



THE DISPATCHER

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Photo by David Bacon

ILWU President Bob McEllrath's sends solidarity letter to 'Occupy Wall Street' protesters. [page 3](#)



ILWU Local 6 members at Bayer ratified a new four-year agreement that includes better job security, annual raises of more than 3%, and a freeze on the 18% share of health insurance that workers currently pay.

Bayer workers win new contract in Berkeley with better job security

A new contract covering 420 Local 6 members at the Bayer HealthCare plant in Berkeley, California was reached on September 30 and ratified by 70% of workers on October 12.

Significant improvements

The new four-year contract includes better job security, annual raises of more than 3%, and a freeze on the 18% share of health insurance that workers currently pay.

Bayer threatened job cuts

Bayer had been seeking take-aways in this contract that included the outsourcing of janitorial jobs, boosting health care rates, arbitrary scheduling changes, and more. These threats hit home because of the recession – and because Bayer recently announced plans to close a nearby

non-union plant in Emeryville that will destroy 400 jobs. Two years ago, Bayer threatened to move jobs from the Berkeley plant, reversing course only after politicians secured millions of dollars in tax breaks for the Germany-based pharmaceutical giant.

Concessions & declining involvement

Local 6 workers at Bayer were facing a tough situation. While their predecessors had been making progress and winning better contracts in the decades after WWII, declining union density and industrial flight that began during the 1970's and 80's made it more difficult to protect hard-fought gains in each new bargaining cycle. Union negotiating committees were doing their best to fight back and hold the line, but the company's status as a powerful, multi-national pharmaceutical giant made Bayer a formidable adversary.

Local & international partnerships

International President Bob McEllrath offered help to Local 6 and other ILWU locals who were facing difficult contract fights in 2011. Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker and Business Agent Donal Mahon responded to the offer and held meetings with International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, International Vice President Ray Familathe, and the International's Organizing Department. Together, they outlined an organizing strategy to move forward. An experienced rank-and-file organizer – Local 6 member Carey Dall – was recruited to help with the effort. A network of unions from other Bayer facilities in the U.S. was formed, known as the Council of Bayer Workers, which included the International Association

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I am not a longshore worker, but I really appreciate the actions that your union takes for all working-class Americans. It's good to see a union act the way a union should. I am enclosing a small donation to support your efforts to stand up for the working people of this country. Please add me to your mailing list and keep up the good work.

In solidarity,

Nils Berg-Olsen
Madison, WI

Dear Editor,

I have read the story regarding your fight for good jobs at EGT on the Columbia River and noted that President McEllrath was arrested for defending the rights of members to picket and defend free speech. I support your cause and your fight.

Up here in Canada, our union President Dave Coles was arrested on September 27 along with other union officers and supporters who stood arm-in-arm to defend good union jobs. The arrests took place outside Canada's Parliament building in Ottawa.

Hundreds of Canadian jobs are on the line because of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline that would send raw crude from our tar sands in Alberta down to Texas for processing. Canada's anti-union Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, is not listening to our concerns, but we will not give up this fight for good jobs.

In early September, 1,200 Americans were arrested in front of your White in Washington for protesting against the pipeline. Protestors noted that four pipelines have ruptured in the U.S. during this year alone, causing serious injuries and deaths. Why would anyone support these old, polluting energy sources instead of investing in cleaner alternatives?

Unions on both sides of the border must work together in order to protect working families and safeguard our rights to free speech and assembly. Corporate greed knows no bounds and they are the puppet-masters who run our governments. Union members must organize and take action to stop this. Please send this message of solidarity to my brothers and sisters in the ILWU.

Kal Singh, Communications, Energy Workers and Paperworkers
Union Local 2000
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org



Building solidarity in South Africa: *The ILWU joined other unions attending the Mining and Maritime International Conference in Durban, South Africa, on October 3 – 7. A hundred participants from unions around the world reaffirmed their commitment to helping each other. ILWU members Terri Judd who works for Rio Tinto at Local 30 in Boron, CA and Local 20 member Mike Clark from Rio Tinto's plant in Wilmington, CA were honored for winning their contract struggles – made possible with help from unions in the Mining and Maritime Conference. The ILWU delegation screened a short version of the award-winning documentary film, "Locked-Out 2010," which tells how families in Boron won their fight against Rio Tinto. The Conference passed a "Durban Declaration" which included a statement pledging solidarity to members of ILWU Local 21 who are fighting for justice at the EGT grain terminal in Longview, WA. (L-R) Michael Drake of Local 20, International Vice President Ray Familathe, International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 30 member Terri Judd, and Local 63 pensioner and photographer Lewis Wright.*



Maritime women building union power: *From left to right: Yvette Flowers, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, ILA local1422; Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO Director, International Dept.; Mary Ann Gillespie, President, ILA Local 1809; Holly Hulscher, ILWU Local 23 Vice President; Linda Wilkins, ILA Local 1233.*

IBU victory: Bay Area ferry service contract awarded to Blue & Gold Fleet

At its October 6 Board of Directors meeting, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) awarded an exclusive 5-year contract for San Francisco Bay Ferry services to Blue & Gold Fleet (B&GF). San Francisco Bay Ferry, which recently assumed operation of the Alameda/Oakland and Harbor Bay Ferries, provides daily commute and excursion service between Alameda, Oakland, San Francisco, and Harbor Bay. In early 2012, San Francisco Bay Ferry plans to launch new ferry service between South San Francisco and the East Bay and to assume operation of the City of Vallejo's Baylink ferry operating between Vallejo and San Francisco. Under the new contract, B&GF will be responsible for the daily operation of all these services at an estimated five year cost of \$44.5 million. Harbor Bay Maritime has provided the Bay Farm Island ferry service since 1992. B&GF will assume that service under the new contract.

The WETA Board cited the company's proven track record of delivering safe, quality service to passengers and the professionalism of their crews before unanimously awarding the contract to Blue & Gold. WETA will also have the option of 5 one-year extensions after the initial 5-year contract expires.

This was the culmination of years of hard work by members of the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU), Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P), Blue & Gold officials and WETA Board members. The contract will provide stability for the company and job security for Blue & Gold workers.

"It was a long journey to get to this point," said Marina Secchitano, IBU Regional Director. "I want to recognize the hard work of the WETA Board and the members of MM&P and the IBU whose hard work facilitated Blue & Gold getting this award."

Taylor Safford, President of Blue & Gold said that the victory was the result of the partnership between the company, the IBU and the MM&P. "The leadership of these two unions worked very hard to insure that WETA understood the opportunity presented by awarding the contract to Blue & Gold," Safford said.

WETA was established in 2007 as successor to the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority (WTA), which had been established in 1998. WETA is mandated by the State of California to operate a comprehensive San Francisco Bay Area public water transit system, and to plan and coordinate the water transit response to a regional emergency. IBU Regional Director Marina Secchitano served as a Board member for the WTA.

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ILWU International President, Bob McEllrath sends solidarity letter to 'Occupy Wall Street' protesters



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of 40,000 members in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), I want to thank you for organizing your "Occupy Wall Street" protest in New York City which is inspiring millions of Americans.

Most of us are tired of seeing a handful of the richest corporations and executives behave as though they're entitled to live like kings at everyone's expense:

They aren't paying their fair share of taxes, so schools are cutting back and colleges are raising fees – leaving students with obscene debts. It's time for the millionaires – the richest 1% - to start

paying their fair share so we can support education and other vital services.

They're destroying our democracy and right to a voice in the workplace. By making it almost impossible for workers to form unions and negotiate fair agreements, corporate America is dragging down the living standards for all working families.

They're threatening to destroy Social Security and Medicare for future generations. We can't allow corporations to privatize and profit from these programs. Instead, we should close the loopholes so corporations and the rich start paying the same contributions as everyone else.

Your decision to bring these and other issues to corporate America's doorstep is courageous – and involves some risks. We weren't surprised that some of you have faced beatings and pepper spray from overzealous police. Your crusade to shine a light on the corruption and injustice that's infecting Wall Street is bound to ruffle some feathers. We've experienced some similar rough treatment in Longview, Washington, where ILWU families are also taking a stand against corporate greed. Our fight there is against EGT, a multi-national corporation that took taxpayer subsidies to build a grain export terminal – then betrayed workers and the community.

Like you, ILWU members in Longview have been arrested, beaten and pepper sprayed. We know that justice won't be won by asking greedy employers for permission or waiting for politicians to pass laws. That's why we hope that you'll stand your ground on Wall Street while we do the same in Longview – because An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!

Robert McEllrath
International President

Mexico's Electrical Workers win tough two-year fight

Few labor struggles at home or abroad are being won quickly or easily today. Members of the Mexican Electrical Workers union (SME) proved that point by declaring victory after a difficult two-year fight that pitted their militant union against Mexico's anti-labor government.

Army evicts workers

The battle began two years ago when Mexican President Felipe Calderón ordered police and the army to remove union workers from the public-owned utility known as Light and Power that serves Mexico City and surrounding states. After evicting the workers, the government liquidated the utility and fired 45,000 employees, offering severance pay that was refused by 16,500 who chose to keep fighting.

A comprehensive campaign

The remaining workers and their families developed an impressive campaign that organized actions in the streets, filed lawsuits in the courts, introduced bills in the legislature, and sent delegations to the United States and Canada in search of international support.

The ILWU was the first union in the United States to respond with a pledge of solidarity. ILWU International President Bob McEllrath sent a strongly-worded letter to Mexican President Felipe Calderón, demanding justice for the Electrical Workers. Other support came from the United Steelworkers, United Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, and many other unions and federations around the globe.

Mobilizations & hunger strikes

Two years of sacrifice and coalition-building paid-off with an impressive show of public support that put 50,000 supporters into Mexico City's national plaza - or "Zócalo" – during the days leading up to the country's Independence Day, September 16. Workers previously organized actions at the Zócalo which included

mass marches and a hunger strike that attracted national attention.

Decades of anti-union politics

A showdown with the small but militant union has been brewing for decades. Tensions escalated in 1988 when pro-union Presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas lost a close election that many believe was stolen. Mexico's presidents who took power after his defeat embraced an anti-union "neo-liberal" agenda that included signing the NAFTA free trade agreement and selling-off Mexico's public-owned mines, communications, energy, and transportation resources to wealthy investors. This sell-off of public assets allowed the world's richest man – Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim – and other Mexican oligarchs to buy their country's most valuable assets at bargain-basement prices. The nation's resources that had been protected for the public by Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico's pro-union president (and father of candidate Cuauhtémoc) stood with workers who mobilized by the millions during the Great Depression in the 1930's.

What workers won

After the showdown with 50,000 workers in Mexico City's zocalo, the government agreed to:

- Guarantee jobs for the 16,500 union members in Mexico's national utility, the CFE;
- Recognize the union's elected leadership; and allow the union to...
- Release union funds that had been frozen by the government.

The electrical workers union was allied with Mexico's Miners and metal workers union.

SME claims victory

Martín Esparza, general secretary of the union, asserted that the agreement the union had reached with the Secretary of the Interior, "makes it possible for us to say to the society as a whole that the union will not stand in the way of the national celebrations which we can now all celebrate together."

Through the intervention of Marcelo Ebrard, mayor of Mexico City, and Armando Ríos Piter, president of the Political Coordinating Committee of the Mexican Congress, the Secretaries of Energy, Finances and Labor agreed to establish negotiations with the SME for the reinsertion into the labor force of the 16,500 workers who have been unemployed since October 2009. Juan Marcos Gutiérrez, undersecretary of the Secretary of the Interior, said that that office would "analyze and resolve" the problems facing those workers.

The parties also reached an agreement to reexamine and resolve legal charges against 12 SME members, whom the union calls "political prisoners," who remained jailed on charges of robbery or sabotage in various prisons. The undersecretary said that the parties would also be reexamining retirement benefits, union dues, social security and other related issues.

The union claimed that as a result of its occupation of the national plaza it had also won recognition of its union officers from the government through the process known as "toma de nota" (taking note). Under-


secretary Gutiérrez, however, denied that this was the case, pointing out that the decision had been issued on September 9 before the SME's sit-in was in full swing. That decision, said the undersecretary, had nothing to do with pressure from the SME. It was rather an example of the government commitment to prompt and expeditious justice, said the undersecretary.

While the union claimed that its occupation of the plaza had also led the government to release funds which it had frozen, the government asserted that those funds had always been available but that because the union officers had not been recognized, they could not access the funds amounting to 21 million pesos. Now that the officers are recognized, they can access the accounts.

It should be noted that the government waited well over two months to recognize the union leadership, although in theory this is a simple administrative process. Moreover, the recent criminal charges brought against the SME leadership were purportedly based on an attempt by a legally recognized leader of the union to withdraw funds two years ago.

The ILWU was the first union in the United States to respond with a pledge of solidarity to the SME.

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October 14, 2009

President Felipe Calderon
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Mexico, D.F.

By email: felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx
(Original via U.S. Mail)

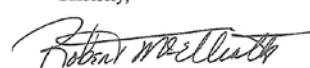
Dear President Calderon,

I write to protest the Federal Police occupation of the electrical plants, the liquidation of the Light and Power Company, the firing of 45,000 workers, and the destruction of their union. Your action is a violation of labor rights, of human rights, and a disgrace to your government.

I urge you to do as the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME) have asked:

1. Remove the police from their workplace.
2. Revoke the liquidation of the company.
3. Negotiate the issues with the Union (SME)

Mr. President, please respect the rights of these workers, their union, and international labor and human rights standards.

Sincerely,

Robert McEllrath
International President

cc by email to : Mexican Electrical Workers Union, sinmexel@sme.org.mx



Longview prepares for the long-haul

ILWU Local 21 members are continuing their fight for fairness at the EGT grain terminal in Longview, Washington, where the high-stakes struggle continues to generate some dramatic twists and turns.

“The fight for justice in Longview involves a lot more than just our little town – it’s about corporate greed and the future of America’s middle class,” said ILWU Local 21 President Dan Coffman

- Over 200 ILWU members have now been arrested, including International President Bob McEllrath who was charged on September 26, and Local 21 President Dan Coffman who was cuffed on September 21 along with a dozen local women. Most are charged with trespassing and blocking EGT grain trains.

- Responding to complaints of police harassment and discrimination, The ILWU filed a lawsuit in federal court that charged local law enforcement officials with violating the civil rights of union members and supporters in Longview.

- In response to the ILWU’s Civil Rights suit, the Cowlitz County Prosecutor’s office finally took action against an EGT employee who assaulted two ILWU picketers with his Chevy Suburban on August 29th. Although the man was charged with two counts of felony hit-and-run driving (instead of felony assault with a deadly weapon), the prosecutor refused to have him arrested like so many union members who have been charged with minor offenses. Unlike union members, EGT’s violent driver was allowed to receive a summons in the mail for his violent attack on two workers. Law enforcement officials had refused for weeks to arrest the driver; instead deputies arrested union members who allegedly kicked the car

driven by EGT’s employee who tried to run over picketers then fled the crime scene and went to work in the outlaw grain terminal.

- A community rally on September 29 sponsored by Jobs With Justice attracted 1,000 supporters who gathered in front of the Longview City Hall. Concerned community members from throughout the Columbia River area and beyond joined with local small business owners and union supporters to show their solidarity.

- On September 30, a federal judge imposed a \$250,000 penalty on the ILWU, saying the union should reimburse EGT, local law enforcement and government attorneys for expenses he attributed to events on September 7 and 8 when union members allegedly blocked trains and entered EGT’s facility on Port property. The ILWU is appealing the judge’s ruling and penalties.

- In a separate Federal Court ruling on October 7, the same judge rejected EGT’s motion for summary judgment and determined that EGT was “acutely aware of the (ILWU Local 21) Working Agreement, and of the Port’s (and ILWU’s) belief that it established union longshore jurisdiction over the property to be leased – both on the docks and on the land side of the facility.” While the ruling was positive, it was only one decision in an extensive legal battle.

The fight for good jobs at EGT seems to be entering a phase where legal and courtroom battles compete for attention with events on the ground. The announcement of the \$250,000 penalty and threat of future fines attracted predictable media attention and fodder for anti-union outlets including Rush Limbaugh and Wall Street Journal editorial writers who are trying to use the Longview story to turn the public against unions.

Rough justice for workers

The September 30 court ruling against the ILWU by the Federal Court in Tacoma was not unexpected because federal labor laws generally favor business and commerce over workers and the community. ILWU Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet was quick to make that point when the court issued their ruling and he criticized the method used to arrive at the \$250,000 penalty, explaining, “The judge took the NLRB’s proposed damage amount of nearly \$300,000 and rounded it down to \$250,000 without any findings of fact or ruling on our evidentiary objections. This kind of ‘rough justice’ and imprecise decision-making is exactly what the law is supposed to prevent. But this court used back-of-the-napkin guesstimates. There was also not even an attempt to determine which, if any events, were arguably connected to what the union allegedly did on the 7th and 8th of September.”

Court’s questionable accounting

The court-ordered penalty includes reimbursement to local law enforcement for the cost of police uniforms that were purchased in July before a court order was in effect. Other questionable expenses included the purchase of weapons by public and private police forces, overtime pay for unnecessary and wasteful staffing by the Cowlitz County Sheriff, exorbitant travel and salary costs for EGT lawyers – including time billed at over \$400 an hour and first class airfare, and the reimbursement of government lawyers at hourly rates exceeding \$400 – which is far more than they’re actually paid. The ILWU issued a statement saying that the union will appeal the decision and expects the ruling to be overturned.



ILWU International President Bob McEllrath added his voice to the growing chorus calling for an end to police brutality and harassment in Longview by surrendering himself to Cowlitz County authorities on Sept 26th. McEllrath (center) is flanked by ILA Vice President Ken Riley (left).

Rally shows strong support

The Large Rally on September 29 offered convincing proof that support for ILWU Local 21 has deep roots. Jobs With Justice worked with the AFL-CIO Labor Federations in Oregon and Washington to spread the word and encourage attendance.

Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State AFL-CIO, summed up the fight to more than one thousand supporters who gathered in the park: “We’re going to win this fight because we’re right. We’re going to win this fight because this work – loading and unloading ships – is Longshore labor. And we’re going to win this fight because we’re going to stay out here one day longer,” he said.

Faith community comes forward

On Sunday afternoon, October 2, a smaller group of 100 gathered at the same park where the large rally met a few days earlier. The Sunday event featured local churchgoers who gathered quietly in the park with their heads bowed and eyes closed to offer prayers for a peaceful resolution to the conflict with EGT. The group was convened by the Kelso-

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Seeking solutions to pollution around the ports

The problem of air pollution around the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach generated a standing-room-only crowd at a community forum that was held in Paramount on October 6.

ILWU Coast Safety Committee Chair Tim Podue and Local 13 volunteer Donovan Russell attended the event that attracted 100 port-area residents, concerned community leaders and elected officials.

A panel of scientists, Port officials, and activists told the gathering about all the different sources of air pollution in the harbor area, including traffic on freeways, emissions from four nearby oil refineries, the ICTF Rail Yard and other near-dock rail operations.

One of the panelists was Dr. Linda Birnbaum, who heads the National Institute for Environmental Health Science, the federal agency charged with studying environmental health problems. Birnbaum was clear about the problem: “Scientific evidence is showing that traffic pollution has a huge impact on public health. Living near major roads is hazardous to your health. Period.”

Her statements were confirmed

by UCLA scientist John Froines, who explained how tiny exhaust particles can lodge in lungs where they help trigger asthma attacks, heart attacks and other serious problems. Froines has been studying air pollution with scientists from UCLA and USC for the past 15 years.

Living or working close to freeways adds to the risk. But eight million people are already living within a mile of a freeway in LA and Orange Counties – and another million live within 100 feet or less.

With these facts in mind, community members posed some pointed questions of representatives from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The Port reps told about their efforts to go greener and cleaner and they encouraged residents to stay involved and keep working with the Ports to make things better.

The problems are challenging for both workers and residents. Take the new rail yard that Burlington Northern Santa Fe wants to build on 153 acres of Port property to move containers more efficiently from the docks to points east. The railroad says they’ll use alternative-fuel locomotives, electric-powered cranes and low-emission trucks at the new facility. But resi-

dents, including many parents of children in a nearby school are concerned because nearly ¼ of their kids already suffer from asthma, so the impact of another 1.5 million annual truck trips to and from the new rail yard is a real concern. Yet it’s also true that the new yard would cut overall emissions in the region by eliminating a wasteful 24-mile freeway trip that’s now needed to haul containers to the old rail yard in East Los Angeles. More forums are planned to try and tackle these difficult problems, share information and explore ways to make the Port areas cleaner for residents and workers.

ILWU Coast Safety Committee Chair Tim Podue was encouraged to attend the meeting by ILWU Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr.

“Longshore workers have to wear two hats in the ILWU,” says Ortiz, Jr. “One for safer docks and healthier neighborhoods, and the other for good jobs that our communities need.”

Podue told the group he was speaking as a private citizen, not a union representative, but went on to explain how he and other longshore workers have been inhaling diesel exhaust for decades. He said that many of his co-workers have cancer, and that he hates breathing exhaust fumes on the job.

But Podue also said how much he loves his work and how important the good jobs are for thousands of area families who depend on the Port.

“I’ve been poisoned myself by breathing exhaust from the stacks of a ship while I was working in a crane, and you never get over it,” said Podue. “But you also can’t chase away the work.” Podue said he would love to see all the port equipment “plugged in and green.”

“We all have a story to tell,” he told NIEHS chief Linda Birnbaum and other officials. “Just don’t forget the workers when you’re doing it.”

Director Linda Birnbaum responded to Podue by saying she supports the need to include workers and wants the debate to move beyond a choice between jobs or health. She said it’s obvious that the ports and freeways are necessary, but wants them designed to protect the health of workers and residents. “You’ve got to put a dollar figure on how much money you’d save by not having kids with asthma and people with heart attacks,” she said. “You have to turn it around and say how much money is saved by doing it the right way.”

– ILWU Local 13 member
Donovan Russell contributed

Unity and solidarity were themes at Pacific Coast Pensioners 44th convention

The banner of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association reads: “Retired from the job...not from the struggle.” That same working class ideology was on display during the PCPA Convention from September 19 – 21, 2011 in Seattle, WA. Pensioners from up and down the coast traveled to the Pacific Northwest to take care of PCPA matters, hear from speakers, receive information, and have some fun and share camaraderie in the process.

“We are here to help. We are here to be of assistance to the entire union,” said PCPA President Rich Austin in his report. “If the going gets tough and any employer tries to chisel on what was negotiated, we pensioners are ready, willing and able to kick a little ass if need be. We are a resource, and if an outfit wants to screw with the benefits or jobs of any active or retired members or their loved ones, we pensioners will stand shoulder to shoulder with our Brothers and Sisters. Our officers know it and the rank and file does too. We receive great support from the active workforce. We appreciate all that they and the staff at the International and locals do for those of us who are retired, and we’re here to help them whenever we can.”

Unity was evident throughout the convention. From welcoming Debra Fontaine and Elizabeth Trevino and presenting them with a plaque honoring the courageous workers of ILWU Local 26 and their successful struggle against Rite Aid, to pensioners pledging their unyielding support to the members of Local 21 in Longview, to applauding the report echoing the call for international solidarity delivered by Fred Krausert, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia Veterans.

That theme was underscored by the presence of International President Bob McEllrath, Vice-President Ray Familathe, Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Coast Committeemen Ray Ortiz and Leal Sundet, and Local Presidents Joe Cortez (13) Dan Miranda (94) Jeff Smith (8) Pete McEllrath (92) Scott Mason (23) Cam Williams (19) Mike Rosebrook (32), and Alan Cote and Terri Mast of the IBU.

President McEllrath gave a talk that left no doubt in anyone’s mind that the ILWU is living up to its motto, “An injury to one is an injury to all,” and that the rank and file will defend what was inherited from their predecessors.

Jeff Johnson, President of the Washington State Labor Council, echoed the call for unity, and did more. He showed his grit by standing shoulder to shoulder with the brothers and sisters down in Longview a couple of weeks prior to the Convention.

Port of Seattle CEO, Tay Yoshitani, welcomed the delegates and then described how active and retired members can lobby Congress to support an equitable distribution of dollars destined for infrastructure repairs. He said

the West Coast wants and deserves a level playing field.

Other speakers included Robby Stern, President of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans, who spoke of the need for coalition building and community outreach. Mark Dudzic, National Coordinator for the Labor Campaign for Single Payer warned that health care costs cannot be sustained, hence the need for all workers to join forces and fight for a comprehensive, universal, accessible, affordable, quality national single payer health care program.

Longtime ILWU friend, labor historian, and honorary member of Local 23, Dr. Ron Magden, gave an informative talk and pictorial history of early waterfront pioneers. Jim Gregory, Chair of the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, and Conor Casey, Labor Archivist at the Center, both spoke of the need for alliance building. Gregory said that the struggle in Longview is a symptom of the anti-union, anti-worker agenda of multinational corporations. “They believe they are free to trample on the backs of U.S. workers,” said Gregory.

Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA) also addressed the convention. He spoke of the mean-spirited agenda of Congressional Republicans, and otherwise pushed all the right buttons, but said little about some of his Democratic colleagues who often vote with the anti-worker right. Rep. McDermott is the only Congressional Progressive Caucus member from the state of Washington. Nearly all of his votes help the working class, the glaring exception being his support for “free trade” schemes. Although to his credit, he did oppose the Colombian Free Trade Agreement. “If we had 300 Jim McDermotts in Congress the wars would end, we’d have single payer health care, and people would be put back to work,” said Rich Austin.

Herb Howe of the Vancouver, B.C. Pensioners Club gave a report on behalf of the Canadian Area. He dispelled myths about troubles with Canada’s health care system and told the delegates that Canadians are generally satisfied with what they have. He said that the same for-profit forces that are wreaking havoc in the U.S. are also at work in Canada trying to alter the nation’s health care system, but said that our neighbors to the North will fight like hell to make sure that does not happen.

Anita Nath and Alex Stone – two youthful activists from Washington – made it clear that young people are willing to defend Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. They declared that lawmakers and media hacks who tell us that Social Security is nearly insolvent are not telling us the truth. It is solvent, safe, and does not add to yearly deficits or the national debt.

Lewis Wright of the Southern California Pensioners Group spoke about the need to support credit unions. He said working class people should use credit unions instead of doing business with the “bankster gangsters” who ran our county into the ditch.

Delegates and spouses enjoyed guided tours, a Sunday evening reception and a banquet on Tuesday night featuring good food and a dance band that got people on their feet.

Each Convention gives the Jesse and Lois Stranahan Award to an outstanding labor person, and this year’s award was presented posthumously to Art Mink, and was accepted by family members. Brother Mink was an activist, and held several offices in ILWU Local 19. Art is remembered as being “a man that had a great sense of humor, maintained a great optimism and faith in the working class and gave selflessly so that others may benefit.” He was active until he passed away in March of 2011.

There is also a Friendly Politician award and this year’s recipient was Senator Spencer Coggs and thirteen of his Democratic colleagues from Wisconsin. As you might recall they left the state rather than allow anti-worker, anti-union Republican Governor Scott Walker to trash public employees.

“The Wisconsin Fourteen made no effort to hide their support for workers. That stands in stark contrast to what

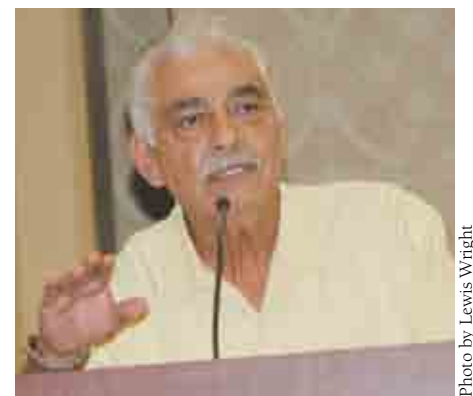


Photo by Lewis Wright

ILWU Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. addressed the PCPA convention. He said the Coast Committee is making every effort to be as informative as possible and being proactive in resolving any outstanding issues.

the Democrats did here in Washington State. Many joined with their GOP bunkmates and passed union busting legislation. I asked Senator Coggs if he would travel to our state again to teach “Democrats” here what it means to be a real Democrat,” Austin said.

The convention was a huge success and plans are already underway for next year’s convention in San Pedro. The PCPA is ready to have a large turnout in Southern California.

– Rich Austin, President, PCPA



Celebrating Rite Aid victory: At the PCPA’s 44th Convention that took place in Seatac, September 19-21, the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association presented a plaque to ILWU Local 26 members, Elizabeth Trevino and Debra Fontaine, to commemorate the recent contract victory with Rite Aid that was five years in the making. ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe introduced Trevino and Fontaine both of whom served on the elected negotiating committee.

In the photo above: (Back row, left to right) George Cobbs, Rich Austin, Elizabeth Trevino, Debra Fontaine, Ian Kennedy; (back row, left to right) John Munson, ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe.

Longview prepares for the long-haul

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Longview Ministerial Association which represents many local churches.

Freda Everdell, 84, joined the prayer vigil and told a local reporter that she’s supported the International Longshore and Warehouse Union since her husband joined in 1946.

“This is a good thing for the whole community,” she said, referring to the prayer vigil. “I think the whole community needs it.”

James Gaulke, a member of the local electricians’ union, said he hopes the jobs at the grain terminal will eventually go to the ILWU and that the Operating Engineers will support the Longshoremen’s cause.

“In my opinion, EGT is pitting one union against another that is wrong,” said Gaulke. He hopes that the Operating Engineers will stand

down and “join in solidarity with the ILWU.”

“As a Christian, with strong Biblical convictions, I’m confident that my God is bigger than EGT,” Gaulke said.

Resuming contract talks is key

EGT and ILWU Local 21 participated in collective bargaining negotiations between September 2009 and May 2011. In April 2011, contract negotiations got stalled over EGT’s demand to have longshoremen work 12 hour shifts without any overtime pay and the company’s refusal to recognize maintenance, repair, and master console jurisdiction. To date, EGT has not returned to the negotiating table and continues to refuse to agree to the Grainhandlers Agreement – even though ILWU Local 21 expressed its willingness to modify the agreement to meet EGT’s particular needs.

Southwestern Oregon Community College dedicates campus quad to former ILWU Local 12 Vice President, Henry Hansen

On October 8, Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) in Coos Bay dedicated its campus quad to Henry Hansen, the founder of the college, a longshoreman and the first Vice President of ILWU Local 12. The quad, named “Henry Hansen Labor Union Square,” will memorialize the role of Henry Hansen and the members of Local 12 whose tireless efforts and support led to the college’s creation. The quad will be a permanent monument to the working class origins of Southwestern Oregon Community College, which is now celebrating its 50th anniversary.

ILWU Coast Committeeman, Leal Sundet, spoke at the event and spoke about the need to defend the middle class. “Unions and affordable public educations were the building blocks of the middle class,” said Sundet. “Unions and public education are under assault and the middle class is declining as a result.”

Former ILWU Local 12 Vice President and SWOCC alumni, Gary Alford, helped spearhead the effort to rename the campus quad after Hansen after he noticed that bust of Henry Hansen was displayed in an isolated part of the campus. The bust was relocated to the campus quad and unveiled during the dedication ceremony.

“Henry wanted a place for working class kids to have an affordable college education,” said former Local 12 Vice President, Mark Hamlin, who also spoke at the event. “It wasn’t the Chamber of Commerce putting up the money for the campaign to create this college or circulating the petitions. It was the membership of ILWU Local 12 and other labor union members and their families who carried this college.”

Following the dedication there was a birthday party for Henry, who would have been 103 years old. To make this square possible, the college is selling legacy bricks that will be laid in the square so that everyone who attends the college will remember the efforts of the working men and women



Henry Hansen was the head of the JFK campaign for Coos and Curry County in 1959. He is pictured here John and Jackie Kennedy.

that made community colleges in Oregon a reality.

Henry Hansen: Growing up union

Henry Hansen was the son of a longshoreman. His father Enevold, was a charter member of Oregon’s first union, the Longshoreman’s Union of the Pacific. In 1915, at the age of seven, Henry experienced his first strike when the employers broke the Longshoreman’s Union of the Pacific.

Henry’s father, who had seen the worst days of abuse at the hands of employers and had always told him, “Don’t be a longshoreman.” But there weren’t a lot of other viable options for a young man in southwestern Oregon.

Enevold invited Henry to partner with him on the waterfront hoping to discourage his son from following in his footsteps. That day Henry spent nine hours unloading 100 pound sacks of cement, earning \$7.20 for his labor. That was the first day in Henry’s long shoring career but not his longest—he later said the longest day he could remember working was 27 hours without a break before the 1934 strike.

A college for the community

Though Enevold didn’t succeed in discouraging his son from becoming a longshoreman, he did get Henry to think more about the idea of affordable, accessible education. Community colleges were a new idea in the early 1900s, and there weren’t any in the State of Oregon. Henry had read all about them and after a discussion with his high school teacher about how it could happen in Coos Bay, Henry was convinced; there should be a college for the community.

By 1932, Henry was working full time on the waterfront, but he never forgot about his idea to organize a community college. He belonged to the ILA and after 1934, helped form the ILWU.

In 1937, as Vice President of ILWU Local 12, he formed committees to further organize workers in the area. In October 1937, the Coos Bay Industrial Union Council was formed with Henry as the first president and the group began to organize mill and woodworkers into the C.I.O. That same month he presented a charter from Local 12 and installed ILWU Auxiliary No. 1.

‘Banging ears’ for community college

Henry attended the C.I.O. Constitutional Convention in Pittsburg along with Harry Bridges in 1938. Henry used the trip as a chance to talk to people about community colleges—or “banging ears” as he liked to call it. He stopped at a community college in South Dakota on the way home to talk with the students. He talked with people in his community when he got home to Coos Bay. He talked to soldiers from all over the US about the community colleges in their home states when he was serving in World War II. Henry talked, and the first people to listen were his union brothers in Local 12.

In 1957, Local 12 members



A college for the working class: Coast Committeeman, Leal Sundet, giving tribute to Henry Hansen and Local 12 members whose efforts made SWOCC a reality.

assessed themselves \$5 dollars a person, (\$40 in today’s money), to send Henry to the state legislature to get a law passed authorizing community colleges. The feeling amongst the union brothers was that there was no reason why they shouldn’t or couldn’t have a college, and through that college would provide better opportunities for young people of the community.

Henry, the ILWU Local 12, the federated auxiliary, and a handful of other supporters faced a long, uphill battle to get Southwestern Oregon Community College on the ballot. After two injunctions from mysterious opponents, 5,000 petition signatures, another trip to the legislature to amend the law, they faced yet another hurdle—the law required petitioners post the cost of the election. Henry got the State Board of Education to set the cost at \$1,000. Still a large sum of money in 1959, but at least it would not kill the movement. Henry went back to the Local with this figure, and they wrote a check, saying “Henry, we have supported you this far, we are going all the way.”

Through grassroots word-of-mouth

campaigning among his labor and Democratic “underground,” as Henry called it, the college passed. In the fall of 1961, the first community college in Oregon—formed by a vote of the people—opened its doors.

Henry Hansen was the first chairman of the Board of Southwestern Oregon Community College. He applied the principles he learned in union organizing and campaigning to the community college: He never gave up; he always tried for something better, and made personal sacrifices. What Henry said in his oral history in Solidarity Stories, rings as true today as it did then, “If you don’t better the other guy’s condition and bring it up to your level, he’ll tear you down, you can bet your bottom dollar on that.”

For more information or to purchase you own customized dedicated legacy brick, visit SWOCC’s website: <http://www.socc.edu/foundation/pgs/alumni> For more information about the dedication of the square visit <http://happybirthdayhank.com/>.

– Peter Hansen contributed to this report.



The Bronze bust of Henry Hansen will become a permanent monument and deserves to have a base that is sturdy and attractive.

SWOCC has set up a special account to receive the contributions to pay for the base.

Contributors can make their checks payable to SWOCC Foundation, and mail them to

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Coos Bay, OR 97420

IBU members strike Georgia-Pacific quick, smart and hard

“G-P – bargain fair! We will fight you everywhere!”

Enraged shouts broke the silence outside Georgia-Pacific’s Kelly Point warehouse facility in Portland on the afternoon of September 9th when workers halted operations and called a strike to protest unfair labor practices.

“They want to cut just about everything you can think of, and they refuse to bargain fairly. That’s why we’re walking out of here today,” said Inlandboatmen’s Union member Shawn McClary, capturing the mood of members who carried picket signs, raised their voices and marched in front of the warehouse.

Employees took the strike action after concluding that the company was stalling and refusing to bargain in good faith.

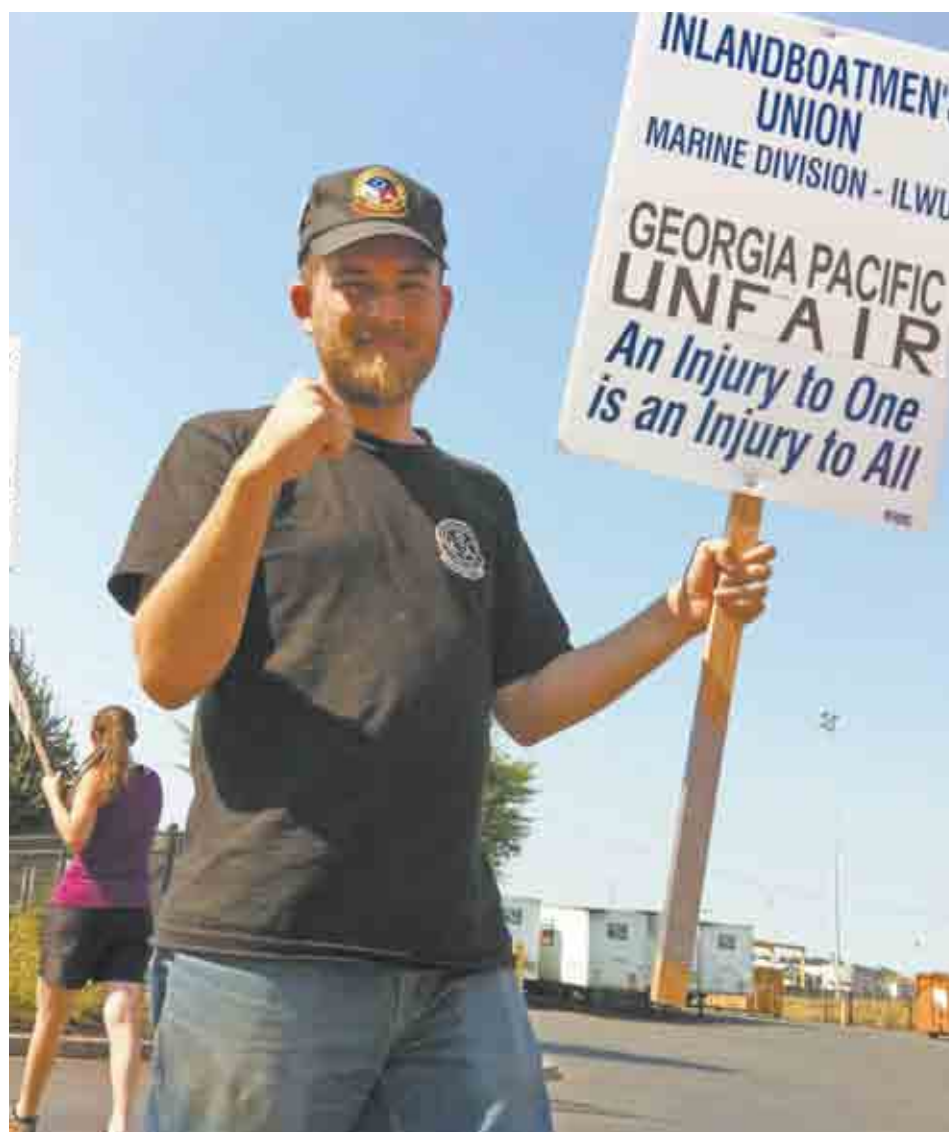
“If they won’t bargain fairly with us, then we have to stand up for our rights by taking action,” said shop steward Jose Flores.

At 1pm, Shawn McClary, Jose Flores and other warehouse workers caught supervisors off-guard by suddenly leaving the shop-floor and launching a picket line outside the main entrance gate. They were joined

by IBU President Alan Coté and other Columbia River IBU leaders. A worker at the nearby Kelly Point facility in Wilsonville also joined the strike and managers soon locked the doors on the Wilsonville facility.

Kelly Point members on their day off came down to join the picket line, along with supporters from other IBU shops, ILWU Local 8, Jobs With Justice, Portland Rising, UNITE-HERE Local 9 and others who came as word of the job action spread throughout the community.

The picket line was strong. G-P’s Director of Human Resources chose not to drive her car through the line, and could only watch from the road as the action kept growing larger and stronger. Truck drivers arriving to make scheduled pickups also chose to honor the line. When supervisors attempted to re-route drivers to side entrances, members quickly extended their picket line to cover all three gates. Ten trucks turned around to honor the picketers, each generating loud cheers of support from workers and allies. Some drivers parked their rigs on the street so they could talk to warehouse workers about the strike, and offer their solidarity and support.



IBU members at Georgia-Pacific’s Kelly Point warehouse facility in Portland went on strike after management refused to bargain in good faith.

A huge cheer erupted when word reached the lines that union electricians inside the warehouse had walked out.

At four o’clock, members huddled together while managers watched and scowled. Without warning, workers walked back into the warehouse, fired up their forklifts and resumed work. Shawn McClary, Jose Flores and Presi-

dent Coté officially notified management that everyone had unconditionally offered to return to work.

As management scrambled to make sense of the revolt, workers returned to the warehouse with a new sense of pride and power – while supporters outside continued chanting: “we’ll be back!”

Bayer workers win new contract in Berkeley with better job security

continued from page 1

tion of Machinists (IAM), International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU/UFCW), United Steelworkers, plus the AFL-CIO. Critical help was also provided by the Bayer workers’ union in Germany, known as the IG BCE, and the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions, known as the ICFEM.

A strategy for power

The team got busy organizing a series of six, ½-day training sessions for Local 6 stewards and negotiating committee members. Those attending were encouraged to start talking with co-workers – emphasizing the need to carefully listen. These worker-to-worker conversations helped identify everyday concerns that would eventually become priorities for the union’s contract campaign. A survey was conducted to gather details – and provide more opportunities for one-on-one, member-to-member listening sessions. Besides learning about issues in each department, the process helped to identify new leaders and activists who volunteered to get more involved.



Every part of Bayer’s massive, sprawling complex in Berkeley was carefully mapped-out so the team could understand the entire work process, document issue concerns, and track progress.

Taking action

The next step was to help workers tackle problems in their workplace by taking action together. These “action steps” were an essential part of the plan – but difficult to achieve because they ran counter to the traditional method of expecting a union business agent or steward to solve the problem. These actions gave workers more confidence to speak out and show management that people were willing to fight for a better contract.

Layoffs spark protest

In August 2010, Bayer announced that 29 union members were being laid-off. Instead of quietly accepting the layoffs or just filing a grievance, workers sprang into action and organized a noisy rally in front of Bayer’s headquarters. Management tried to discourage workers from attending the rally by issuing a last-minute memo directing employees not to participate. The large turnout – and support from local elected officials – inspired workers and shocked the company because no rallies had taken place in recent memory. Outreach in the days and weeks following the rally included meetings with City Council members, state legislators and Berkeley’s Labor

Commission – all of it done with the participation of Bayer workers.

Prepared to negotiate

By the time negotiations began in late July, 2011, the mood at Bayer had shifted dramatically. Workers gathered petitions, marched on management, and made their concerns known. The negotiating team organized a weekly “lunch on the lawn” so workers could learn what was – or wasn’t – happening at the bargaining table. Regular “Bargaining Bulletins” and dozens of flyers were published to provide issue updates and suggestions for action, plus solidarity messages from other unions.

Settlement doesn’t come easy

“The added pressure on Bayer made a big difference for those of us who were negotiating,” said Donal Mahon, the elected Business Agent who served as chief negotiator for the Negotiating Committee. Mahon says the support from other Bayer unions in the U.S., along with important help from the union of Bayer workers in Germany provided an important boost. Members backed their Negotiating Committee at critical times, first by voting to reject the company’s initial proposal because it lacked job security protections and raised the workers’ share of health insurance costs. A second powerful solidarity message was sent to Bayer when workers voted to authorize their Negotiating Committee to “pull the trigger” by cancelling the contract with 48-hours’ notice.

Local elected officials – including State Senator Lonnie Hancock and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates – played important roles by supporting the fight for better job security.

Bayer industry conferences around the country were being interrupted by surprise visits from the AFL-CIO and Jobs With Justice volunteers who passed out flyers that detailed problems in Berkeley. Workers in other Bayer plants across the U.S. wore stickers expressing solidarity for workers in Berkeley.

These and other measures gave workers more clout against Bayer, but they weren’t enough to solve everything. “Even with the added power that came from all of the organizing and action, Bayer was still able to get some things that we opposed, but in the end, members were able to win a good agreement,” said Mahon.

The road ahead

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker wants to explore new models of coordinating the local’s organizing work with the International union. He says lessons were learned in this Bayer campaign that will help his local and others. And he even sees the 30% of workers who voted against ratifying the agreement as a positive sign because members are now expecting more from Bayer. “It’s great to see so many Bayer workers who want to keep pushing for fairness,” he said, “It’s a sign that things are moving in the right direction.”

Scholarships awarded by Local 19 members

Hard work in high school paid off for seven lucky scholarship winners who were approved for grants by Local 19 members on September 8.

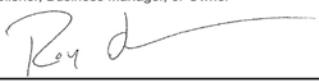
Five scholarships were awarded to students from a pool of funds contributed jointly by ILWU members and Stevedore Services of America (SSA):

- **Elsa Monson, daughter of Skip Munson**
- **Alexandra Keizer, daughter of Gary Keiser**
- **Rachel Ivelia, daughter of Ricgard Ivelia**
- **Erin Lindsey, daughter of Bob Lindsey**
- **Ashley Lindsey, daughter of Bob Lindsey**

Local 19's Welvin Stenberg Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Nasir Bashiruddin, son of Aasim Bashiruddin. The Edward Kendall Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Joshua Johnson, son of Vern Johnson.

"Local 19 members are proud to be supporting these hard-working students who will get help with their college education," said local President Cameron Williams.

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Local 10: Norman W. McLeod; **Local 13:** Ernest L. Garcia; Genetrel S. Grant; Michael W. Johnson; Steve J. Lauriano; Linda C. Turner; Rudolph N. Azueta; John B. Quick; **Local 19:** Charlie R. Gaston; **Local 21:** Sherman Johnson; Leonard M. Ballenger; Thomas F. Stecker; **Local 40:** David A. Kindred; **Local 46:** Daniel Macias; **Local 63:** Florence E. Zamperini; Tony N. Carpenter; **Local 92:** Larry A. Mc Lain; Douglas L. Jordan; Sven A. Lerbek;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Verne Northrop; **Local 10:** Samuel Washington (Del); Mack Doss; Jack Kamohai Jr.; Harold J. Labbe; James R. Maginniss; **Local 12:** Manfred C. Olson; Harold W. Westberg; **Local 13:** Edward Gardea; John Bezelj; Julio Alvarado; Felix J. Landavazo; **Local 21:** Wayne R. Cabral (Joanne); Larry D. Powell

(Carolyn); **Local 34:** Terrence E. Phillips; **Local 40:** James E. Forkan; **Local 54:** Milton L. Bishop; **Local 63:** Joseph C. Di Rocco; **Local 94:** Robert L. Kennedy; Joseph S. Machi (Elia); William Pearson (Celia); **Local 98:** Francis R. Corbit;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Margret D. Fleck; Zelia M. Mc Curtain; **Local 10:** Helen M. Mitchell; Mary F. Miller; **Local 12:** Nadine Ueland; **Local 13:** Lillie B. Bennett; Hilda E. Toney; Angela Gutierrez; Charlotte K. Flint; **Local 18:** Jessica G. Ramirez; **Local 19:** Iris M. Vinje; Kathleen Vogel; **Local 21:** Hendrika Hutchenson; **Local 23:** Vivian Crow; **Local 26:** Mary Ann Turner; **Local 40:** Cindy H. Smith; **Local 51:** Anne R. Becker; **Local 52:** Lorene Van Brocklin; Donna Lundquist; **Local 75:** Lena Catanzaro; **Local 94:** Judith M. Schorovsky;

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