around the point of production to non-ILWU workers and technicians who perform the jobs off dock, in different States or other Countries. Work on the dock involving programming, electronic device repair, etc. is assigned to subcontractors or other Unions.

I have the experience, contractual knowledge and arbitration skills necessary not just to defend ourselves, but to work with the other members of the Coast Committee to aggressively take the Contract to PMA. We can develop an offensive strategy using the Contract where PMA is the reactionary.

Vote Experience:

- President, Local 8
- Chairman, Area LRC
- Secretary, Area LRC
- LRC/Relief Business Agent, Local 8
- Executive Board, Local 8
- Secretary/Treasurer, Local 53
- Executive Board, Oregon AFL-CIO
- Coast Technology Committee
- Coast Port Security Committee
- Coast M&R Committee
- Coast Jurisdiction Committee
- Area Maritime Security Committee

Southern California International Executive Board

**LUISA GRATZ, LOCAL 26**

To maintain the strength of our organization, the ILWU, all divisions must be represented, both longshore and warehouse, so that all voices are heard, and participate in decisions that effect our jobs, our union and our collective future.

I have been honored to serve our union and membership on the International Executive Board. I was first elected in 1983, and was re-elected many times by the ILWU membership for this position.

I also continue to serve our membership as ILWU Local 26 President and Business Agent, since 1980, where my duties include chief negotiator, handling and preparing arbitrations, contract negotiations, NLRB and EEOC cases, organizer, and other membership services.

If elected, I would be honored to again have the opportunity to serve our members in the ILWU on the International Executive Board.

There are three (3) IEB seats available to longshore and warehouse members from Southern California. I am seeking to fill one of these positions.

United we stand

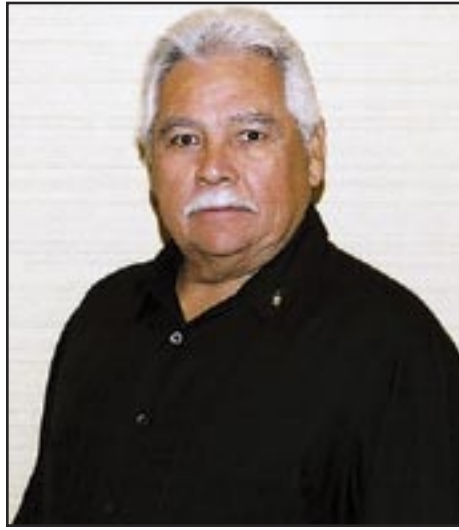
Thank you for your support

**International
Executive Board
/ IBU**
(Vote for one)

**ALAN COTE, IBU**

I am honored that the members of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific—Marine Division of the ILWU nominated me for the International Executive Board. Keeping the ferries, tugs and waterfront workers union is my number one priority. As I write this, our division is organizing spill response workers and environmental workers as well as defending our existing jurisdiction on San Francisco ferries.

However, at the 2006 convention I learned that our struggle in San Francisco is one of many battles waged every day by ILWU locals. The entire ILWU is under a concerted

**JOHN TOUSSEAU,
LOCAL 63**

Brothers and sisters.

My name is John Tousseau, and I am seeking re-election to the position of International Executive Member. I have been an Executive Board Member from 1994—present. I feel that I have served the rank and file, to the best of my ability, for the past 12 years, and would like to continue to serve you and this great union of ours.

I have been a member of the Longshore Division for 38 years 20 years in ILWU Local 13 and 18 years in ILWU Local 63, Marine Clerks.

I have served as a negotiator for the Coast Safety Committee in 1987 negotiations, and as a negotiator for the Coast Longshore Master Contract in 1999 and 2002, negotiations.

Again, it would be a privilege, for me to serve you, and our great union as a member of the International Executive Board again.

God Bless you and thank you
John Tousseau

Hermanos y Hermanas,

Mi nombre es John Tousseau, y deo que me re-elijas para la posicion de Membro de la Mesa Executiva del Sindicato Internacional.

He servido yo en esta posicion por 12 anos, y pienso que he servido a este sindicato con toda mis fuerzas. Tengo 38 anos con el ILWU, 20 anos como estivadore en el Local 13, y 18 anos en el Local 63 Marine Clerks.

Tambien he servido en las negociaciones de los contratos de seguridad en 1987 y en las negociaciones de los contratos principales en 1999 y 2002.

Dios te vendiga, y muchas gracias
John Tousseau

attack and the denigration and even worse, elimination of our contracts is the prize sought by the very industries our labor created.

The guest speakers at the convention threw down the gauntlet: either unify the working class behind the great principles of the ILWU or slip into the darkness and despair of economic and political injustice. We were not just challenged to protect ourselves, but all of organized labor from Australian dockers to Blue Diamond Almond workers.

In order to wage this battle for ILWU justice as well as justice for all workers we must remain unified. The convention is our opportunity to listen to all of the members through their delegations. Perhaps some of the delegates' needs were not met, but the IEB representatives can continue to find better ways to internally organize, educate and represent all

**WARREN SHELTON,
LOCAL 46**

I am Warren Shelton from Local 46, running for International Executive Board, Southern California. I am honored to be nominated for this position to serve this rank and file. I started in this great union in 1981 as a casual. Registered in 1986 as a Class "B" Longshoremen and was elevated to Class "A" Longshoreman in 1991. Transferred as a Union choice Clerk in 2003. I have served on these committees:

- Vice President Local 46: 2005-present
- Secretary/Dispatcher Local 46: 2002-2004
- Labor Relations Committee Local 46: 1993-1994, 2002-present
- Executive Board Local 46: 1993-1994, 2001-present
- Trustee Local 46: 2001, 2004-present
- Caucus Delegate Local 46: 2004-present
- So. California District Council Delegate: 2003-present
- Health Pension Welfare Committee: 2003-present
- Presidential Election Volunteer in Ohio: 2004
- Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.: 2004, 2006

In order to protect the future of our Union I feel we need to mobilize and educate our members on many issues. Political Action is a very important area that we need to grow in. Our members need to understand the importance of State and Federal laws that are being drafted against Labor and Unions. We need to build our local district councils and raise money for our State and Federal Elections. We also need to educate our members on all levels of politics.

Organizing is another area, we need to follow the "New March Inland" and also organize in the areas we are already established in. We need to hold the line on Healthcare and get involved in greening our ports and our communities.

We also need to communicate between the divisions better so that everyone knows what is taking place throughout the whole union.

I am qualified and committed to serve the International Executive Board and would greatly appreciate your vote! Thank You!

of the ILWU, then we can answer the challenge laid before us with strength and determination.

Even though many races, including mine, are uncontested vote anyway, show support for the elected officers as they step up to the challenges ahead.

Alan Cote has been a member of the Inlandboatmen's Union, the Marine Division of the ILWU, since 1989.

Alan was elected Business Agent in 1999 and National President in March of 2006.

**MIKE MITRE, LOCAL 13**

My name is Mike Mitre and I am running for re-election to the I.L.W.U. International Executive Board (I.E.B.) When in session, the I.E.B. is the most powerful body of the union, and it is very important. Having served for the past several terms as one of the longshore representative's from Southern California, I am grateful for the support that I've received. Having been a past President of Local 13, I am presently serving on the Longshore Legislative Committee, and as the Director of Port Security for the ILWU. I have testified before both the Senate and House Committees regarding Port Security, and most recently before the full Senate Committee investigating the Dubai Ports "incident." I have served various terms on Local 13's Executive Board, and as a past and present Caucus and Convention delegate.

Brothers and sisters, we're at a crossroads. This is, quite possibly, the most important time in the history of our union. We are dealing with multi-national employers and a Bush government so interconnected that it's hard to tell where one leaves off and the other begins. Solid, good-paying American jobs are disappearing at a record rate and the inherent lack of respect for workers worldwide is only getting worse. And in the middle of this are the massive global corporations who aren't just running this country, but the entire world. All workers deserve the same respect, representation, and basic rights as everyone else. But somehow, somewhere, this most basic of messages has gotten lost. Somewhere along the line, the Bush Administration has decided that workers and organized labor are a "bad" thing, and it's their "duty" to convince the public of this. It is wrong. It must be challenged, and it must be changed. Brothers and sisters this is the battle we're faced with. This is the battleground of the Intl. Executive Board

This is the same administration whose foray into Iraq is costing us 6 billion a month, who has given nothing but money and tax-breaks to the corporate rich, and who is virtually destroying the middle class. And what has Bush given us? Nothing less than the worst health care crisis America has ever seen and a social security fiasco that, if not corrected, is going to bankrupt not only ourselves, but our children and our children's children.

Brothers and sisters, these are but a few of the issues facing the International Executive Board. The ILWU has developed a worldwide reputation for representing those who have a hard time representing themselves. The exploitation of children, the murderous regimes targeting unions and union organizers, and sweatshops who exploit women of every race, creed, and color are but a small example of whom we speak for. For ourselves however, we all share one thing; we belong to the greatest labor organization ever, the ILWU. We must strive to educate our newer members how our forefathers sweat and bled for us; and that it's up to us to maintain the legacy they've left behind.

ard (Vote for three)



TIM PODUE, LOCAL 13

Brothers and sisters, my name is Tom Podue. I have just served as a Local 13 Delegate to the International Convention and Longshore Division Caucus, and I am honored and grateful to have been nominated by President Mark Mendoza as a candidate for the International Executive Board. I have come up through the ranks, serving my local in many capacities, and appreciate this opportunity to give you some background information about myself and what I have to offer on your behalf.

I have served continuously on the Executive Board of Local 13 since 1996. I was elected as Business Agent in 1997, and have been a relief B.A. since then. I have been a Caucus Delegate 5 times since 1998, participating at the 1999 Contract Caucus and representing Southern California on the Safety Committee for a period during the 1999-2002 Contract. I served two terms as the Vice-President of Local 13, from 2003-2005.

During my term as Vice-President, I represented (with the help of former Coast Committeeman Richard "Ole" Olson) the brothers of Local 13's Allied Division during contract bargaining with SSA-Crescent Warehouse in San Pedro, in which we attained a good contract with Maintenance of Benefits and a \$3 per hour raise over 3 years. I was in charge of the Registration Committee, registering 2,500 new Class "B" members, and oversaw the Special Section 13.2 Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation. I was also in charge of USERRA policy (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Administration) for the local, caring for Veterans returning from military service. As VP, I was overseer of almost every Labor Relations Committee Meeting (Regular, Mechanic, Class "B," Casual and Special).

Finally, I have spent countless hours of personal time and energy working on the following Local 13 Committees: Labor Relations, Grievance, Political Action, Constitution, Dispatch Rules, Budget, Outreach and Trademark.

Throughout my years of service, I have been responsible for both Contract Administration and administration of Local 13. I have devoted my heart and energy to the rank-and-file with these simple and consistent Union principles: respect our history, preserve our jurisdiction, protect our membership, and prepare for our future. All that I have ever asked for myself, the Employers and the Union membership is to "Do the right thing." As an Officer, Delegate, and Committeeman in the last 10 years, I feel that I have grown to possess the broad experience and tested capabilities to give you strong, candid, responsible and accessible representation at the International level. Progressive and tenacious, I am prepared and eager to represent all the Southern California Locals on the International Executive Board. I ask you to elect me to this new opportunity to serve the ILWU, and entrust me to "Do the right thing."



**JOHN FAGEAUX, JR.
LOCAL 63 OCU**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My name is John Fageaux and I am seeking a position on the International Executive Board representing the Southern California area.

First I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my campaign statement and for allowing me to share with you the reasons you should vote for me in the upcoming election.

EXPERIENCE

I am a proud member of ILWU Local 63 OCU. I am currently serving as President of the local, a position I have been elected to for 5 consecutive terms. I first became a member of the ILWU by way of Local 13 Allied Division in the 1980's. Since then I have held many different positions such as Shop Steward, Grievance Committee Member, Membership Committee Member, Executive Board Member, Vice President/Business Agent and now President.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While serving as an officer of Local 63 OCU I have negotiated dozens of contracts, all of which have resulted in substantial gains in wages, health & welfare benefits, pensions and most importantly **JOB SECURITY!**

Under my leadership we have increased our Membership base by 80% and have organized and brought under contract the following companies: Hanjin Shipping, Hapag Lloyd, China Shipping, COSCO Agencies/Los Angeles, Support Services International, COSCO/Long Beach, Inchcape and Consolidated Leasing & Terminals.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

I have been very fortunate in receiving a great deal of education and training related to labor and our unique industry. Following is a list of some of my education and training.

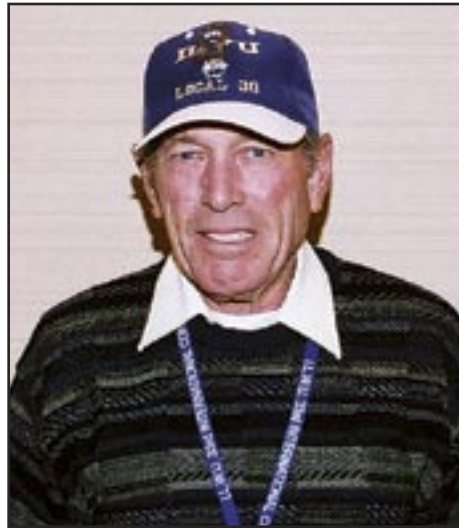
- Harvard University, Negotiating Labor Contracts 2002
- University of Michigan, Negotiating and Administering the Labor Contract 2005
- Labor Law and Arbitration Course 2003 and 2004
- International Legislative Conference in Washington, DC 2004
- Transpacific Maritime Conference 2001, 2002 & 2004
- Breakbulk Conference 2002, 2003 & 2004
- Three ILWU International Conventions 2000, 2003 & 2006
- ILWU LEAD Program 1998

In conclusion I believe it is clear that my experience and education provide me with the tools necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of International Executive Board and look to your support in the upcoming election.

Fraternally,
John Fageaux, Jr.

**International Executive Board /
Desert Southern California**

(Vote for one)



RAY E. PANTER, LOCAL 30

Dear brothers and sisters of the ILWU, my name is Ray Panter the current President of ILWU Local 30. I've held the President position for eleven years, Vice President for six years, Chief Steward, Steward, E-Board member and Convention Delegate at five conventions, elected by the rank and file.

I'm running for the position of the International Executive Board, Desert Region. This position was passed by the 32nd annual convention. I understand that only Local 30 ballots will be counted when their cast for this position, so when you receive your ballot in the mail please vote and return your ballot.

I have experience to serve on the IEB with being an ILWU member for 40 years. I will support in service, not only the Desert Region but the entire ILWU rank and file. Our first representative did not, if very little, give reports on the decisions made by the IEB but this go around, full reports will be made to the rank and file.

My opponent in this election is a very young man with limited experience and has little knowledge of how the union works, so "VOTE" for experience "VOTE" Ray E. Panter when you receive your ballot in the mail around June 30, 2006.

The next three years will be a global battle for all the ILWU including the Desert Regions, Battle with Rio Tinto.

I respectfully ask for your vote. Mail in your ballots.



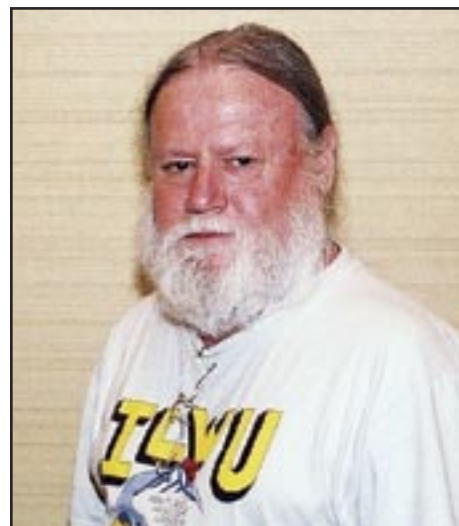
**MICHAEL DAVENPORT,
LOCAL 30**

I am a candidate for the International Executive Board, Desert Region. I am currently the Recording Secretary for Local 30 and look forward to the challenges of serving not only my local, but the brothers and sisters of all our locals within the ILWU. In May of this year I had the opportunity to represent the ILWU in Washington D.C. and share in the process of legislative action that I feel is essential to continuing and improving the way of life that we as Union members and American workers deserve. My promise to you is that I will never lose sight of what it means to represent the members of our Union, that each and every voice deserves to be heard and that together we can make this Union prosperous and the envy of every working man and woman. We have many challenges ahead as we try to stay relevant in an ever changing workforce. It is important that we improve our methods of organizing and commit ourselves to supporting the brave men and women that take the chance to welcome us into their workplace. We have to earn the trust of our membership and provide information to those who elect us to keep our Union strong.

My thanks to all members of the ILWU.

International Executive Board—Alaska

(Vote for one)



**PETE HENDRICKSON,
ALASKA LONGSHORE
LOCAL**

No statement submitted.



**DEBBIE (MOUSE)
MANOWSKI, RN, LOCAL
200**

No statement submitted.

Columbia River International Executive Board (Vote for two)



**STEPHEN HANSON,
LOCAL 8**

Brothers and Sisters:

I am running for the position of International Executive Board.

I received my B book in 1968 and my A book in 1972. I stood picket duty in the strike of 1971, and it gave me an understanding of what a Union is about and how important it is to stand together.

I started as a shop steward in 1983, then ran for other offices in my local. I have been elected President, Labor Relations Committee, Business Agent, Executive Board member, Caucus and Convention delegate for Local 8.

For the Oregon Area, I have been the Area Chairman and Secretary of the Labor Relations Committee I have passed the AFL-CIO Organizing school, the L.E.A.D. conference, and I have worked on several organizing campaigns and have also helped negotiate all of our local agreements.

On the International level I have been the chairman of the Budget Committee for the last seven years. I am also on the Education Committee and the Jurisdiction Committee for the Longshore Division.

One of the most important things in our life needs to be the Union. We have at least two major issues facing us now—one is Technology and the other is Security. On the technology issue, we have over 400 jobs at stake, and they are our jobs. Clerk jurisdiction concerns us all. The government is trying to pass legislation to affect all our jobs, and we need to stick together for the benefit of all.

The International Executive Board guides the Union between conventions. This is going to be an important time for the next couple of elections because of the governmental intervention on behalf of our employers.

I believe that the first guiding principle of the ILWU, "A union is built on its members" is under attack. Our brothers in California and Hawaii are being attacked by their employers. They are Blue Diamond in California and Del-Monte in Hawaii. We need to stand up and be counted.

The 4th guiding principle. "To help any worker in distress", must be a daily guide in the life of every trade union and its' individual members. If we vacation in Hawaii, stay at one of our hotels. We have several on every island. You can find them at www.ilwu.org/hawaii/hawaii-hotels.cfm. If you want a book, use our Brothers and Sisters at Local 5 – Powell Books. We can help each other out by buying from each other Local 5 web page is <http://powell-union.com/mainpage.php>.

I thank you very much for taking the time to read this. Please take a few minutes to read about all the candidates, think about your representation, and vote for whomever you think will represent you the best. I would truly like your support, but if not, please be sure to vote. We are only as strong as our members.

In solidarity forever, Stephen Hanson



RYAN TAKAS, LOCAL 5

Fellow Workers of the ILWU:

I am Ryan Takas. I am running for International Executive Board as a Representative for the Columbia River District Area. I am a proud rank and file Local 5 member of over 6 years and look forward to continuing this tradition. Since winning my rights as a union member, I have immersed myself: first in the creation and now continuation and betterment of our union. I was there on May Day, 2000 when we fledgling Local 5 members first saw what it was to have the backing of our brothers and sisters in our struggle. We saw the power of workers united in hardship and determination. Since then, nothing could turn me away from the labor movement.

I have served in key positions on the bargaining team in both Powell's contract campaigns (2000 and 2004) as well as the Local 5 Olympia unit (2002 and 2005). I've served as a steward for my entire rank and file tenure. I have served on the Local 5 Executive Board for 6 years – as full time Business Agent (200-2003, 2005-present) and as Vice President (2003-2005). In 2003 and 2006, I attended the ILWU Convention as an elected delegate of Local 5. I have participated in the ILWU Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) program. I have taken dozens of classes at the Portland State University Labor Education Research Center (LERC). I am a member on the Oregon Area District Council (OADC) and serve on the Jobs with Justice (JWJ) steering committee. I have worked tirelessly to further the principals of this union not only for Local 5 workers but many workers in the community. I have supported workers on behalf of the ILWU in countless picket lines. Of note, I joined JWJ in their efforts to pressure PMA companies' retail locations during the lockout. I am an unwavering ally to both Warehouse **and** Longshore. My loyalty to my class and my union is clear.

As member of the IEB, I am committed to being a voice on behalf of every Local in our area. After every IEB meeting, I will timely communicate with each local in the area about the state of our Union. It is my goal to meet with every local in the area on a quarterly basis. I am readily available to hear your concerns, support you in your struggles and strive to ensure you have the best possible representation on the IEB.

Finally, and most importantly, I am committed to democracy in the ILWU. This kind of rank and file democracy is one of the paramount reasons we workers at Powell's chose this great union. I believe an important component in ILWU democracy is having a variety of voices at the table: Warehouse, Longshore, young, old, multicultural and multiracial. In order for this democracy to function, we must VOTE. I would appreciate if, when you vote, vote for me. I will not disappoint you and I will always give you my best.



**GEORGE D. O'NEIL,
LOCAL 40**

Brothers and sisters,

My name is George O'Neil and I am a candidate for the office of International Executive Board, Columbia River Area.

I started in Local 8 Portland on April 12, 1980. During my 20 years in Local 8 I held the offices of President, BA, LRC, Dispatcher, Caucus Delegate, and on the Executive Board.

I helped negotiate local agreements and co-chaired the in-house Grain Agreement.

In 2000, I transferred to Local 40, Portland clerks. I have held the office of President, and currently am a Dispatcher and Caucus Delegate.

I feel I have gained a wider perspective on issues by being both a longshoreman and clerk.

My main goal is for a unified ILWU, with foremen, clerks, and longshoremen working together during these times of change, especially with the new technologies coming.

I will also strive to learn more about the needs of the non-longshore locals and assist them in any way possible.

If elected, I will make sure every local in my area is up to speed on the happenings of the IEB, with reports either in person or written and sent to them in a timely manner. Thank you.



**JERRY P. YLONEN,
LOCAL 8**

Brothers and Sisters:

I started on the Waterfront in 1971 as a Casual longshoreman in Longview, Washington, Local 21. I eventually became registered in Portland, Local 8, in 1980. I also spent four years as a member of Local 23, Tacoma. Since then, I have served Local 8 in the following offices: Executive Board, Dispatcher, LRC, Caucus Delegate and Trustee. I have also been involved locally in Ship Board Grain negotiations, In-House Grain Negotiations and Ash Grove (Lime/Cement) contracts.

On the Coast level, I was a negotiator representing the Oregon Area in the 2002 Coast Safety Contract Negotiations and am still a proud member on that Committee. At this time, I also serve on the Cruise Ship Jurisdiction Committee and the Automated Dispatch Committee.

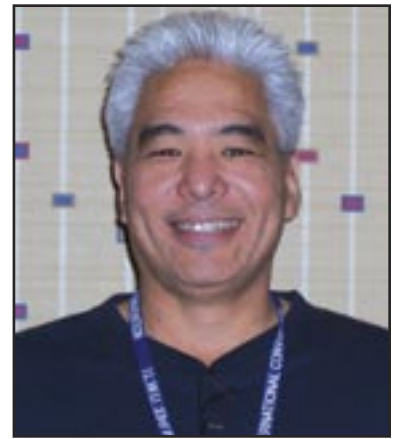
On the International level, I am currently a member of the International Executive Board. I was fortunate enough to replace John Evans, due to his promotion to Foreman in 2003. The time I have spent on the International Executive Board since then has been a very rewarding and educational experience.

My goal as a candidate for International Executive Board representing the Columbia River area would be to continue to work closely with all the locals and divisions of the ILWU, and be accountable and available to all members, at all times. I am proud to be a member of this Union and will always honor the time I can give to serve it.

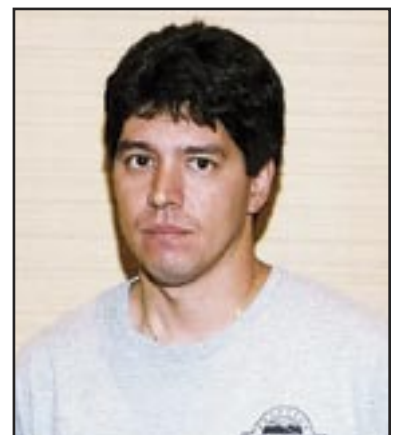
International Executive Board—Hawaii (vote for two)



**Nathan "Nate" Lum
Local 142, Longshore**



**Kenneth Ige Local 142
General Trades**



**Joey Silva Local 142
Tourism**

Northern California International Executive Board (Vote for three)



**DENNIS BRUECKNER,
LOCAL 54**

No statement submitted.



FRED PECKER, LOCAL 6
**FRED PECKER FOR INTERNATIONAL
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Brothers & Sisters,
I ask for your support in my run for a seat for the Northern California Area on the ILWU International Executive Board.

As Union workers we have to make our voices heard on many issues. The ILWU is faced with a host of issues—Jurisdiction, the Right to Organize, Environmental (e.g., dredging, air quality), Development and encroachment around maritime and industrial areas, Healthcare & Retirement, and Justice and Peace among them.

Over the years I have represented on behalf of all Divisions of the ILWU [Longshore, IBU, & Warehouse] in public hearings and other forums throughout the Bay Area [SF, Oakland, Richmond, Fremont], Stockton, Sacramento and Washington D.C. I participate in solidarity actions with other Unions regularly.

With your support I will continue to be a strong voice for Northern California on the International Executive Board.

I am currently Secretary-Treasurer of Local 6, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern CA District Council, and on the ILWU International Executive Board. I also serve on the Executive Board of the San Francisco Labor Council, and as a Director of the ILWU-FSC Credit Union.

In Solidarity,
Fred Pecker
Local 6
Black Book # 11731



**RICHARD CAVALLI,
LOCAL 34**

My name is Richard Cavalli and I am running for reelection to the office of Northern California representative to the International Executive Board. I have been on the Board for the last three years and I am also currently the President of Local 34 which represents Marine Clerks and Office Clerical workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Delta.

I will continue to represent the wishes of the rank and file while I serve on the Board as I have in the past.

This office is important within the structure of the Union as the International Executive Board is the Unions highest governing body between the Conventions, which are held every three years. The recently finished Convention showed us that the Union has a number of serious challenges to deal with; and this International Executive Board will have the task of deciding on the ILWU's course of action. The next three years will be crucial to our Union.

While the future is impossible to forecast with certainly it surely will bring forth challenges for us. The political activities of the Union that are crucial to its ability to continue to effectively serve the membership must be carried out in an energetic fashion. Because the International Constitution provides that it is an objective of the ILWU to secure legislation favorable to labor and to oppose anti-labor legislation, our course is already set. Political action and how our Union will raise the funds necessary to support that political action will be a key issue. The need to successfully organize new workers is of paramount importance to the Union and the Board will have a role to play; We must fashion a response to the immigration question that does not make targets out of those workers that our Union organizes. Furthermore, we must be ready to protect our members from attacks by those in government who claim in the name of national security the right to deny access of ILWU workers to their workplaces.

These are but some of the difficulties we will face in the next three years. I am sure there will be others, and this Board must be up to the task of finding solutions that carry the ILWU message.

Thank you for taking the time to allow me to share my concerns with you.

Fraternally
Richard Cavalli



**LAWRENCE J. THIBEAUX,
LOCAL 10**

My name is Lawrence Thibaux. I've spent my working life dedicated to the ILWU serving in nearly every capacity on a local and regional level. With my long view of the ILWU history and my many years of varied experience, I bring a seasoned perspective and sound judgment to the International Executive Board.

I have been a registered member of longshore Local 10 since 1967 and was an A-man during the 1972 strike and Taft-Hartley injunction. Since then I have served as Local 10's Business Agent, Secretary-Treasurer and President. I have been on the Local 10 Executive Board most of the time and have been a regular Caucus and Convention delegate since 1982.

I spent 11 years as the Northern California District Council's Legislative Representative. In that capacity I have worked in the California Legislature in Sacramento, testifying before numerous Assembly and Senate hearings and reporting the results to the council members. I lobbied for increases in the minimum wage, for higher unemployment and disability benefits. I know the system, the issues and the players and have used that for the good of the ILWU and all working people.

For the last five years I have been the Northern California representative on the Legislative Action Committee: I have lobbied for dredging of the Port of Oakland, Sacramento and Redwood City as well as formulating and executing the ILWU's national political work.

I have always made our community and the ILWU role in it a central part of my work. I am currently working with the West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative, a group dedicated to decreasing the harmful health effects of the port pollution on this predominantly African American neighborhood.

In the last two years served on the Coast Public Relations Committee, helping develop a new program to improve the ILWU image, to get out our story, and train our members to do it ourselves.

For the last three years I have served as the Northern California representative on the Longshore Port Security Committee, dealing with the government "Transportation Workers Identification Credential" (TWIC) and working to protect our members' rights.

Finally, I have served in this capacity, as Northern California representative on the International Executive Board, since 1993.

I have witnessed the ILWU history for many years. No one can pull wool over my eyes—I was there when it happened!

I ask for your continued support to serve the ILWU.

for one each industrial grouping)



**Avelino Martin Local 142
Pineapple**



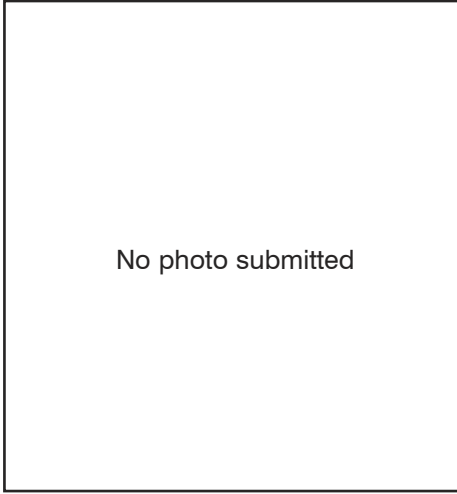
**Robert Zahl (Bob)
Local 142 Sugar**

Canada Int'l Executive Board (Vote for one)



**TOM DUFRESNE,
LOCAL 500**

Puget Sound International Executive Board *(Vote for two)*



No photo submitted



RICH AUSTIN JR., LOCAL 19

ELECT RICH AUSTIN JR. TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (I.E.B.)

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As a third-generation longshore worker, I honor and appreciate the sacrifices made by the pioneers of our great union. When elected to the International Executive Board (I.E.B.) I vow to uphold our Union's Constitution and the By-Laws of the Longshore Division. They have served us well.

Soon after becoming a member of the ILWU, I began participating in the affairs of our Union. I am currently on the Local 19 Labor Relations Committee and therefore a member of the local's Executive Board. In addition, I am a Convention and Caucus Delegate, a member of the Coast Education Committee, and am the current Local 19 Shop Steward Chair. I have attended Educational Programs sponsored both by the International and the Longshore Division. Each of us has something to give back to our Union and all of us should make every effort to volunteer some of our time and pitch-in when needed.

The ILWU Constitution is a noble document. Its Objectives are:

"First, to unite in one organization, regardless of religion, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation or nationality, all workers within the jurisdiction of this International;

Second, to maintain and improve the wages, hours, and working conditions for all of its members without discrimination;

Third, to educate the membership of this organization in the history of the American labor movement and in present day labor problems and tactics;

Fourth, to secure legislation in the interests of labor and to oppose anti-labor legislation."

As a member of the I.E.B. I will do my best to preserve and uphold those four Objectives as well as our Ten Guiding Principles.

The membership wants the facts. Sometimes the news is good, but once it awhile it is not. In either event, you deserve the truth, not sugarcoated chatter. I will continue to tell it like it is.

At the recent International Convention and Longshore Caucus I cast votes that I believed were consistent with our International Constitution. I did not look around the room to see if I was taking the "popular" position. My votes were intended to uphold the working class heritage of our great Union. As your I.E.B. representative I will continue taking principled positions.

Be sure to vote. Vote for Rich Austin, Jr. for I.E.B. Thanks

"An Injury to One is an Injury to All"



MAX VEKICH, LOCAL 52

No statement submitted.



CONRAD SPELL, LOCAL 23

No statement submitted.

MATT VENTOZA, LOCAL 19

My father worked on the waterfront for over 40 years and of those years he was a Seattle foreman for over 20. Traveling to get work many of those years. My father thought so highly of this industry that he suggested I follow with this great longshore tradition and make longshoring my career. It has never been a job to me, it has been and will continue to be my life time work.

My name is Matt Ventoza. I started working on the Seattle waterfront (local 19) in 1978. I accumulated nearly 10,000 casual hours before being registered to "B" status in May of 1993. I became an A registered longshoreman in June of 1994. I started attending the local JPLRC meetings immediately to educate myself on how this aspect of our business operated from the inside. My services to my local include 2 years as a local 19 alternate Labor Relations Committee member(1998,2002), 2 years as Stevedore Safety representative(1999,2000), 2 years as Vice President (2004,2005), 3 years as Area Labor Relations Committee member (2003,2004,2005), 3 years as a Delegate to 2 Conventions and 3 Caucus' and 4 years as an executive board member(2000,2003,2004,2005). I am currently the Local 19 Port Security Representative.

I am running for the position of International Executive Board member because I care about this great Union we belong to. I want this Union to be here for your children, grand children and great grand children. I run for this position as a servant to you, the members that make this union what it is today. We as a union must be united and strong for our upcoming contract negotiations, as an I.E.B. member I will make sure your voices and concerns are brought to the attention of this body for the betterment of this union. The intelligence of YOU the collective body of members is what makes this possible. Each one of your opinions matters and without your participation and foresight this Union would not be what is today.

We must look to the future and make the necessary adjustments needed to protect our jobs and livelihood as well as our retirement plan. I believe that our retirees are the most important asset we have and we MUST protect their well being from contract to contract. Not only do our retirees provide us with wisdom but they know the history of this union and that is something we must never lose or forget. We must THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. We are at a crossroads, with the declining union memberships across the country and we must not quit participating the way we have been with our legislative body or we will become just another statistic. I will do my part on the I.E.B. to make sure we continue with our forward thinking and seek new ways to move forward to protect this industry as well aid others in their struggle for the right to belong to a Union.