



# *The* DISPATCHER

Published by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

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November 2007

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## High school class responds to “Eye of the Storm”

Last month, when teacher Kevin Tourman took his 3rd period U.S. History class from the Port of Los Angeles High School to see the ILWU’s “Eye of the Storm” documentary film about 2002 longshore negotiations, he wasn’t sure how students would respond. “It turned out that most kids loved the movie, and I think that’s because it made history real and exciting for them,” he said. Many of the students wrote “thank you” letters to the union, including these below.

“Now that I saw this movie, I understand what the longshoreman were fighting about. I was a little upset because President Bush didn’t understand the reason these workers were locked-out. He just called like he had all the authority to tell workers what to do. I understand he is the President, but they had the right to fight for what they believe was fair to them. This is something I will never forget. Thank you and God bless you and your family.”

Sincerely,  
A. E.

“To see the struggles of the ILWU was not what I expected. It was their willingness to stay together that formed an unbreakable bond between them. It showed the power of unions, and that if you stick together and not crumble to the pressure, you can overcome hardship. I only hope I am never put in a situation where I must apply this knowledge as they did.”

Sincerely yours,  
E. B.

“I now look at the Port with a whole new perspective. I look up to the workers as true leaders and heroes because of the movie, and I did not realize how much society relies on these workers for everyday life.”

Sincerely,  
C. B.

“I personally liked the movie because I am the type of person who likes to stand up for peoples rights. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity and experience.”

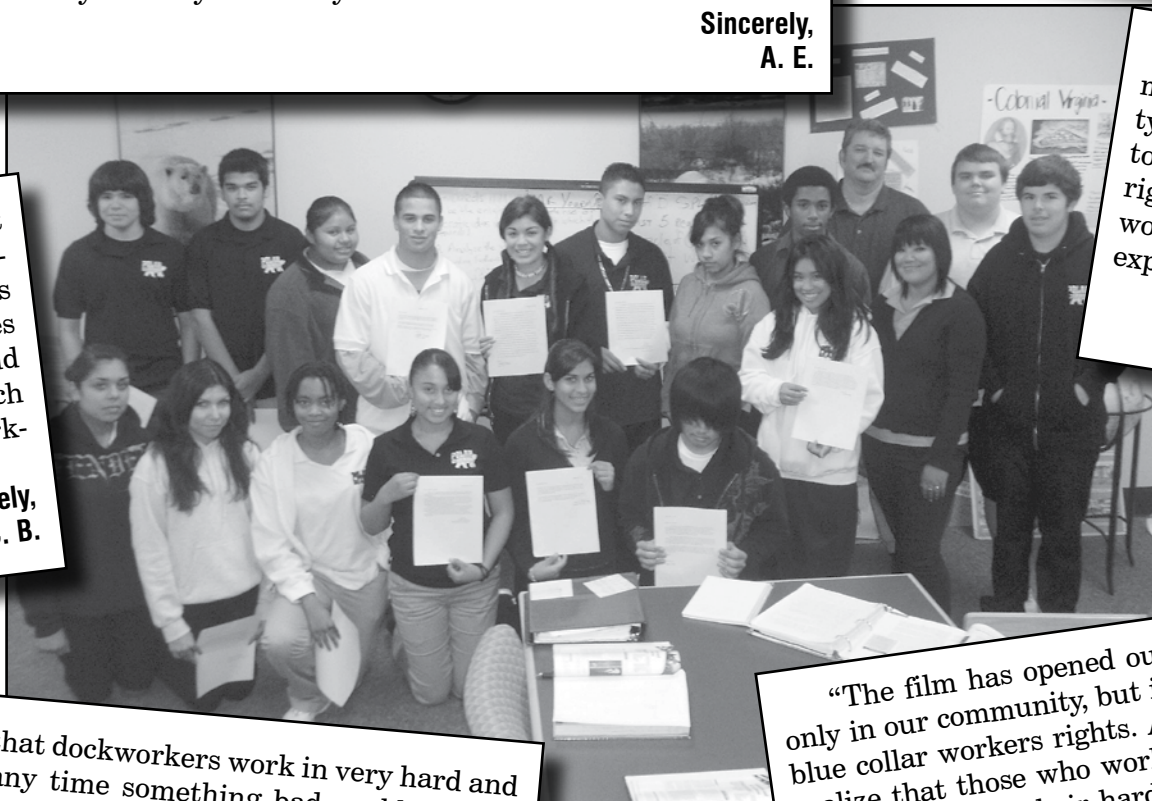
Sincerely,  
L. M.

“I learned from the film that dockworkers work in very hard and dangerous jobs because at any time something bad could happen and kill a worker, so they deserve their pensions and anything else. Thanks again for giving us the chance to watch this great film.”

Sincerely,  
J. G.

“The film has opened our eyes to problems not only in our community, but in our world concerning blue collar workers rights. After watching it, I now realize that those who work at the ports should be compensated for their hard work because it is very dangerous and important. Thank you and I look forward to attending events like this in the future.”

Sincerely,  
M. M.



## News and Notes

### CALIFORNIA

**Locals 13, 63, and 94** are continuing their tradition of sponsoring the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor Area. They will hold a fundraising luncheon Nov. 16 in San Pedro. This year, the event will also honor the 100th anniversary of the Port of Los Angeles. The motto is “Today’s youth – tomorrow’s workforce.” Keynote speaker will be Reverend Jeff Carr, Director of Gang Reduction and Youth Development. Local 13 contributed \$25,000, Local 63 contributed \$10,000 and Local 94 contributed \$5,000. Last year’s event raised \$135,000 to help pay for 17 local youth centers...The same locals will join forces four days later, as union volunteers distribute holiday food baskets (each weighing 80 pounds) on Nov. 20th, for the ILWU’s 10th-annual “Feed the Community Day.” In 2006, the ILWU raised more than \$50,000 and fed more than 1,550 needy families in the Harbor Area.

Locals 13, 63 and 94 also supported a six-week strike by 200 Court Interpreters in LA County who belong to the Communications Workers of America (CWA). Southern California District Council President Rich Dines testified in support of the interpreters at a recent legislative hearing chaired by State Senator Gloria Romero. The CWA workers voted to return to work on Oct. 17 after six weeks on the picket line without winning their demand for a 22% pay increase.

**Local 29** longshore workers continued some dispatch as wildfires shut down part of the Port of San Diego Oct. 22. In Los Angeles, just 3.21 inches of rain fell between July 1, 2006 and June 30 this year, the worst drought in 130 years.

**Local 68** Port Pilots in Southern California, who guide ships into the

harbor, have fought a hard, nine-month battle for their new contract that protects jurisdictional and safety issues. The employer tried to add more managers to perform union work, but the union stopped that effort. The union is still pushing for the right of workers to refuse unsafe work. “This kind of safety issue affects all workers in the port,” says President Ed Royles. He notes that safety is also important for all ILWU workers and believes that all locals would fight for better safety measures.

**Local 94** foremen hosted the “Bridges Cup” golf tournament, named after Harry, and donated \$1,100 to the children’s wing at the local hospital...On a sad note, foreman Joe Danelo’s son Mario was honored Oct. 8 with a star in the San Pedro Sports Walk of Fame after he died tragically earlier this year. Mario was the place kicker for the University of Southern California Trojans, where he held the record for most points after touch-down. Joe Danelo also received a star, next to his son’s, for his football career at Washington State and in the pros with the Packers, Giants and Bills. Mario’s mother Emily joined Joe at midfield in the Trojan’s first game to honor their son as 93,000 fans stood with the team to pay their respect. Following the season’s first touch-down, the team lined-up for the extra

*continued on page 4*

Copies of “Eye of the Storm” are being mailed and distributed to Longshore Division workers. If you haven’t received a copy and want one, please contact:

**ILWU Communications Department**  
1188 Franklin Street #411  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Or email to: [frank.wilder@ilwu.org](mailto:frank.wilder@ilwu.org)

## Letters to *The Dispatcher*

Dear *Dispatcher*,

I noticed an error in the October issue. The “News and Notes” column had the wrong local number for Brother Steve Kioukis. He is a member of Local 14 in Eureka, not 18.

—Rena Smith  
Local 18

(Editors note: Thanks for catching the mistake Rena, we appreciate your correction.)

Dear Editor,

The September issue of the *Dispatcher* (page 7) reported on the settlement of the Northern California Warehouse Master Contract. We’d like to add some further details. Retiree medical benefits will be maintained at the current levels for the life of the new 3-year contract which expires in May of 2010. The settlement provides increased contributions to the trust fund, paid by the employers for each hour worked by members covered by the master contract.

We took a hit in what the fund will pay toward the premiums for retiree medical – which has caused pain for many retirees of Local 6 and 17. If there had been no changes in the retiree health program, the fund would have gone bankrupt by 2011. The new changes (reduced payout and increased contributions) mean that the fund can continue providing services to retirees.

But without comprehensive health care reform at the state or national level, we will face the same dilemma in the 2010 negotiations. How to fund long-term medical benefits is a national problem that we can only address with “band-aids” at the bargaining table until affordable, quality health care is available to all Americans.

In solidarity,

—Fred Pecker

Secretary-Treasurer, Local 6

—Jack Wyatt, Sr.

Secretary-Treasurer, Local 17

## **The DISPATCHER**

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

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# Local 10 walks to fight asthma, port pollution

By John Showalter

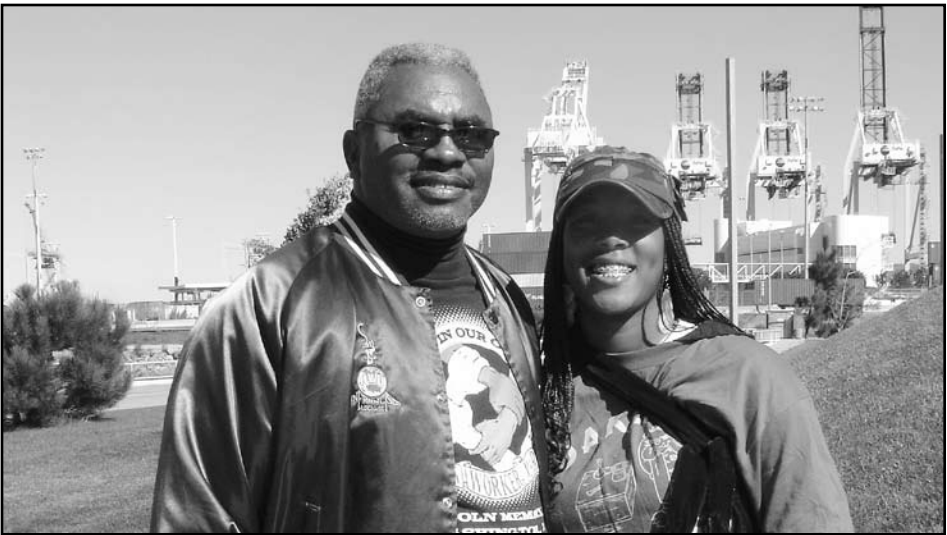
Members of ILWU Local 10 joined more than 250 community residents and public health advocates to support the 2007 “Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk” on Saturday, September 29, in Oakland. The event was sponsored by the American Lung Association and the Port of Oakland.

Local 10 member Clarence Thomas, who serves on the ILWU Saving Lives Committee that is dedicated to improving air quality at the ports, served as a Co-Chair of the walk and raised more than \$3000 from Local 10 members. In his remarks at

a luncheon before the walk, Thomas emphasized the importance of long-shore workers advocating for cleaner technologies at the Port of Oakland.

“By walking, we demonstrate that we understand the peril posed to the community by air pollution from the port,” said Thomas, “I know members whose children have asthma. They had not been aware of this silent killer—diesel fumes—at the ports.”

Local 10 is now working on a “Regional Stakeholder Air Quality Plan” that is being developed together with the Port of Oakland, community activists, and local elected officials.



Delores Lemon-Thomas

Local 10's Clarence Thomas with Keosha Stephens, the daughter of Local 10 member Ms. Aurora Jones. Stevens participated in the Asthma Walk along with 30 other students from the Health Academy at Oakland Technical High School.



ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams presents Ray Panter, retiring Local 30 president, with a plaque in honor of his long service

## Auxiliary Convention Highlights

### Service and Action

Members of the ILWU's Federated Auxiliaries gathered for their annual Convention in Boron, California on October 12-14. The activities included a combination of educational, inspirational, and agitational events, according to Jean Ordano, who serves as President of the Federated Auxiliaries and noted that delegates attended the Convention from California, Oregon, Washington, and Canada.

“We encouraged the delegates to meet here in Boron because this is an ILWU town,” said local leader Judy Rowley who helped host the Convention with a hard-working team of Auxiliary 41 members who live in the Mojave desert community that is home to hundreds of Local 30 members who work in California's largest open pit mine,

operated by the Rio Tinto Minerals Company (formerly U.S. Borax).

Auxiliary members spent most of Friday touring the nearby Edwards Air Force Base, home of the Space Shuttle and ground zero for the early test pilots who were featured in Tom Wolfe's book, “The Right Stuff” and the movie that followed. Security at the base is now very tight, requiring all visitors to be carefully screened beforehand, a process that some Auxiliary members felt was similar to what ILWU members will soon experience on the docks.

Delegates heard from ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, who thanked the Auxiliary for playing a vital role. “The Auxiliary helped this union survive in the early years, and the prosperity

we know today comes from your continued support and action,” he told the group. “Up and down the coast, I see all the work that you're doing to support this union, whether it's providing Thanksgiving dinners at Local 21, walking picket lines in Portland, or helping with Labor Day events in Southern California. All of us owe you a continued debt of gratitude for your important work.”

Adams also spoke at a portion of the Auxiliary program that was dedicated to honoring longtime Local 30 leader Ray Panter, who recently retired after helping lead the miners in Boron for many decades.

“Like all great labor leaders, you provided leadership that was based on a bedrock of principles and a strong moral compass,” said Adams in his emotional testimony. “Being a good leader isn't easy; being a man is even harder. And you, Ray, were both. Your life is proof that a single individual can change history and make things better. By pouring your soul into the work of your union, you have transcended your own mortality, and will live on in the hearts of those who come behind you. As my grandmother used to say, you have fashioned coal into diamonds,” said Adams who then presented Panter with a plaque and the Auxiliary delegates provided him with a standing ovation.

The Auxiliary considered and adopted a host of resolutions, including:

- Support for Rite Aid warehouse workers who are fighting for their right to join the ILWU. Some leaders, including Penny Wehage of

Auxiliary #5 have already written letters to Rite Aid's CEO, and others expressed interest in communicating with Rite Aid customers.

- Support for the almond workers at Blue Diamond Growers in Sacramento who are also fighting for their right to join the ILWU. Auxiliary members discussed the need for dialogue with See's Candy and other companies that use Blue Diamond almonds.
- Support for the right of Americans to buy lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada, a policy that is opposed by the Bush Administration.
- Support for dockworkers in Guatemala and union leaders there who have been attacked, including Pedro Zamora who was brutally murdered on January 15, 2007.
- Support for protecting pensioners and spouses from paying insurance co-pays or deductibles.
- A call for members of Congress to participate in the Social Security system, which they voted to exempt themselves from many years ago. The body also called for tougher inspection and safety standards for important toys and merchandize.

The Auxiliary finalized their plans for the remainder of 2007 and 2008, including a commitment to support longshore workers who will be fighting for a better contract this coming spring and summer.

“We've been around for a long time, and we intend to keep fighting for the values and vision that built this union,” said Auxiliary President Jean Ordano.

## ILWU launches broadcast advertising campaign

By John Showalter

Starting this fall, millions of television viewers in major West Coast cities saw the ILWU Longshore Division's first commercial, “We Are the ILWU.” The 30-second ad is part of a larger effort to increase public support for the union before longshore contract negotiations begin in the spring of 2008.

“It became clear to everyone during the 2002 lockout that winning public support was absolutely critical to winning our contract fights,” explains International President Bob McEllrath.

Last year, the Longshore Division

held a week-long communications training in San Francisco to help prepare rank-and-file members, and trainings for local officers have been held in previous years.

“The goal is to get our message out to the public and speak with one voice when the heat is on,” says Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr.

Inspiration for the union ads came from Local 10's effort that began in 2006 when they aired radio ads during Oakland Raiders and San Francisco Forty-Niner games. The ads explained how the union was fighting for good jobs in the community, and better environmental protection.

Local 142 in Hawaii also produced their own TV ads to help educate island residents about the wide variety

of jobs performed by ILWU members.

President McEllrath worked with the Coast PR Committee to develop a budget for both radio and TV ads that will run up and down the coast through the 2008 contract negotiations.

David Arian, who chairs the Coast Public Relations Committee says the first message was simply, “We're the ILWU – the folks who bring you the goods that make your life better.” Arian says a second TV ad will be produced for the holidays that will air in late November. The holiday ad will feature ILWU ‘elves’ who help Santa deliver toys for Christmas.

Both ILWU ads will be broadcast in Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle-Tacoma, and Portland cable markets. Look for the ads dur-

ing sporting events, on networks like ESPN and, in some areas, on selected programming like CNN's “Lou Dobbs Tonight” and Discovery Channel's “Dirty Jobs.” Two versions of the first ad are also posted on the ILWU website [www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org) and on YouTube [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

The ads have also been seen by thousands of Longshore workers who attended screenings of the ILWU documentary, “Eye of the Storm,” that tells the story of the 2002 lockout. Over three thousand workers and family members saw the ads in September at the Warner Grand Theater in San Pedro. Showings in other locations included Local 8 in Portland and Local 23 in Tacoma.

## ILWU Canada and its President charged with work stoppage

ILWU Canada's employers have charged President Tom Dufresne and the union with an “unlawful work stoppage” for the union's delay in filling out Security Clearance Forms.

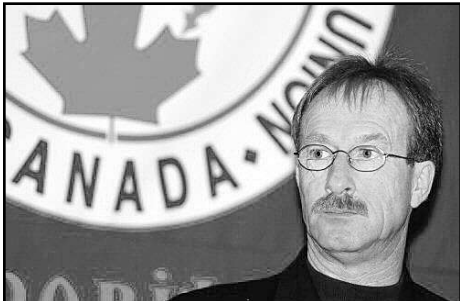
The employers sought a declaration Oct. 1 from the Canada Industrial Relations Board that would order the union to comply with the new worker screening rules. The government of Canada is requiring dockworkers to provide personal information that is more invasive than the TWIC regula-

tions in the U.S.

The Board declined to issue the order, and instead set aside Oct 20th and 21st for a hearing on the issue. “It's now become a large issue because we've raised constitutional issues and the Attorney General of Canada has intervened and set up four days of hearings Nov. 5-8 to hear the full case on the constitutionality of the regulations,” explained Dufresne.

The Security Clearance Forms would ask questions about ethnic origins, family relationships, activi-

ties of relatives and past criminal acts unrelated to transport work.



ILWU Canada President Tom Dufresne



Travis Weyer

Scene from ILWU TV ad.



Fleet Photography School, USS Argonne, Clyde Daugherty Frank Faust motion pictures and stills.



Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Eddie Brooks at the tiller, in the launch rescuing injured seamen.

## An ILWU longshoreman remembers Pearl Harbor

On December 6, 1941, Eddie Brooks was a young sailor who visited friends on the battleship

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Ken Burns' 12-hour public television documentary recently paid homage to the generation of Americans who defeated fascism in World War II. The *Dispatcher* is sharing a few stories of ILWU members who fought in the war and returned to become leaders in their union and communities.

*Arizona* for a boxing workout. Aboard the big ship, he saw Paul Neipp, who had gone to school with him in San Pedro. Their fathers had both been longshoremen, and Paul's father had become a foreman. Eddie returned to his own ship, the *Argonne*, just eleven hours before Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor the next morning.

Within minutes of the attack, the *Arizona* was destroyed and all of Eddie's friends were dead. Eddie joined four sailors who volunteered

on a rescue launch that was the first to reach men aboard the battleship *West Virginia* that was in flames after being hit by six torpedoes and two bombs. They found men crying and praying on their knees. Eddie watched Japanese planes strafe sailors with machine gun fire on the *West Virginia's* deck. His rescue party went below deck to help the sailors below; that's where Eddie found a dazed man with his eyes blown out of his head, asking what had happened.

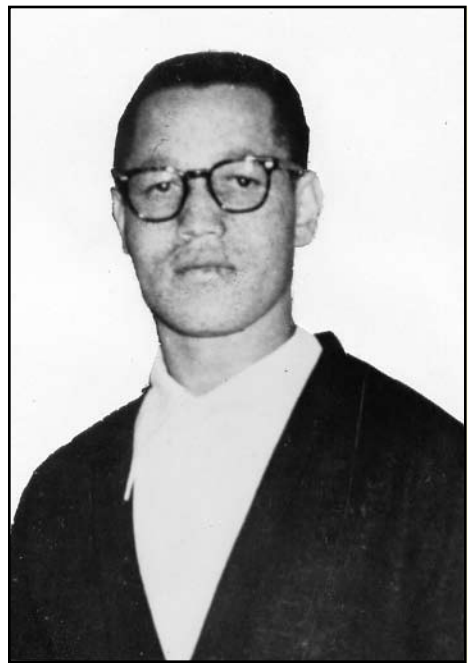
Orders to "abandon ship" soon rang out on the *West Virginia*, and Eddie helped load the wounded into his launch. The water around them was fouled with burning oil and filled with men who were trying to swim away to safety. Eddie's launch swung around to rescue these men. Eddie reached for a man in the burning water, but missed him by inches as the fire rolled over the man who screamed while Eddie watched helplessly. Eddie said, "I can still hear that poor guy scream."

The launch and crew were unloading the wounded when a Jeep pulled up with buddies from Eddie's old National Guard unit in San Pedro who had a disassembled Browning machine gun. They took the gun up to the barracks roof where Eddie assembled it and was about to start shooting at Japanese planes when a sergeant said, "That's my gun Eddie, I'm gonna use it." Eddie then picked up a Springfield rifle and fired it at the last of the Japanese planes. He felt something hit his heel, looked down, and saw a piece of jagged shrapnel that had stuck his shoe – but left him unhurt.

When the day was over, 2,403 Americans lay dead from the Pearl Harbor attack. Aboard the *Argonne*, the ship's Chief Radioman brought Eddie and the other rescuers to see the ship's Captain, suggesting that Eddie and others should receive commendations. Several officers agreed, but the *Argonne's* Captain declined to recommend any citations, saying "These men did nothing more than anyone else." Eddie wasn't bucking for a medal, but he did note later that their Captain had no prior wartime experience.

Eddie passed away May 13, 2006. His generation will soon be gone, but his family ties to the ILWU remain. In addition to his father, Eddie's two brothers, Frank and Walt, were both longshoremen, along with his son Robert who is a foreman, and grandchildren Robb and Jennifer who are longshoring today.

—from an account by Robert R. Brooks, Local 94  
Please see [www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org) for a longer version.



LeRoy King, Local 6

### LEROY KING'S BATTLE AGAINST FASCISM AND RACISM

LeRoy King was drafted into the Army, and like other African-Americans at the time, assigned to a segregated unit. On the trip from California to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, whites and blacks sat and ate together. That changed when they got to Texas.

"When we got to Brownwood they said we could no longer eat together and that the Blacks had to get in the back of the train." King said in his *Oral History*. "That was the first time I felt southern segregation."

At Fort Sill he was put into an ammunition supply unit. "We couldn't have a gun, we couldn't have nothing," he said. "All we could do was handle ammunition."

His unit shipped out to Le Havre,

France, and moved out toward the front lines, furiously loading ammunition in support of fast-moving 101st Airborne Division.

"German planes flew over regularly—we called them 'Bed Check Charlie,'" King said. "A few bombs came very close, but we didn't lose anybody."

After the war King's unit sailed home to a camp in New Jersey. People were friendly on the ships, but the racism came back at that camp, he said.

"Any time a couple of Blacks would go by some of these white guys' barracks, those whites would come out and taunt them," King said. "I'll never forget one Saturday afternoon when we had so many fights. We had to fight every day."

Young Blacks left the Army and challenged segregation and racism all across the country. LeRoy King returned to San Francisco and took up the battle.

"We had demonstrations on Fillmore Street and along Auto Row," he said. "All that was basically led by these young Black soldiers. They felt like me—I served my country, I did everything I could to try to make this a decent place and make sure we got rid of fascism. So when we came back home, we figured there'd be some change."

King soon joined Local 6, which was actively recruiting Black workers. The members elected him Secretary-Treasurer and he served the ILWU as an International Representative and Regional Director. He currently sits on the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission, a position he has held since 1980. King is the longest serving city commissioner. He has also served the Northern California District Council for more than half a century.

—with help from the *Oral History Project*



Bill Ward, Locals 13 and 34

### BILL WARD—FROM THE DOCKS TO THE NAVY

The Second World War began while Bill Ward was still in high school. At the time, high school kids could work on the docks if they could maintain C+ grades. Longshoring was already in his blood. His dad, Fred helped organize and was the first registered member of marine clerks' Local 63. He helped Bill get a job.

Ward joined the Navy when he was old enough and spent "an interesting three years, packed full of excitement, apprehension, and scared to death quite a bit of the time, although nothing spectacular happened," he said.

"I was on a couple ships, including the *SS Lurline*, taking soldiers and marines to the islands," Ward said.

Ward also helped develop special boats.

"They only drew about six inches of water and 36 feet long with a huge Evinrude motor—and could haul a ton and a half," he said.

In the Pacific he ran a smoke boat, laying a smoke screen in support of demolition divers who opened the way for U.S. troops to reach Japanese-occupied beaches. Some of his most serious action occurred while he served on the destroyer *Douglas H. Fox*. The ship performed picket duty between Okinawa and Japan, an area patrolled by Kamikaze suicide planes.

"We were there about six months, and saw some extended action, we always accompanied aircraft carriers," he said. "We had a Kamikaze attack. I think the pilot chickened out at the last minute, he was aimed at us amidships and he veered off, hitting the forward turret, but it didn't explode and it crashed about 100 yards away."

Bill Ward returned and worked as a clerk in Local 63 before transferring to longshoring, serving as a Business Agent in Local 13 and eventually becoming a Coast Committeeman from 1963 to 1983. He remains active in the San Francisco Bay Area Pensioners and Pacific Coast Pensioners Assn.

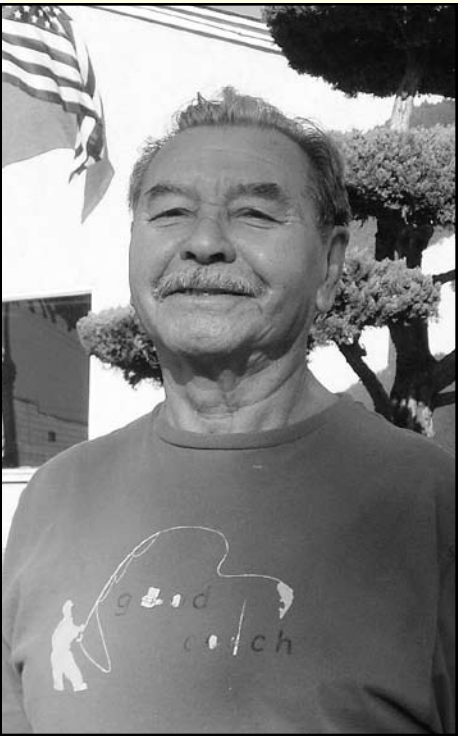
### RICHARD NEGRETE: FROM THE ARDENNES FOREST TO LOCAL 13

Richard Negrete was a Private First Class in the Army's 83rd Division when his unit was sent to fight in the Ardennes Forest during the bitter winter of 1944-45, in what became known as the "Battle of the Bulge."

Negrete's division, immortal-  
*continued on next page*



WWII Longshore veterans cont'd



Richard Negrete, Local 13 and 63

ized in the film, “Band of Brothers,” fought the Nazis in their last, bloody offensive after the Normandy invasion. Repelling the Nazis took a staggering toll with 19,000 American soldiers killed as infantrymen like Negrete led tanks into German-held forests and towns, fighting house-to-house in the bitter cold. Elevated as his unit’s lead scout after others were wounded, Negrete was also wounded in January 1945 when the tank he was leading hit a mine.

Transferred to non-combat duty, Negrete stood guard in Berlin during the famous meeting in Potsdam where Truman, Churchill, and Stalin reached terms on the new borders that defined post-war Europe. After his discharge in 1946, Negrete returned to Wilmington, where he worked lumber and cannery jobs until getting more regular longshore work and his ID in 1948. Negrete earned his A Book with Local 13 in 1953 and spent 30 years as a longshoreman before transferring to Local 63 where he was a Marine Clerk from 1983 until retiring in 1990. Negrete remains active today with the Southern California Pensioners Group.



Hugh Hunter, Local 13 and 63

HUGH HUNTER—  
TORPEDOED OFF THE COAST

Hugh Hunter was only 15 years old in 1940 when he shipped out from Sydney, Australia with the merchant marine. He spent the first years of World War II on Allied troop transports (including the refurbished *RMS Queen Mary*) and commercial vessels, carrying goods and war materiel from Sydney, Auckland and Singapore to the British Isles. In 1942, a German submarine torpedoed his ship and the rescued teenager wound up in London as a “distressed British sailor.” The British capitol didn’t warm Hunter’s heart. “Churchill was no hero to me,” said Hunter, because he

held the Prime Minister responsible for thousands of Australian and New Zealand troops who died at Gallipoli in World War One.

Hunter left London and shipped out to New York in 1943. Hunter and a shipmate hitchhiked across America. Outside Houston, the two were rounded up by immigration agents. “We told them we were sailors and they said ‘you’re awfully far from the ocean’ and locked us up.” After a short detention, the two made it to San Pedro, where they joined the Sailors’ Union of the Pacific.

Hunter spent the rest of the war and 11 more years in the merchant marine. By 1956, he was married to an American, gave up the sea, and started working on the docks. In 1963, Hunter registered as a longshoreman with Local 13 in what he calls “the happiest day of my life.” He transferred to the marine clerks and retired from Local 63 in 1986. He remains active in the Southern California Pensioners Group and lives with his wife in Wilmington. Hunter says with a smile, “I wouldn’t be here if not for a German torpedo.”



Ray Patricio

RAY PATRICIO—FROM THE DOCKS  
TO THE WAR TO THE DOCKS AGAIN

When you spend months, as Ray Patricio did, on the most popular bombing target in the Pacific during WWII, you learn a lot about your comrades in arms. “When I go to reunions, the ones who don’t show up are the officers and the cooks.” Patricio had spent 1942 working the San Pedro docks as a “Nine-Number” (along with pal Lou Loveridge, who then volunteered for the Navy) before being drafted in January 1943. Originally trained in the California desert while Allied forces were finishing off the German Afrika Corps in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, Patricio got shipped instead to the jungles of the South Pacific, where he served in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies and eventually on the Philippine island of Luzon.

Patricio shared a unit citation from his time as an anti-aircraft gunner firing at incoming Japanese bombers. His unit fought off 89 air raids in three months making it the most heavily bombed island in the Pacific. Patricio earned the Soldiers Medal for saving a man’s life from drowning.

After returning to San Pedro in 1946, Patricio qualified under the GI Bill for reinstatement on the waterfront, but it took him two years before getting his book with Local 13, where he stayed as a longshoreman for 18 years. Patricio transferred to become foreman and retired in 1988 after 22 years with Local 94. Patricio is Vice President of the union’s Southern California Pensioners Group (SCPG) and a delegate to the Southern California District Council.

News and Notes cont'd from p. 2

point but left the kicker’s slot empty – as if they were saving the kick for Mario. The game resumed after a five-yard “delay of game” penalty. For a video clip go to: [www.trojanwire.com/football/mario-danelo-one-final-kick.php](http://www.trojanwire.com/football/mario-danelo-one-final-kick.php).

The Harry Bridges Institute hosts their sixth-annual “Honoring Working Class Women” luncheon Nov. 11 at the Coast Long Beach Hotel. The event recognizes women in longshore, construction trades and other unionized waterfront workplaces. See: <http://harrybridges.com/> or call (310) 831-2397.

Local 6 recently renegotiated their contract with the Industrial Employers and Distributors Association, winning changes that will provide registered domestic partner benefits for some local 6 members and pensioners. Marvin Burrows, 71, the longtime partner of deceased Local 6 pensioner William Swenor, had applied for benefits several years ago, but had his claim rejected. The new contract will provide registered domestic partners with the same pension benefits as spouses, retroactive to March 1, 2005. Approximately 5,500 active and retired members will be helped by the change.



Clarence Thomas speaks at “Stop the War” rally.

Local 10 and 34 sponsored a “Labor Conference to Stop the War” on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, that drew over 100 guests, according to coverage in the San Francisco *Chronicle* and the local ABC TV station that also covered the event. Speakers included Presidents Richard Cavalli of Local 34, Tommy Clark of Local 10, and Marina Secchitano, IBU Regional Director. Other speakers included Bob Crow, General Secretary of Britain’s Rail, Maritime, and Transport Union, British Parliament member Jeremy Corbyn, and Takumi Shimizu of Japan’s Doro-Chiba. Local 10 members Clarence Thomas and Jack Heyman, who helped organize the event, made passionate appeals to “end the war now.”

The historic ILWU Local 10 Drill Team was awarded First Place in San Francisco’s annual Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, Oct. 7. Drill Team Captain Josh Williams received honors as the parade’s Best Captain.

Local 34 rented a bus on Oct. 11 so members could attend a rally supporting two Local 10 brothers who were arrested at the Port of Sacramento (see story in this issue).

OREGON

Local 5 announced plans for a contract rally on Nov. 2, the day the contract ratification vote becomes final. If workers vote the contract down, there will be a “Contract Now” rally at North Park Blocks. If the contract is ratified, the rally will become a celebration. In either case, the local will hold an open house in their hall that evening. All ILWU members and families are invited to visit Local 5’s website on Nov. 2 to order books for the holidays at a discount. This “Virtual Shop Union Day” is intended to show the employer the benefit of union purchasing power, and the 10% discount off the purchase price will be donated to the union. See [www.powellunion.com](http://www.powellunion.com).

Local 12 could see more work as a result of lobbying efforts in the Oregon legislature. State Senator Joanne Verger (D-5<sup>th</sup> District) helped push a bill to begin a \$5 million environmental impact study on port dredging, with another \$55 million expected to do the work itself. The port could then dock larger ships and

take advantage of uncongested rail lines to move the cargo inland.

WASHINGTON

Local 19 is collecting money for the “Northwest Harvest” charity and is seeking volunteers for their annual children’s toy drive. Anyone interested can contact the union business office... Local 24 hosted a fishing tourney Oct. 6 and 7. The \$25 entry fee helped “Rebuilding Together Grays Harbor” and provided prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$100. A special \$500 Buzz Peters Memorial prize was taken by Dale Bisceglia for his 29-pound King Salmon. Eldon Bridges won a \$500 prize for his 12-pound Silver Salmon. Darrell Sitzman won \$300 for his fish and Ken Halverson won \$200. The local also held a barbeque both days at the hall.

Local 51 officers, members and family members jammed into a Jefferson County hearing room on Sept. 27 to support a gravel mining operation that would bring more work for Local 51. The proposed operation would mine gravel and send it by conveyor belt to waiting ships and barges four miles away. The company, Fred Hill Materials, is union and the operation would employ about 130 people. Since the ships would call mainly at U.S. ports, they would be required to be staffed by U.S. crews Americans, and use ships built in the USA. About 70 vessel calls would be made annually by 60,000-ton ships, amounting to over 4 million tons a year. An additional 3.3 million tons could be loaded on smaller ships in the 10,000-ton range and on barges. ILWU families have written letters and lobbied for the project. After a five-year campaign, the proposal has reached the Environmental Impact Study phase.

“Fred Hill Materials has been a good union employer for many years,” Local 51 Secretary-Treasurer Duane Johnson told *The Dispatcher*. “I’ve had friends work there from high school through retirement.”

Local 4 has added 26 new jobs at the Port of Vancouver. The port is on pace to grow 46% over 2005 levels, according to a PMA press release, with more jobs possible by the end of the year. “We’ve got more work now and need more people to keep this port working efficiently,” said Local 4 President Cager Clabaugh. The port is the largest grain exporter on the Columbia River (16 percent of all wheat exports from the U.S.) and they handle other bulk commodities including copper concentrate and fertilizers. New business from transporting giant wind turbines is adding to the job growth.

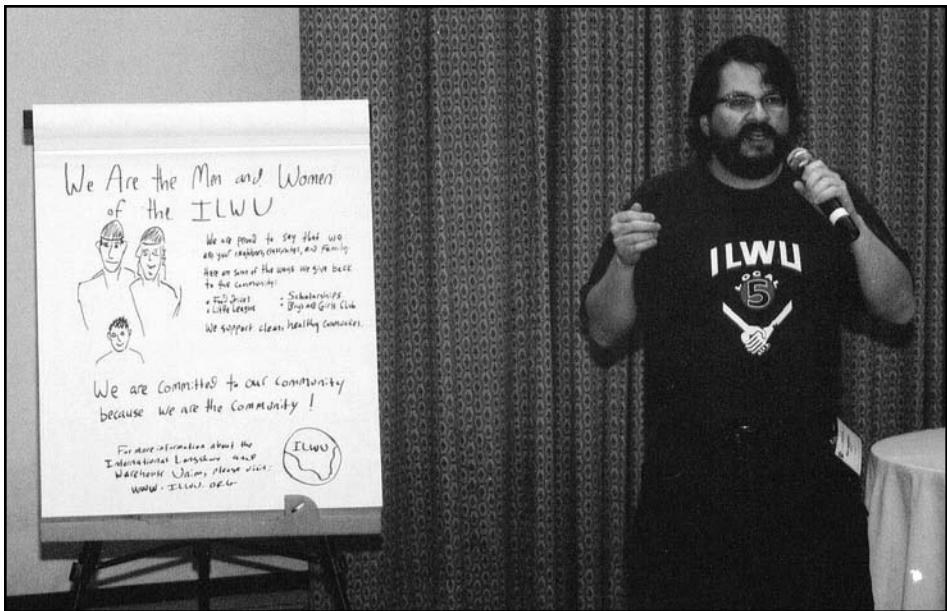
ILWU CANADA

ILWU Canada notified Canada’s Minister of Labour in early October that the union and employer are at impasse, and a conciliator is now needed, according to President Tom Dufresne. The union negotiates with the British Columbia Maritime Employers’ Assn and has been without a contract since March 31. Management has take-away proposals, wants to change dispatch rules and other proposals that are unacceptable to the ILWU. The conciliation began Oct 22 and normally takes 60 days, with an opportunity to continue if the parties agree. If it fails, there will be a 21-day cooling off period before there can be a strike or lockout.

Local 514 foremen will travel to the new terminal in Prince Rupert where they will work alongside their brothers from Local 505 as the first ship arrives at the new facility later this month.

Local 517 will begin collective bargaining at Fraser Surrey Docks for office clericals... The union also reached a tentative agreement at West Shore Terminals, after the members took a strike vote and the employer put an offer on the table that members are considering as we go to press.





The fifth ILWU Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD) was held in San Francisco September 24-28.

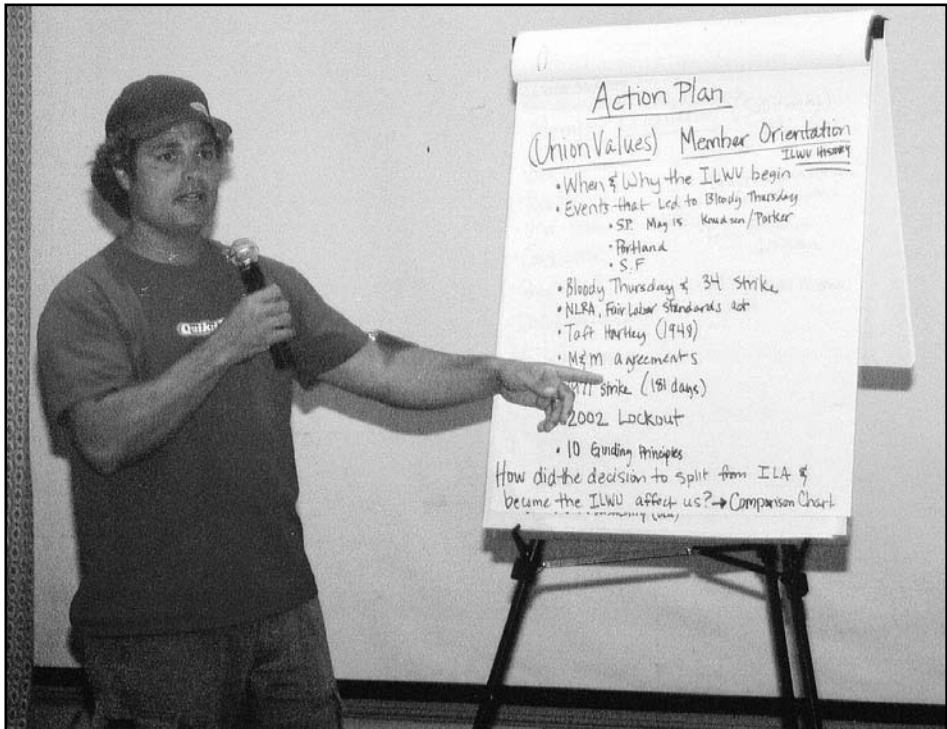
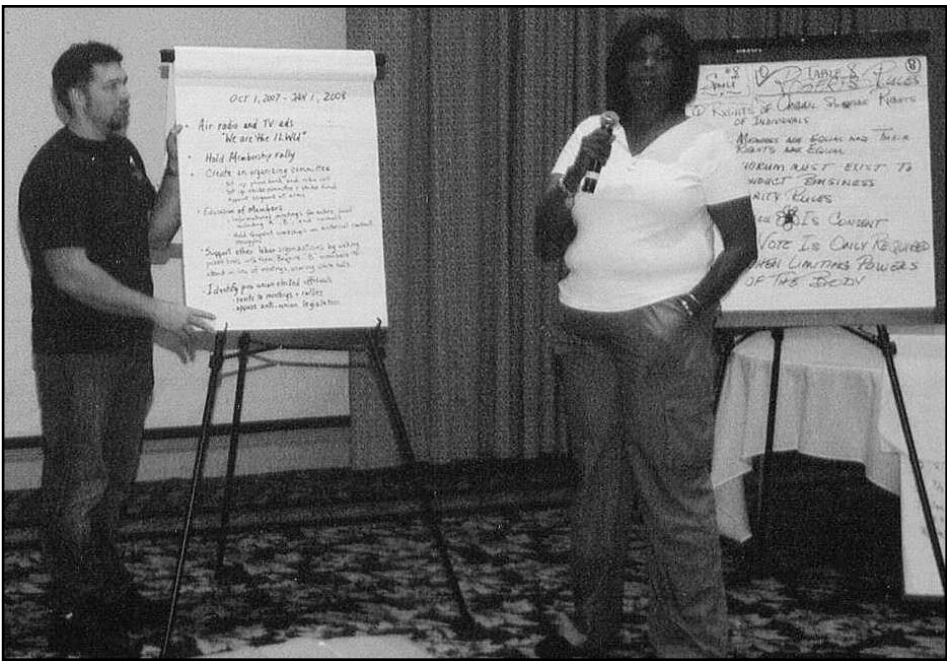
The focus of this year's program, as introduced by President Bob McEllrath and Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, was on preparing local officers and rank and file activists throughout all sectors of the Union to meet the twin challenges of national elections and longshore negotiations in 2008.

Sixty-four members from 27 locals and several regions of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific received intensive, interactive training on a variety of topics geared to improve problem-solving skills, maximize internal unity, and build member participation at the local level. Each

session emphasized practical pointers on how to achieve these objectives in keeping with the ILWU's principles of militant, democratic unionism.

Instructors included ILWU officers and staff, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the California Federation of Teachers. Sessions at the five-day [residential] program included:

- How to recognize and respect the different ways people work together in groups—and how to find common ground when working together for the greater good (led by Joel Schaffer and Rick Oglesby, FMCS).
- Robert's Rules of Order and running effective meetings (taught by Max Vekich, Local 52).
- Trends in member participation and how to develop a Member



LEAD participants went through a demanding and innovative training on how to develop a Member Action Plan for their home locals. **Top:** Ron Solomon, Local 5, explains his team's outreach flyer designed to increase understanding of how workers and their communities benefit from unionized employment. **Center:** An action plan for mobilizing support for 2008 longshore negotiations was presented on behalf of their team by (left to right) Andrea Stuller (Local 52), Rich Dines (Local 13) and Fran Grove (Local 94). **Bottom:** Mark Mascola, Local 13, describes his team's action plan for developing a new member orientation program.



Peter Peyton, Local 63, leads the session on what's at stake for workers in political action, and what lies ahead for ILWU members in 2008.

Action Plan that engages new and veteran members and their families (Professor Margaret Levi and Jon Agnone of the University of Washington Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies; Fred Glass, California Teachers Federation).

- “Politics and Beyond”—the ILWU perspective on political action in 2008 (Peter Peyton Local 63; Kyle Weimann of the ILWU Washington D.C. Office; Willie Adams, Max Vekich; Kyle Weimann, ILWU Washington DC Office).
- “Why Longshore Negotiations

Matter to the Entire Union” (Terri Mast, IBU; Jack Wyatt, Sr., Local 17).

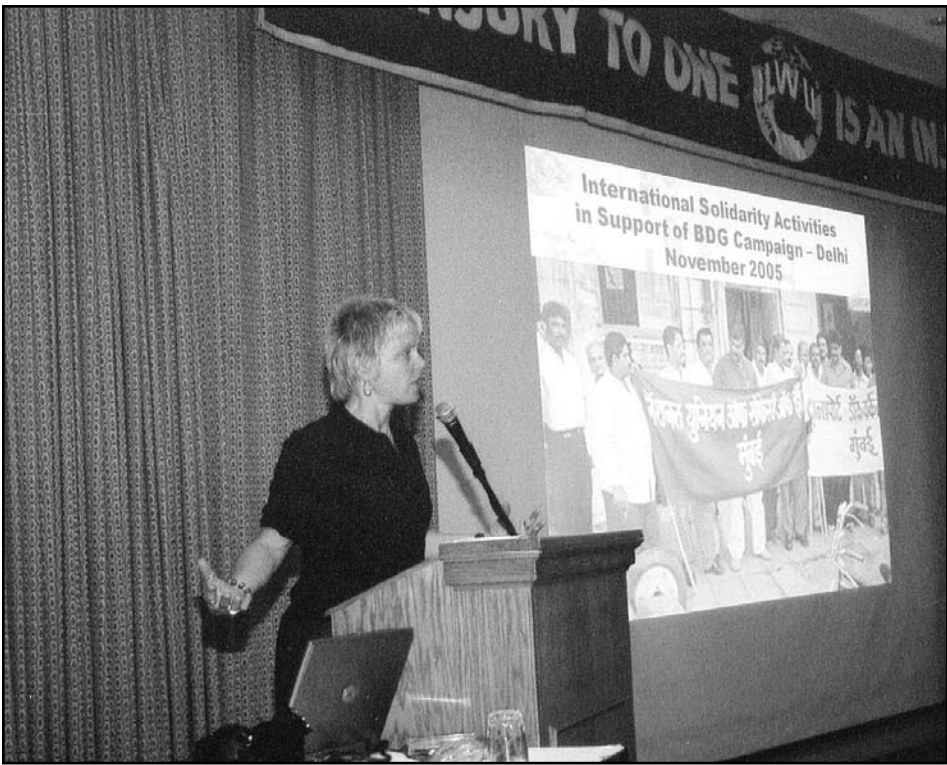
- “How to Build an International Solidarity Campaign,” based on the union’s experience in support of Blue Diamond workers. (Amy Willis, ILWU Organizing Department; Terri Mast, IBU).

Selected training and reference materials will soon be available in the members-only section of the ILWU website: [www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org).

—*Gene Vrana*

*ILWU Director of Educational Services*

*Photos by Frank Wilder*



Amy Willis, ILWU Organizing Department, uses the Blue Diamond Growers as a case study in how to build an international solidarity campaign around local issues.



Holly Hulscher, Local 23, takes the microphone to join in the discussion about parliamentary procedure.

## Coast Legislative Committee goes to D.C.

The major Presidential candidates sent their top campaign officials to meet with the ILWU's Coast Legislative Committee in Washington, D.C. during a week of meetings during October 15-18.

"It was important for us to sit down and go over the concerns of ILWU members, and get feedback from each campaign," says Max Vekich, who chairs the Committee. Other members of the Committee included International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 63 Secretary-Treasurer Peter Peyton, International Executive Board member Lawrence Thibeaux, and Dawn Des Brisay, Vice President of Local 40. Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin organized the event.

Each Presidential campaign received a questionnaire, prepared by the ILWU, that requests a detailed response to top union concerns, including:

1. Where the candidate stands on a national health care plan for all Americans?
2. Does the candidate support the "Employee Free Choice Act" that would protect the right of workers to organize and join a union?
3. Where does the candidate stand

on free trade agreements, including NAFTA, CAFTA, and other proposals.

4. Does the candidate understand the issues facing longshore workers in the upcoming negotiations, and do they have a position on the 2002 lockout?

Responses to these questions will be compiled and presented to the ILWU Executive Board at their next meeting on December 6 and 7th.

Each Presidential campaign team also received a copy of the ILWU documentary, "Eye of the Storm," that explains the 2002 contract fight and PMA lockout.

Meetings were held with the staff of top Congressional leaders, including Senator Edward Kennedy who chairs the Senate Labor Committee and House member George Miller who chairs the House Labor Committee. ILWU members distributed several dozen copies of the "Eye of the Storm" documentary to members of Congress.

"Our goal was to build political support for ILWU issues and the 2008 longshore negotiations," said Max Vekich. "We're building on the foundation that was laid with our victory in 2002, and we'll continue this work in the months ahead."



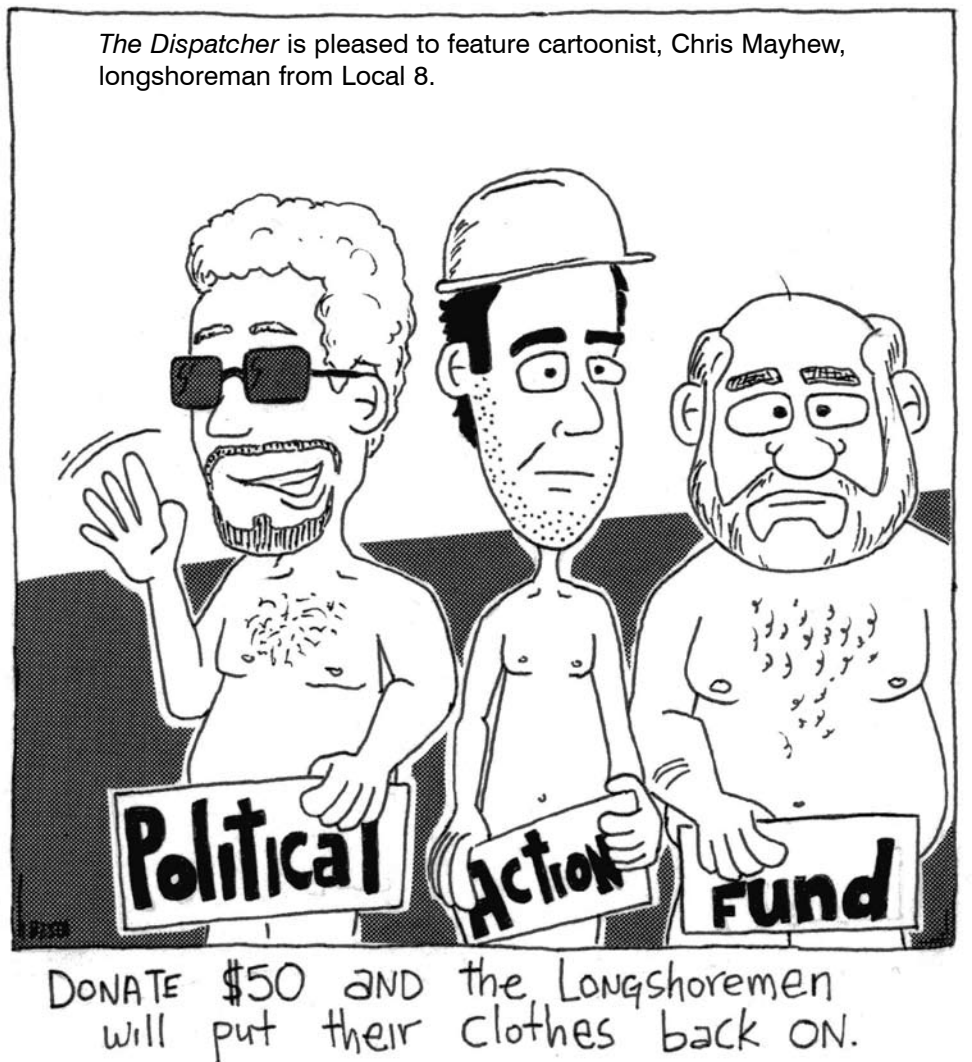
Cecilio "Lepe" Bautista, Local 13 President Mike Mitre, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and International President Bob McEllrath.

## Mexican dockworkers meet ILWU leaders in LA

Big shipping companies, investors, and port operators are increasingly interested in Mexican ports, so there was plenty to talk about when ILWU and Mexican dockworkers got together last month in Southern California.

"Now's the time for dockwork-

ers from both countries to be talking and making plans for the future," said International President Bob McEllrath as he kicked-off a week of meetings beginning October 15<sup>th</sup> with Mexico's Federation of Marine and Transport workers. The union represents most port workers along



Mexico's west coast, including the country's largest at Manzanillo.

This is the second time in less than a year that union leaders from both countries have met to discuss common challenges. ILWU leaders met 15 years ago with their Mexican counterparts, then again last year at Manzanillo in December, 2006.

"We learned a lot about the push to privatize Mexico's ports during our 1992 visit," says ILWU Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet who participated in the first gathering, as well as the recent meetings this past year.

Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. says that "The Mexican union members are now dealing with the same companies that we face here everyday, so it's real important for us to be sharing information that can help union members in both countries," he said.

Cecilio "Lepe" Bautista, General Secretary of the Mexican longshore union, told ILWU members that his union continues to be concerned about the impacts of privatization, new tech-

nology, and the powerful corporations that are now big players in Mexico's ports.

Leaders from both unions held a joint meeting with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on October 16th. The Mayor is encouraging port officials in Los Angeles to work together with their counterparts in Mexico to help both countries plan for the future. The City is co-sponsoring a conference on port issues later this month with the government of Mexico. Leaders from the ILWU and Mexico's longshore union will attend the Southern California event.

✓✓✓ "We need to develop a global strategy with unions in Mexico and other countries so we can stay ahead of the curve," says International President McEllrath. "I want us to be looking ahead at least a decade or two, because investors and big companies are making plans now that could radically change the way all of us work in the future."

## Calling All Pensioners!

If you were at the 40th Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) in San Pedro in September, you already know that we are gearing up for 2008 Longshore Division Negotiations. Just as our Union has pledged to support retirees, we likewise pledge to support our active workforce—and our great union—in any way we can.

Delegates to the Convention dug into their pockets and raised nearly \$5000 for the ILWU Political Action Fund. Those generous contributions serve two primary purposes:

- 1) They set an example for the rank and file. If Pensioners on fixed incomes can contribute, so can everyone else!
- 2) The Political Action Fund helps underwrite the enormous costs of legislative and public relations activism that will be critical to our success in 2008 Longshore Contract Bargaining.

International solidarity was also stressed at our Convention. Delegates representing our PCPA Brothers and Sisters in Canada pledged their support, as did guests from pension groups in Mexico and Australia.

The importance of our Union's fine Education Committee was also high-lighted. The Education Committee has put on several important workshops for both newer and

seasoned members, and other workshops are being scheduled. Workshop curriculums emphasize both historical triumphs and future goals. They also help explain why the ILWU is a unique and democratic organization rooted in working class consciousness and why each of us must help preserve that heritage.

The PCPA receives tremendous support from our Titled Officers, from our Coast Committee, and from locals located in Alaska, Canada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

- A Pensioner sits on the Education Committee.
- A Pensioner sits on the Benefits Committee.
- A Pensioner will participate in 2008 Longshore Division Negotiations.
- The PCPA Members recognized and seated as Fraternal Delegates at ILWU International Conventions.
- PCPA representatives are invited to important conferences sponsored by our Union.
- \* PCPA members are invited to participate in organizing campaigns for our Union.
- \* PCPA Members participate in political action programs.

In recognition of the backing the PCPA receives from our Union, and to show our appreciation for being

*continued on page 8*

## Two longshoremen arrested at Port of Sacramento

By John Showalter

Two longshore workers at Local 10 have been charged with "obstructing an officer" following a controversial incident that occurred in the parking lot of the SSA Terminal at the Port of Sacramento in West Sacramento, Calif. on August 23, 2007.

Registered "B-men" Aaron Harrison, 33, and Jason Ruffin, 28, will be arraigned in Yolo County Court on October 22. Harrison's attorney says that his client and Ruffin—who are both African American—were returning to work at the SSA terminal after lunch on Aug. 23 when a port security guard asked to search their vehicle after they showed their identification. The men had passed through the gates twice already earlier that day, showing identification on each occasion.

The longshoremen asked the security guard to show them his identification, and Harrison called Local 10 Business Agent Melvin McKay to better understand if the security guard had the right to search their car. While making his inquiry, the guard asked the men to pull their vehicle over to let others pass, which they did.

While Harrison was talking on the cell phone, an unmarked police car pulled into the parking lot, apparently at the request of the guard. By the time Harrison was finishing his call and pulled back into the line of cars, a

plainclothes police officer approached the passenger side of the dockworkers' vehicle, opened it and then walked around to Harrison's side. As this was happening, a uniformed officer also approached the vehicle.

Harrison says he was then asked by the plainclothes officers to step out of his vehicle, but was sprayed with mace before he had a chance to respond, then pulled out of the driver's seat and handcuffed by the officers.

According to McKay, Ruffin was not handcuffed when one of the officers asked him to "calm his friend down" and help get the mace out of Harrison's eyes. However, within thirty minutes of the incident, a motorcycle cop arrived, asked Ruffin for his identification and then handcuffed him when he objected to his request. Both longshoremen were then placed in the backseat of an unventilated police car.

Responding in a show of support, several hundred Local 10 rank-and-filers plus other union members and community leaders marched in front of the courtroom on the morning of October 4th when the two men had their first hearing. The presiding judge on Oct. 4th granted an extension until October 22nd so more evidence could be gathered for the defense.

"If the DA decides to take this case

*continued on page 8*



# ILWU Book & Video Sale

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

### BOOKS:

**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:** 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: 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 (powellsunion.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:

**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 <b>Harry Bridges</b> @ \$10 ea.=	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>ILWU Story</b> @ \$5 ea. =	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>The Big Strike</b> @ \$6.50 ea. =	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>The Union Makes Us Strong</b> @ \$20 ea. =	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>The March Inland</b> @ \$9 ea.=	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>A Terrible Anger</b> @ \$16.50 ea.=	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>We Are the ILWU</b> DVD @ \$5 ea. =	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>We Are the ILWU</b> VHS @ \$5 ea. =	\$ ___
___ copies of <b>A Life on the Beam</b> 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.

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Please allow at least four weeks for delivery.  
Shipment to U.S. addresses only



Betty Olson-Jones, President of the Oakland Education Association.

### Pensioners! *cont'd from p. 7*

included in important programs, we are "calling all pensioners"! We are calling on you to join your local Pensioners Club if you have not already done so.

We are calling on you to get involved and help your Union. By doing so you also help yourselves and your loved ones.

We are calling on you to pick up the phone and call your local Pensioners Club and find out when the next meeting will be held, and then go to it!

We may have retired from the job, but we'll never retire from the ILWU! You are needed!

**"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All"**

### SENIORS SEND LETTER TO RITE AID

Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo, State President of the Congress of California Seniors, sent a letter on Oct. 18 to Mary F. Sammons, Chairman and CEO of Rite Aid informing her that the seniors' Board of Directors had unanimously voted to support ILWU workers at the Rite Aid distribution center in Lancaster, California. He also told her the seniors had denounced her company for obstructing the employees' right to organize.

### Longshoremen arrested *cont'd from p. 7*

to trial, then we're going to get a bigger group out here again on October 22," said Local 10 Executive Board member Jack Heyman who helped organize the October 4th rally.



Local 34 President Ricard Cavalli spoke at the Anti-War Conference on October 20th in San Francisco. Local 10 Executive Board member Jack Heyman is seated to his left. Seated at far left is Takumi Shimizu of Doro-Chiba, Japanese Railroad Union.

## A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away.

### ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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| <b>ADRP—Northern California</b><br>Norm McLeod<br>400 North Point<br>San Francisco, CA 94133<br>(415) 776-8363             | <b>ADRP—Washington</b><br>Donnie Schwendeman<br>3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503<br>Tacoma, WA 98424<br>(253) 922-8913  |
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