

IMPORTANT NOTICE: MAY IS MEDICAL & DENTAL CHOICE MONTH— PAGE 6



The DISPATCHER

Published by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

Vol. 66, No. 3



www.ilwu.org

March 2008

Longshore Caucus meets on contract priorities

page 2



ILWU endorses Barack Obama

page 3

SPECIAL FEATURE: Women in the ILWU

page 5



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

INSIDE

- Meet the Longshore Negotiating Committee page 2*
- Members speak out page 4*
- New ILWU history exhibit is ready for the road page 7*

Longshore Division holds contract caucus

Nearly 100 Longshore Caucus delegates met in San Francisco from January 28 to February 8 to discuss dozens of resolutions that will shape the union's approach to bargaining the new longshore contract. The existing longshore contract expires on July 1, 2008.

Representatives from every West Coast port were represented at the Caucus, including ILWU longshore officials from Canada, Hawaii, and Alaska who participated as observers because they have

similar but separate longshore contracts. IBU officials and members attended, along with ILWU rank-and-file members from Bay Area locals. A contingent of retirees was also on hand and they participated in every session.

The delegates elected Joe Cortez of Local 13 as Caucus Chair, Frank Ponce de Leon from Local 13 as Secretary, and John Tousseau of Local 63 and Scott Mason of Local 23 as Sergeants-at-Arms.

The ILWU Coast Committee presid-

ed along with the Caucus officials on a stage in front of the room that included President Bob McEllrath, Vice President Joe Radisich, Coast Committeemen Ray Ortiz and Leal Sundet.

Many delegates were veterans of previous caucuses, but this was the first time for some.

"Everyone at the Caucus was trying to address issues and solve problems," said Jennifer Gumm, a first-time delegate from Local 12 in Coos Bay, Oregon. "The

continued on page 3

THE 2008 COAST NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE



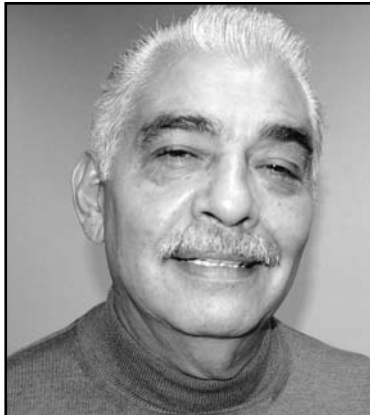
International President Bob McEllrath



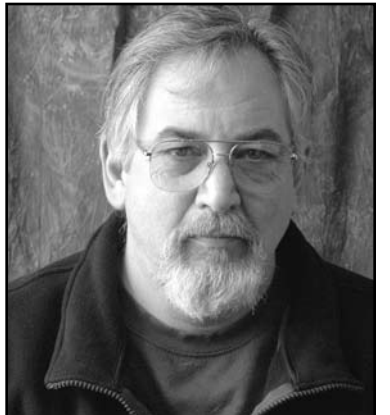
International Vice President Joe Radisich



Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet



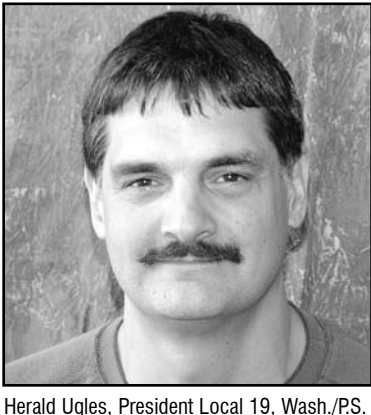
Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz Jr.



Tony DePaul, Local 23, Wash./P.S. Reg. Rep.



Jim Daw, Local 8, Ore./Col. River Reg. Rep.



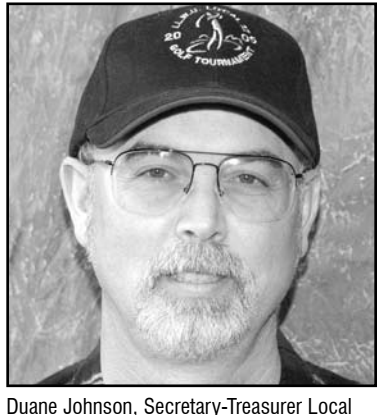
Herald Ugles, President Local 19, Wash./P.S. Reg. Rep.



Melvin Mackay, President Local 10, N. Calif. Reg. Rep.



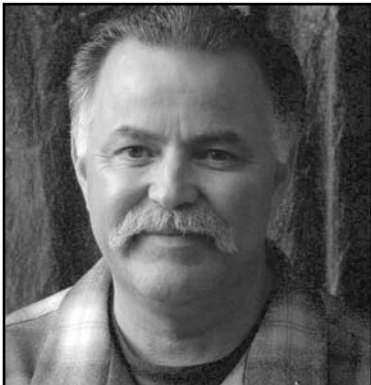
John Philbrook, President Local 21, Small Ports Rep., Ore./Col. River Reg.



Duane Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer Local 51, Small Ports Rep., Wash./P.S. Reg.



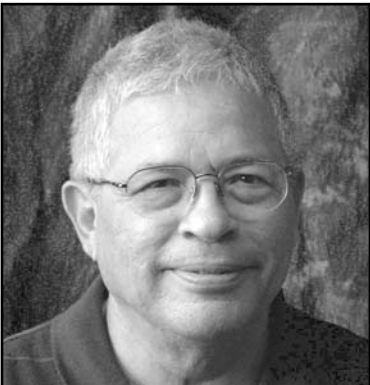
Marc Cuevas, President Local 54, Small Ports Rep., Calif. Reg.



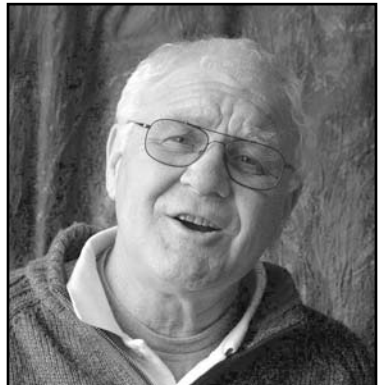
Danny Miranda, President Local 94, Foremen/Walking Bosses Rep.



John Tousseau, Local 63, Marine Clerks Rep.



Joe Cortez, Local 13, S. Calif. Reg. Rep.



Richard Cavalli, President Local 34, Marine Clerks Rep.

THE 2008 COAST SAFETY NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE



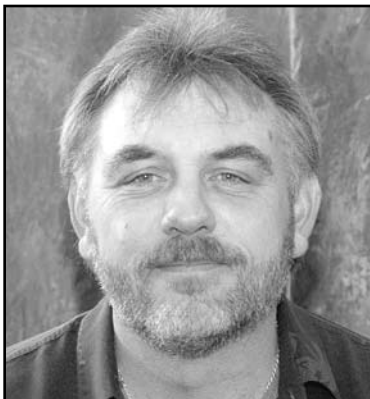
Jeff Smith, President Local 8, Ore./Col. River Reg. Rep.



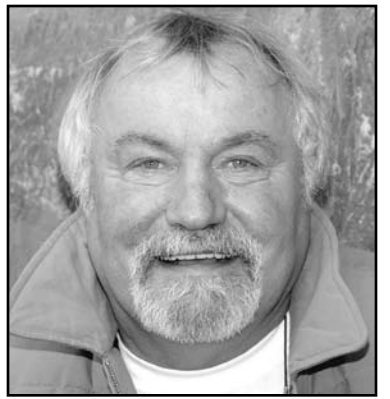
Cameron Williams, Local 19, Wash./P.S. Reg. Rep.



Trent Willis, Business Agent Local 10, N. Calif. Reg. Rep.



Tracy Burchett, Local 53, Small Ports Rep.



Paul Wieser, President Local 98, Foremen/Walking Bosses Rep.

Letters to *The Dispatcher*

Dear Editor,

Much has been written in the *Dispatcher* about immigration and undocumented workers. Most of what I have read has missed the mark. The culprits are not our fellow workers!

Rarely do people wake up on a nice sun-shining morning and out of the blue decide to migrate. On the contrary—most people flee their homelands out of need.

Since the passage of NAFTA our fellow workers south of the border have seen their purchasing power plummet by 50 percent!!! Think about that! Think about making 50 percent less in 2008 than you did in 1993 (the year NAFTA was enacted).

continued on page 8



Adrian Diaz, Dispatcher Local 63, Marine Clerks Rep.



Tim Podue, Executive Board, Local 13, S. Calif. Reg. Rep.



Pete Favazza, Local 13, M&R Rep.

ILWU endorses Barack Obama for President

The ILWU International Executive Board endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President on February 28th, concluding that he is “the best candidate for our union and for working families.”

Board members made their decision after an extensive process that involved interviewing the major campaigns and examining their positions on key issues that will impact ILWU members in the coming years. Republican Presidential candidates were not interviewed because they failed to address the key issues below, including:

Bringing our troops home safely from Iraq. Ending the war continues to be a concern of Executive Board members, rank-and-file union members, and the general public. Obama’s record on the Iraq war was an important factor in winning the ILWU endorsement. “By speaking out early against the war, Obama took leadership at a time when others were reluctant,” said International President McEllrath.

Supporting the rights of workers to join unions without employer threats is a priority. Obama pledged to support the

“Employee Free Choice Act” that would create new rules to make it easier for workers to join a union. But actually passing the “Employee Free Choice” in Congress will require a huge effort from all union members – and a President who will make it a top priority and help deliver enough votes for the proposal to become law.

Making quality, affordable health care available to all Americans is another pledge that will require some heavy lifting from union members in order to become law. All major Presidential candidates declined to support the single-payer approach favored by the ILWU. Obama has pledged to sign a universal health care bill by the end of his first term.

Re-thinking “free trade” agreements has been a concern of the ILWU since the first fight over NAFTA. While Obama, has expressed some troubling “free trade” views in the past, his recent criticism of NAFTA and his commitment to oppose the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) made an important difference.

“No candidate is perfect on all the issues, but America’s working families



President McEllrath greets Senator Barack Obama at the San Francisco Labor Council.

are ready for someone with a fresh approach who will put people first and hold corporations more accountable,” said ILWU International President

Bob McEllrath. “Obama met with us, listened to our concerns, and we think he’ll do the best job on the issues that matter to working families.”



Photo Courtesy of Working America

Several dozen Working America canvassers knock on doors across Oregon every day, including this one in the Portland area. About two of three people asked will sign up to join the AFL-CIO’s community affiliate program, and many will register to vote. They will then be contacted by union volunteers and staff about elections and updates on where their elected officials stand on working families issues.

Oregon longshore workers gear up to make a difference

By Jennifer Sargent

With all of the talk of Presidential politics, how many of us are thinking of statewide races—our next state representatives, mem-

bers of Congress and ballot measures that could have a big impact on ILWU jobs and families?

In Oregon, working on elections has become a way of life for more

ILWU members. By leveraging their volunteer hours through the Oregon AFL-CIO’s political program, and making strategic political contributions, they’ve helped make working families a force to be reckoned with.

In 2006, Local 8 “B Woman” Megan Premo was released to the state federation’s Labor 2006 campaign. She contributed to the final tally of 200,000 phone calls, 7,000 door knocks and 65,000 worksite fliers moved by union members. Local 5 Business Agent Ryan Takas was named “Volunteer of the Week” by the Oregon AFL-CIO for taking the initiative to canvass—by himself, in the rain.

In a small state like Oregon, this kind of legwork makes a big difference—especially when unions combine resources and work together. Voter turnout among Oregon AFL-CIO’s affiliate unions was 78 percent, compared to 68 percent of the general electorate. This extra turnout has helped Oregon elect six union members to the state legislature. The state’s governor was once a union Steelworker and Bricklayer, and the Labor commissioner is a union Electrician. Oregon has the second highest minimum wage in the nation, at \$7.95 an hour. And for the past ten years, union members have helped defeat a slew of anti-union ballot measures brought into the state from right-wing anti-labor organizations.

This year, Oregon’s ILWU members are poised again to help elect candidates that are committed to

working families—and pledged to work with the Oregon AFL-CIO and their community affiliate, *Working America*.

“Working America allows people who don’t have a union at work to join the AFL-CIO directly,” Tom Chamberlain, President of the Oregon AFL-CIO, told the Dispatcher. “Two-thirds of people that canvassers talk to will sign up, and one in five will immediately write a letter to an elected official. It’s what makes democracy work for busy working people. We’re proud to once again have Longshore involvement in our political program.”

Working America also allows the union to communicate with a whole new universe of voters who are swelling the union-oriented ranks by about 50 percent. A strong program in 2008 will amplify the positive election results in 2006 which made it possible for working families to be heard in the 2007 Legislative Session on issues they’d been fighting for all along.

“During the 2002 lockout, Longshore workers in Washington and California could collect unemployment benefits, but Oregon shut us out,” said Local 8 President Jeff Smith. “So in 2007, with a majority in the state House and Senate, we worked with the AFL-CIO and other unions to successfully change the law. It was the first time when enough legislators cared about us – and it changed because we got more involved.”

Longshore contract caucus cont’d

debates were intense at times, but almost always respectful. I was impressed with the process and all the unity in the room, even when there were disagreements.”

Many veteran participants also noted that the tone of this gathering was more unified and less factional than previous Caucus meetings.

Many issues were debated at the Caucus including:

- A variety of strategies for protecting and improving jobs and benefits in the longshore industry.
- Safety problems, including dramatic details of more than a dozen deaths that have occurred on the docks since 2002, along with suggestions for improving safety conditions.

- Approaches for reducing dangerous air pollution that is plaguing many ports and nearby communities—causing serious diseases including cancer and threatening to delay or derail port improvement projects.

Before ending on February 8, the caucus took action on two final items.

The body selected the Negotiating Committee that will oversee bargaining, along with a Safety Negotiating Committee that will seek improvements and protections in the Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Safety Code.

The Negotiating Committee will soon be convened by the Coast Committee to begin developing the

Union’s proposal document out of the resolutions adopted at the Caucus.

The Caucus also adopted a resolution calling for stop-work meetings during the day shift on May 1 to support U.S. troops in Iraq by calling on the Bush administration to bring them back home safely now.

The DISPATCHER
 www.ilwu.org
 Craig Merrilees
 Editor and Communications Director
 Tom Price
 Assistant Editor

The Dispatcher (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. *The Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address. © ILWU, 2008

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
ROBERT McELLRATH
 President
JOSEPH R. RADISICH **WESLEY FURTADO**
 Vice President **Vice President**
WILLIAM E. ADAMS
 Secretary-Treasurer

ILWU women speak out



Mary Zartman, bookseller, Powell's Books, Local 5

MARY ZARTMAN, BOOKSELLER, POWELL'S BOOKS, LOCAL 5

“We're kind of an oddball local in the union as a whole. It's kind of like we're the scrawny, introverted booksellers, up next to brawny guys with to-die-for muscles. I like it when the big guys come around. I introduce myself as a longshore-man; it's primarily a male union and that's the image I have in my mind.

“At Powell's, it's more of a matriarchy. Even though Michael Powell is our boss, we have lots of women in management. It's the least sexist company I've worked for. There's no reason why you can't move up here. Because my supervisor is a mother, she understands when I need to leave early or come in late for parenting reasons. We've also had members on our staff have sex changes, and they get a lot of support. There was a membership-wide email announcing someone's transition and congratulating them for it. I love the way we support each other.

“We are among the lowest-paid locals of the ILWU, and I do think it affects us in the bigger picture. I still don't have a living wage here after 11 years. We have good health care; I don't complain about that.”



Betty Pervezov, Second Vice President, ILWU Local 517—Vancouver, BC

BETTY PERVEZOV, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT ILWU LOCAL 517—VANCOUVER, BC

“Someone asked me once why I serve on the Executive Board, and I replied that someone else had served for my sake, so I am simply carrying on the tradition. I feel it's every union member's responsibility to serve the Union in some way—either by being on the Exec, participating on a committee, or by attending the general meetings. Harry Bridges once said that a group of workers standing together is an unstoppable dynamo, and I firmly believe that.

“I feel one of the greatest challenges is to understand the history and strengths of the Union. Many of the struggles that faced Union women in the past are still being fought today, only in different forms and our responses to these struggles can often utilize previous solutions in an updated form.

“Another great challenge is education, because the world is changing so quickly and it is important for us to be as informed and current as possible. Regarding opportunities for Union women, there are several: there is equal pay for equal work. There is the ability to run for office in the Union structure, the opportunity to attend and participate in Union meetings, and there is a wonderful opportunity to contribute and to make a very real difference, not only for the current membership but also for future members.”

CATHY PORTNALL LOCAL 63 OCU

“Women today have greater opportunities in the ILWU because of the accomplishments that other women achieved in the recent past.

“It took a tremendous amount of inner strength and courage to tackle issues such as equal employment opportunities in what was previously a male-dominated union.

“I can only imagine the daily challenges and difficulties they faced as they addressed equal rights for women in the ILWU.

“Although our opportunities are greater today, I feel we still face the challenge of working with those who will always have the mindset that women have no place in the harbor.”



Clovijeane Good, Local 94

CLOVIJEANE GOOD, LOCAL 94

“About 10 or 11 of my family are with the ILWU. The ILWU definitely is a family. After knowing so many people for so long, you have all different types of union brothers and sisters that you pick up as family members along the way.

“I was one of the first when they hired a big group of women into Local 13 in 1985. So that was a challenge because they didn't have a lot of women on the waterfront then, and a lot of rules and regulations had to be changed. It was basically a man's world. But with hard work it always changes.

“A lot of people in this union teach you and help you move up the ladder. A lot of people struggled within the ILWU for us to move up, for us just to be in the locals, so I think we have a good history. An injury to one is an injury to all—let's hang together.”

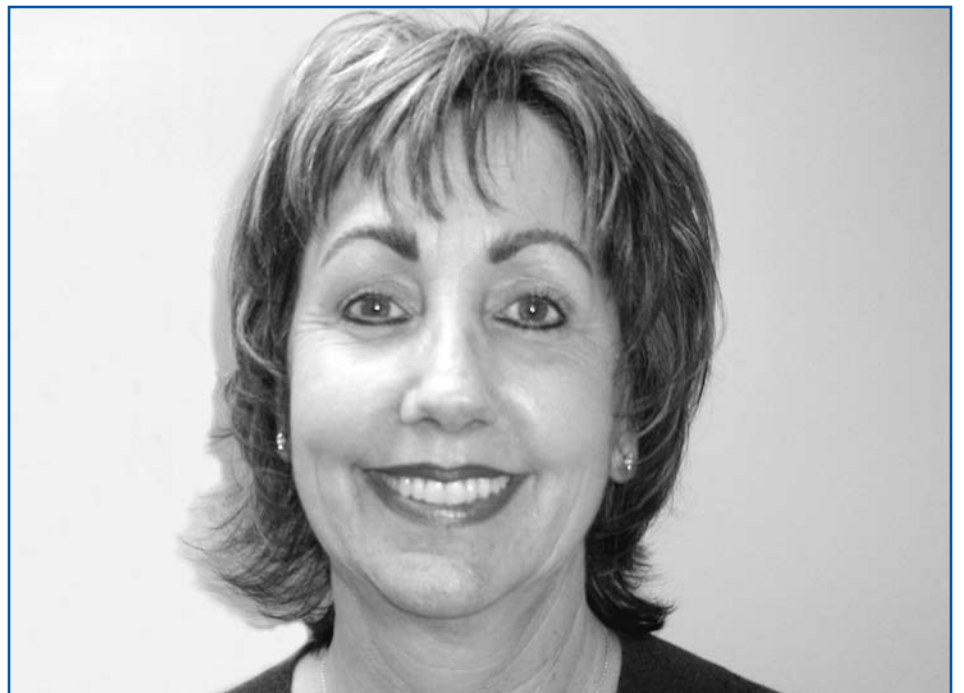


Jennifer Gumm, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 12

JENNIFER GUMM, SECRETARY-TREASURER, LOCAL 12

“It was a privilege to be at my first Longshore Caucus and see how the body works, how resolutions are processed, and see how democracy works. It lasted two weeks, but I relished going through all the reports. Knowledge is power for union members.

“I think both men and women should have the opportunity to pursue what ever they want within the ILWU. I would recommend longshore work to the women. I like to work on the waterfront, drive heavy equipment, and don't mind getting dirty. I also like being involved with taking care of the union; making sure things are run right with integrity and that we're not fighting among ourselves. So I would recommend women do what they want to do, pursue being a clerk, a walking boss, or a union official. The opportunities are limitless.”



Cathy Portnall Local 63 OCU

Profiles of ILWU women



Anna Zambrano, Local 20, and her train-hauling Caterpillar.

Aнна Zambrano started at Local 20 at the age of 20, and that was 28 years ago. She works at the Borax processing facility in Wilmington, doing most every job in the plant.

"My main jobs are silo attendant and ship loading," she said. "Unloading railcars is part of that job, and loading the silos. I also drive a big cargo Cat, moving eight rail cars at a time."

She has family all over the waterfront, including one son in Local 13 and another in port security. Her female cousins and their daughters, and her daughter-in-law, also work the docks.

"Back when I got my card you didn't see women, but now it's a way of life," she said. "More women and their daughters are working now, before it was just men and their sons."

"There are a lot of young women in their twenties starting out, it's dangerous, it's scary, but you see a lot of single women. I was a single woman supporting three kids when I started. It was a good job, especially with the insurance."

"I love working down on the harbor, it's physical, it's a man's job—so they tell me—they kid me about it. It's really beautiful when I sit up in the tower loading the ships, I can see the whole area where I grew up. I can walk out on the docks, see the ocean, the bridge, and planes taking-off and landing."

"I do worry about the kids on the docks because it's so dangerous. My son was almost killed four years ago when a top handler fell on his UTR. I tell the kids that you have to respect the job, the heavy machinery; you have to respect the people you're working with, and always respect their lives."

"I do a lot of rail switching. My partner and I rotate the jobs; one day I do the switches and one day he's pulling the rail cars with the big Caterpillar. We work two Cats; one's named Fred and the other is Wilma. We're like family there because we've grown up together. My uncle's still working as a linesman and he's 73 years old. I wouldn't have traded this job for anything."



Kristy Lovato, President Local 5

Kristy Lovato works at Powell's Books in Portland and is President of Local 5. She supported unionization at Powell's when workers decided to join the ILWU a few years ago.

"Health care and child care are especially close to women's hearts," she said. "There are a lot of single women in our union who are raising children."

Before the workers voted for the union, management had been talking about health care cuts.

"One of our organizing issues was keeping our medical benefits affordable," she said. "That's one of the reasons we had some very vibrant organizers in our group who were so passionate. It's good to see that the ILWU has made space for young women, and for people who are passionate about politics."

But she also believes that every union has a long way to go in recruiting women.

"We've made a lot of progress in the U.S., but part of what we should do is to provide examples and mentorship for women in other countries who are organizing, especially with the growing importance of cross border solidarity," she said. "It's important for us to not think of injustice toward women as a problem that's gone away. Our sisters in other countries have issues about family care and health care that they struggle with everyday."

"One of the things that's been helpful for me is to see the strong women mentors from other locals in this union. Women should have mentors who can show them the lay of the land. I think the trainers have done a good job. The ILWU has been focused on making sure there's been good diversity—making sure there's a place for women."



Julie Ann Fisher, Local 34, at the Longshore Caucus.

Julie Ann Fisher has been a Local 34 clerk since 1998. Her father, John Fisher, started in the clerks in 1947. Julie attended the 2008 Longshore Caucus; her first time as a delegate.

"I think it's positive to get all the locals together to understand each and everyone's position," she said. "It's good to know what's happening in the Northwest. For example, I work in San Francisco where there's a big port and a cosmopolitan city, so I think it helps me understand some of the struggles that LA faces, being so large and having so many casuals to incorporate into their workforce."

Darlene Robertson started in the industry in 1984 and became Local 94's first female African American walking boss in 2000. On her way up she worked every kind of longshore work on the waterfront.

"It was very hard to achieve that goal," she said. "It was the hardest thing I've accomplished in my life. Once I got into the foreman's position, it was another whole journey being the first, like Jackie Robinson."

She works at Evergreen Terminals and has been a yard foreman for six years. Many workers choose to come back to Evergreen every day, in part because they like working on Robertson's team. She is currently raising her two grand children and has a daughter and sister working as casuals.

"But when I first came into the industry I had nobody in the union," Robertson said. "I know, being a black woman, I haven't had it easy. It's been a very long journey, I pray every day to ask God to give me the strength to do the things I need to do. A lot of things still need to be changed, but I'm not bitter because there is a God."

Darlene, like many others, values the diversity training they receive as a tool to fight racism, but she also sees need for improvement.

"I think we need somebody from inside the industry teaching it, because no one who doesn't work in the industry will ever understand the industry," she said. "I know Martin Luther King had a dream, a dream that one day Blacks, whites, all nationalities would all stand together. I pray that we all have a unity, and when we say 'An injury to one is an injury to all' it's not a saying, it's a reality."

Debbie Dean joined Local 91 five years ago this month. She had worked in the Scalers' Union and sometimes picked up longshore jobs before joining Local 10 in 1990.

"When working in the Scalers' Union I never knew there was any other longshore job but lashing," Dean said. "I dragged chains from the forward end of the ship to the aft end. I had a little daughter and I needed some benefits for her, medicals more than money."

The men expected women to prove something, she said. Her advice:

"Don't stand around thinking you're so beautiful you don't have to do anything," Dean said. "Put your hands on something, make the job a bit easier. They might say, 'oh women on the waterfront, they just want to ride on somebody's coat,' but you got to show them you're made of something tough."

Debbie's daughter, Danica French, is now a 'B' member in Local 10.

"I used to go to the hall, and Danica would say, 'mom, did you get a job?' and I'd say, 'not today.' The irony is now that Danica's little girl Kayla is asking her 'mom, did you get a job?' and she'd say, 'no, not today' and her daughter would say 'maybe tomorrow.'"

Dean was active in Local 10, working on the Executive Board, the Investigative Committee, and the Northern California District Council that coordinates political action. Her sister, Bonnie Houston, is an 'A' registered Local 10 longshore woman.

She offers some practical advice that she received from the old timers who passed it along to younger workers:

"Keep the union strong, take care of this job, it's a diamond in the rough. With this job, if you want to live on Blueberry Hill you can. This union will take care of you if you take care of this union. The union is a beautiful thing."

Editor's note: This March edition of the *Dispatcher* includes a special focus on women in the ILWU in honor of International Women's Day—the March 8th holiday that gets too little recognition. The holiday has several origins, but all involve important labor struggles by working women—both here in the U.S. and abroad. Some say the idea for Women's Day was born one hundred years ago in New York City when 15,000 women marched in 1908 to demand a shorter work week, better pay, and the right to vote. A few years later in March, 1911, over one million labor activists—women and men—gathered to celebrate the first Women's Day event in Europe. Less than a week later, 148 working women were killed on March 25th at the "Triangle Fire" in New York City because a factory-owner locked workers inside his sweatshop—forcing many to leap 80 feet to their deaths on the streets below after a shop floor fire broke out. The tragedy was the worst disaster in New York until 9-11, and it sparked a new wave of labor organizing and reform. Another chapter was added on March 8, 1917 when Russian women led a strike for "bread and peace" after 2 million Russian soldiers had been killed in the war and starvation was rampant. The women's strike helped force the Czar to resign, and women quickly won the right to vote when the country's first democratic government was established. For more information about Women's Day and the labor movement, go to www.internationalwomensday.com.

News and Notes

LOCAL 142

The AFL-CIO has called for a boycott of Honolulu-based HTH Corp. and its hotels, the Pacific Beach Hotel and the Pagoda Hotel. The AFL-CIO will notify member unions in every state asking them to avoid patronizing the hotels because of a dispute between HTH and ILWU Local 142.

"The employees at the Pacific Beach Hotel are hard-working and have been very loyal to the hotel through the years," Local 142 President Fred Galdones said. "They have given a lot; now they deserve to get something. They deserve some respect on the job and recognition of their will to be part of the ILWU."

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney issued this statement to unions and the national news media:

"HTH has made a mark for itself as one of the worst employers in the country," Sweeney said. "They have violated federal labor law repeatedly and on a massive scale. They have treated their workers with utter disrespect. They have shown contempt for the law, for their employees and for the community."

Some 450 people work at the 837-room Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki. HTH said in December that it no longer recognizes the ILWU and refused to negotiate with the union.

"The ILWU has made an open offer to the hotel to meet anytime, anywhere to settle the contract," Galdones said. "We are ready to sit down and negotiate today."

IBU-Columbia River Region signed a second contract for the 11 workers at McCall Oil on Jan. 28. The new contract practically doubles pension benefits, provides a moderate wage package, and an improvement on family healthcare.

"In the old contract, the company paid the whole cost of medical care for the worker, and half of the family med costs. Under the new contract, they'll pay full coverage for the worker and 75 percent for the family," said bargaining team member Brian Dodge. "We took a bit of a hit on the raise, which came in at three, 2.5, and two percent over the three years."

The Portland, Oregon-based company had first offered one, one and one percent raises for each of the three years. McCall operates a transfer station that moves petroleum and asphalt and transfers it among barges, ships, rail, and trucks.

The members also got a step-discipline plan that would provide due process for anyone accused of an infraction at work.

"The rank and file did an amazing

amount of work," IBU Director Michael Conradi said. "It took 14 months to get the first contract. The workers took negotiation classes provided by the IBU and the ILWU. This empowered them, gave them a voice, and they stepped up to win this contract."

Vickie Wintheiser, a member of the original organizing team, sat in on some of the bargaining sessions. She described the pre-IBU days:

"Things had gotten so bad, we got together as a group and it was unanimous—going union was the right way to go," she said. "We all signed pledge cards and as a group we went to the employer. They demanded a vote, so there was a month or so of propaganda, but again 100 percent of us voted for the union. The second contract took only about five sessions; it was fairly smooth."

Inlandboatmen's Union and Local 6 members expressed their solidarity with the Native American community at a Feb. 11 rally in Berkeley, Calif. The rally kicked off an event called the "Longest Walk 2," a five-month journey from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

Native American groups won praise for supporting IBU's picket lines after the National Park Service replaced a union ferry operator with Hornblower Yachts, a non-union company that has taken the union jobs of transporting thousands of tourists to Alcatraz Island.

"Longest Walk organizers, American Indian Movement veterans, and the International Indian Treaty Council consistently supported the IBU during their fight with Alcatraz Cruises," said Local 6 member Pedro de Sa. "The SF region of the IBU is excited to be working together with indigenous people for environmental, social and economic justice."

ILWU members also joined Native American activists recently at U.C. Berkeley where they called on the University to preserve a Native burial site and return Native American remains to their tribal ancestors. For more information about Native rights and the Longest Walk, go to: <http://www.longestwalk.org>.

Local 34 voted to donate \$1,000 to the UAW "Justice-4-five" fund at its February membership meeting. Russell Miyashiro presented the check at the Saturday, Feb. 23 rally... The local's Longshore Caucus delegates Julie Fisher, Eddie Gutierrez and Richard Cavalli reported at the membership meeting on the results of the recently concluded Longshore Caucus. Members thoroughly debated the prospects for the upcoming nego-



Warehouse Caucus meets. Back row, L-R: Darin Woodard, Local 6 President; Jose Nunez, Local 6; Jeff Carter, President, Local 17; Ryan Takas, Business Agent, Local 5; Rudy Dorame, President, Local 20; Fred Pecker, Secretary-Treasurer Local 6. Middle row: Oscar Garcia, Local 17 retiree; Jack Wyatt Sr., Secretary-Treasurer, Local 17; Britta Duncan, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 5; Carey Dall, Local 6. Front row: Angela Duncan, daughter of Britta Duncan.

tiations... The local's Executive Board and Labor Relations Committee will meet in a joint meeting in March to plan for whatever actions may be necessary to support the Coast Negotiating Committee... The Matson/SSA Office Clerical Unit had its initial meeting Feb. 25 to formulate demands for upcoming bargaining for the current contract that will expire July 1, 2008... Local 34 officers in conjunction with Local 10 officials are continuing to meet with City of Oakland officials regarding development plans for the old Army base property.

Local 63 OCU is working hard to reap the benefits of last summer's successful contract settlement with maritime employers in the Los Angeles and Long Beach area. A key provision of that victory was establishment of multi-employer plans for health and pensions that will now be operated jointly with WITH the union as "Taft-Hartley" trust funds. They're just about finished merging about \$16 million from the existing individual employer health and welfare funds into the new multi-employer plan. Next, they'll merge the pension funds from individual employers - transferring about \$50 million into their new multi-employer joint pension plan. It should all be finished by end of 2008... Local 63 OCU hosted a shop steward training in mid-February that was attended by about 40 union activists. The trainings had been held annually in the past, but the recent negotiations forced the local to cancel the previous two sessions. The new

training sessions focused of the rights and responsibilities of stewards.

WAREHOUSE CAUCUS

Representatives from Locals 5, 6, 17, 20 and 26 came from up and down the Coast to the Local 6 hall in Oakland on Feb. 9 to discuss the structure of the Warehouse Caucus. Peter Olney, Director of Organizing, discussed organizing strategies and attorney Philip Monrad gave a brief presentation about ways on how to set up the caucus within the ILWU International Constitution.

"Our numbers in Local 20 are diminishing, we had 500 in late 70s and now we're down to 87," Local 20 Vice President Rudy Dorame said. "It's vital to the division for us to come together collectively and establish common ground on how to stay alive." Local 20 members handle shoreside operations in Wilmington CA for borate products shipped out of Boron California by ILWU miners in Local 30.

Locals in the north and south can come to the aid of a distressed local, Dorame said.

"Warehouse locals share common problems on topics such as organizing, research and negotiations," Local 26 president Luisa Gratz said. "We came together to talk about how we could strengthen the warehouse division within the ILWU, and to increase unity among our warehouse locals."

Local 517 added 22 new members through the amalgamation of two port authorities into the Vancouver

continued on page 8



Local 8 President Jeff Smith joined port officials from Vancouver, Wash. and Portland on Feb. 11 for an interview with Northwest Cable News. They agreed that Congress should approve \$36 million in the President's 2009 budget that will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the deepening of the Columbia River channel by 2010. Smith told viewers that thousands of good, family-wage jobs depend on river commerce, and that many more jobs in the area are affected as well. Deepening the channel to 43 feet will allow carriers to increase their loads from 5,500 containers to as many as 7,500 containers.

NOTICE FROM ILWU/PMA WELFARE PLAN: MAY IS MEDICAL, DENTAL CHOICE MONTH

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and/or dental plans during the open enrollment period: May 1 to May 31, 2008. Any change that you make will be effective July 1, 2008. In addition to the May open enrollment period, members may change their health/dental coverage once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2002 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan or Group Health Cooperative HMO Plan for the first 18 months of registration. After 18 months, those registrants who qualify for continued eligibility under the Mid-Year/Annual Review hours requirement, will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Los Angeles, Portland/Vancouver, and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choice is between Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92. In the Washington State area, the choices for Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98 are Group Health Cooperative and the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan.

DENTAL PLANS: For Los Angeles Locals, the dental choice is between Delta Dental and the Harbor Dental Associates (formerly Sakai, Simms) group plan. For San Francisco Locals, the dental choice is between Delta Dental, City Center Dental, Dental Health Services, and Gentle Dental San Francisco group plan. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals, the dental choice is between Delta Dental and Dental Health Services. For Portland/Vancouver Locals, the dental choice is between Blue Cross of Oregon Dentacare, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan, and Oregon/Washington Dental Service. For Washington Locals, the dental choice is between Washington Dental Service and Dental Health Services.

Information on the dental plans, the Coastwise Indemnity Plan, Kaiser and Group Health Cooperative medical plans, along with forms to change plans can be all be obtained at your local union office and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office.

ALL ENROLLMENT CARDS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE BENEFIT PLANS OFFICE BY MAY 31 FOR THE CHANGE TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



Local 91's Dennis Bruckner and Local 63's Julie Brown check out new exhibit.

“Legacy” Exhibit inspires memories

By Jennifer Sargent

Longshore Caucus delegates and guests who were the first to view the final, full-size version of the “Legacy of 1934” photo exhibit in February were enchanted by its ability to bring back memories. A well attended reception kicked off the display’s availability for exhibition to the broader public.

“It’s a beautiful display that tells the story of the ILWU history,” said Julie Fisher, a Local 34 Marine Clerk who attended the reception with an estimated 150 Caucus delegates and guests. “I like how it depicts how hard the work was at that time, how people struggled to transform the labor movement into a social movement.”

Fisher said the display—which features photographs and news articles of strikers greasing train tracks, side-walks bloodied by police violence, and crowds rallying in support of workers—reminded her of her parents’ and grandparents’ stories of living in San Francisco during the 1934 strike.

“My mother was across the bay in Alameda when the general strike shut down the city,” Fisher said. “She had to wait a day to get home.”

“A lot of what I see in the display reminds me of the tear gas and stuff in Seattle in 1999,” Tommy Harrison, Local 63 member, viewing photographs of violence inflicted on workers in their struggle for union recognition. “And during the 2002 lockout, when there were rumors of troops coming in, that very well could have turned out to be something like this.”

The exhibit, which was previewed at the April 2007 Longshore Caucus, was the brainchild of Local 13 longshoreman Dan Imbagliazzo, who contacted ILWU Education Services Director Gene Vrana with his idea, and the Longshore Caucus funded the project. Vrana worked with a team that included Curatorial Consultant Robin Walker, Graphic Designer and Producer Richard Bermack and ILWU Oral Historian Harvey Schwartz.

“We took to heart the suggestions that were made when people saw the exhibit last year,” said Vrana.

Two additions since the 2007 showing include the production of a smaller, more portable version, and an accompanying program that explains the panels. While the sturdy, full-color booklet was designed to serve as a guide, it works as a stand-alone introduction to ILWU history. The Coast Committee will provide interested locals with copies of the 21-page program at no cost.

Caucus guest Connie Chaney, a supercargo from Local 63, touched an image of a weathered Longshore union card and said, “I saw that and I said, ‘Whoa! That’s it!’” For her, the stamps and hand-scribbled initials inside reminded her of attending meetings and paying dues as a longshore worker in Local 13.

“I used to keep my card at home where I wouldn’t lose it,” she said. “It was very special to me.”

To order the “Legacy of 1934” program or inquire about the display, see box below.

WHICH “LEGACY” IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

The “Legacy of 1934” exhibit is available in various sizes for display in your area. A booklet explaining the exhibit is available as well.

Full Size Display: The 50-foot long, 10-panel exhibit is available on loan from the ILWU, for the cost of shipping. This display requires approximately 1200 square feet in a room or hallway, and is perfect for art exhibits, union halls, and indoor community events. **Portable Displays:** Smaller, poster-sized replicas of “Legacy of 1934” are available for sale. Printed on poster board or plastic, with laminating and carrying cases available, they are appropriate for tabletop display at union halls, trade shows, classrooms and more. The cost varies according to size and material.

Program: The 21-page accompanying program is available, courtesy of the Longshore Division Coast Committee, in boxes of 200.

Contact: To borrow the full-size display or receive free copies of the program, contact ILWU Director of Educational Services Gene Vrana at gv@ilwu.org or 415-775-1302. To purchase a poster-sized replica, contact Richard Bermack, Project Director and designer, at Rirchard@rb68.com.

Everett pensioners donate \$10,000 to Political Action Fund

The Everett Pensioners Club watched “Eye of the Storm” at their November meeting, then dipped into their pockets and donated to the ILWU Political Action Fund (PAF). Members had invited their spouses to watch the stirring documentary about the 2002 longshore

negotiations and lockout.

President Harold Pyatte brought a large-screen TV for the event. Of the Club’s 33 members, 22 attended, along with 10 spouses.

Following the video showing, PCPA President Rich Austin, who is also an Everett Pensioners Club

ILWU Canada’s Ken Gregory passes

ILWU Canada and the Van-Isle Pensioners honored brother Kenneth Arthur Gregory on Feb. 2 at one of his favorite places—the Cottonwood Golf Course in Cedar, B.C. The choice was especially fitting, as he had been a sportsman most of his life, starring in football, basketball, lacrosse and curling.

Ken was born Jan. 8, 1929 in Nanaimo, B.C. As a young man he wanted to see the world, so he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and saw many sights, including the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

After leaving the Navy, Ken worked many jobs before joining the ILWU where he was elected dispatcher for Local 508 in 1970. He was elected Second Vice President of the entire ILWU Canada later that year. The members elected him Local 508 President in 1971 and 1972, and re-elected him to Second Vice President that same year. He participated in some tough bargaining during the 1972 contract and strike.

“Ken knew what path the union should follow to resolve issues when the employer had another resolve in mind,” said Local 500 retiree Frank Kennedy, who served with Ken as ILWU Canada Secretary-Treasurer.

Ken also served with the Nanaimo, Duncan, and District Labour Council as vice president.

“Whenever he was asked to do anything he would do it,” Van Isle Pensioners Club President Bill Duncan said. “He was a real help to me when I first became president of Local 508 and again when it came time for us to



Ken Gregory

found the Van Isle Pensioners Club. He was always there for you.”

In 1978 the International Executive Board named Ken an ILWU International Delegate. The delegations would visit workers around the world, representing the ILWU. In March, 1980, he went to China on a team chaired by Local 10’s Cleophas Williams. While in China, the entire Chinese labor delegation toasted Ken in honor of Canadian doctor Norman Bethune, a national hero in China for his service during the Japanese invasion.

Ken played on the 1956 Mann Cup championship lacrosse team. Lacrosse, Canada’s national summer sport, is derived from a game played by Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples. He also played football with the Youbou Dumbbells, a Vancouver Island championship team. Ken met and married Margaret Blackburn. They had 53 years together and three children, Robert, Patricia and Ken Jr.

After retirement in 1991, Ken remained active in pensioners’ clubs. He also spent some years traveling with his wife and family. He died Dec. 28, 2007.

—Tom Price



Full Circle: The first time ILA Local 1422 President Ken Riley visited Local 10 in 2000, he was requesting help for five wrongly-charged longshore workers known as the “Charleston 5.” When Riley returned this January, he came to express his gratitude for the local’s leadership role in raising money and awareness that helped free the five South Carolina dockers—and to sign copies of the new book: “On The Global Waterfront, The Fight to Free the Charleston 5,” by Suzan Erem and Paul Durrenberger. The book details the fight against a union busting carrier and stevedore company, the violent conflict that followed on the docks, and criminal conspiracy charges that were ultimately defeated thanks to a solidarity campaign that involved dockers across the country and around the world. Riley celebrated the new book with former Local 10 President Tommy Clark, left, and Local 10 BA Trent Willis, right, who served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Charleston 5 Defense Comm. “It’s fitting that we start the book-signing here at Local 10 where it all began, because this is where we got our first breakthrough of support. I left here eight years ago feeling encouraged—Local 10 really ignited the fire behind our whole campaign,” Riley said. “This is your victory.”

member, gave a brief recap of the 2002 negotiations and talked about upcoming Longshore Division bargaining. He emphasized the importance of unity and preparation, and told the Club that political action and public relations will be key elements for ILWU success in 2008. He also reminded everyone that those programs take money to run.

A spouse asked, “Where do we send our checks?”

Someone else proposed voluntary contributions. Everyone agreed. So right there at the meeting over \$6,800 in PAF contributions were made. Later, President Pyatte telephoned members who were unable

to attend the meeting and told them what had transpired—and another \$3,000 was contributed.

“Everett pensioners realize the importance of participating in our union’s programs,” Pyatte said. “Their response was both heart-warming and encouraging. Up and down the coast, retirees pitch-in and do what we can to give something back to the ILWU. After all, it provided us with security when we were active, and is doing the same now that we are retired. Everyone in the ILWU family has a part to play, and we must never forget: *An injury to one is an injury to all.*”

—from the Everett Pensioners’ Club

News and Notes *cont'd from p. 6*

Fraser Port Authority. One group of port workers were Local 517 members, but the other two workforces were not yet union. In order to reconcile differences between the work cultures, the parties agreed to seek federal mediation prior to all workers joining the union.

Local 517 members include clerks, environmental assessment officers, engineering project administrators, security officers, port security officers, computer programmers and others.

"We worked together to make it as fair as possible for the existing

and the new members," said First Vice President Mandy Webster. "We spent a total of 10 days working on solutions, then we ratified a proposal recommended by the mediator."

Even though the local is about half men and half women, six of the eight executive board members are women. Women have also been elected to the Secretary-Treasurer and the First and Second Vice President's positions.

"Women are a strong voice in our local," Webster said.

—Reported by Tom Price

Letters *cont'd from p. 2*

In addition, family farmers in Mexico have been devastated because huge U.S. based multi-national grain companies have flooded the Mexican market with cheap (for now, anyway) corn and other crops. Family farmers cannot compete. Many have gone under.

Why does it surprise anyone when workers flee abject poverty? Wouldn't you? Or to put it another way, what *wouldn't* you do to feed your family?

While scapegoating and finger pointing goes on between workers, the bosses and their stooges in Congress wring their hands with glee. They have gotten workers fighting amongst themselves! Divide and conquer is their game!

If blame is to be assigned, let's make sure we hit the right marks.

The culprits are the lawmakers who passed NAFTA, WTO and other horribly flawed anti-worker, anti-union, pro-corporate "free" trade schemes. The villains are the corporations that place profits ahead of the needs of people; that sacrifice national allegiance to the gods of money and power.

One of the ILWU's Ten Guiding

Principles reads: *"The basic aspiration and desires of the workers throughout the world are the same. Workers are workers the world over. International solidarity, particularly to maritime workers, is essential to their protection and a guarantee of reserve economic power in times of strife."*

We have more in common with any worker from anywhere than we do with the sell-out artists in Congress, and certain Ivy League coiffed and manicured collaborators passing as labor leaders.

The job of unions is to organize workers and defend workers.

As workers we must reach across imaginary borders and join hands with fellow workers from Canada and Mexico, and then out-organize that sinister confederation of employers who organized long ago.

The old saying, *"all boats rise with the incoming tide"* is apropos to organizing.

Another old saying, *"we're all in this boat together"* should provide ample warning against shooting holes in our common conveyances while

watching Daddy Warbucks jet his way to his Swiss bank account.

There is no exception to our motto: "An Injury To One Is An Injury To All".

—Richard Austin, President Pacific Coast Pensioners Association

Dear Editor,

Last month's "News & Notes" mentioned an arbitration victory for Bay Area longshore workers who honored the anti-war picket line at the Port of Oakland in May of 2007.

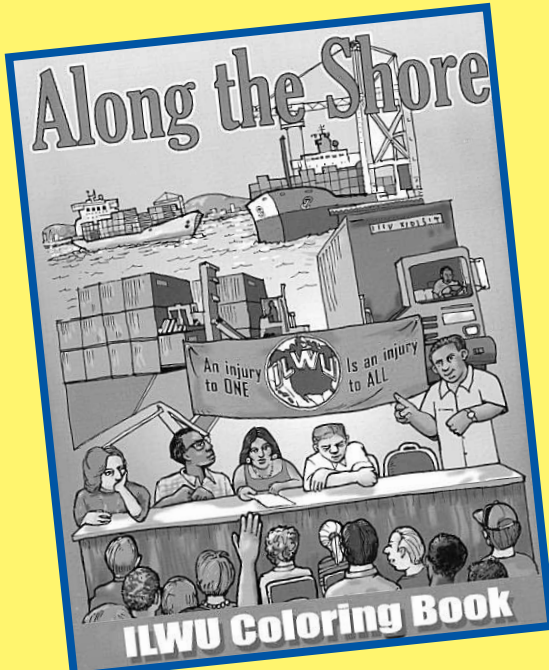
The report may have given readers the impression that Local 34 is responsible for this victory. In fact, Local 10

deserves the credit for handling this arbitration. The PMA forced the issue first at Local 10, then brought the same issue before Local 34's Labor Relations Committee. Local 34 benefitted because we were not forced to arbitrate the same issue.

—Richard Cavalli President of Local 34

CORRECTIONS:

International Organizer Mary Winzig wrote last month's story, "Harborside workers win their strike for justice." Her contribution is appreciated.



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

ILWU Book & Video Sale

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

BOOKS:

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

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

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States.

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

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

The Big Strike. By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. **\$6.50**

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

A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco.

By David Selvin. Perhaps the most comprehensive single narrative about the San Francisco events of 1934. **\$16.50**

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

NOTE: TWO IMPORTANT BOOKS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO THE ILWU LIBRARY AT A SIGNIFICANT DISCOUNT, BUT MAY BE PURCHASED FROM BOOKSTORES, INCLUDING THE ILWU LOCAL 5 WEBSITE (powell-sunior.com)

Workers on the Waterfront: Seamen, Longshoremen, and Unionism in the 1930s By Bruce Nelson: the most complete history of the origins, meaning, and impact of the 1934 strike.

Reds and Rackets: The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront By Howard Kimledorf: A provocative comparative analysis of the politics and ideology of the ILWU and the International Longshoremen's Association.

VIDEOS:

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

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

"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges." A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. **DVD \$5.00** (NOTE: "A Life on the Beam" is now available in DVD format through the book sale at this greatly reduced price by special arrangement with the Working Group, and includes a bonus feature on the building of the Golden Gate Bridge.)

ORDER BY MAIL

- ___ copies of **Along the Shore** @ 2/\$5 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **Men Along Shore exhibit** @ 2/\$5 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **Harry Bridges** @ \$10 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **ILWU Story** @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **The Big Strike** @ \$6.50 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **The Union Makes Us Strong** @ \$20 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **The March Inland** @ \$9 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **A Terrible Anger** @ \$16.50 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **Eye of the Storm DVD** @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **We Are the ILWU DVD/VHS** @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____
- ___ copies of **A Life on the Beam DVD** @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

No sales outside the U.S.

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

Name _____
Street Address or PO Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order (U.S. Funds) payable to "ILWU" and send to **ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109**

Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow at least four weeks for delivery. Shipment to U.S. addresses only