



THE DISPATCHER

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SoCal ILWU Locals rally behind IBU tug and barge crews. [page 3](#)



On May 1st, ILWU solidarity supporters joined IBU members working for the Golden Gate Ferry Service who staged a half-day strike that shut down ferry service from Marin to San Francisco. The workers of the Golden Gate Labor Coalition kept pressure on the District by staging several high profile actions during the previous months.

Golden Gate Bridge District settles with IBU workers after a contract campaign and half-day strike

After more than a year of bargaining and 48 negotiating sessions, members of the Inlandboatmen's Union and 13 other unions reached a preliminary agreement with the Golden Gate Bridge District that will preserve affordable health benefits. The tentative agreement was described as a victory by Marina Secchitano who directs the IBU's San Francisco Region. The IBU represents 42 workers at the Golden Gate Bridge District and another 296 workers are represented by 13 other unions; together the unions comprise the Golden Gate Bridge Labor Coalition.

The agreement came after contract campaign activities mobilized workers in a series of escalating actions, culminating in a half-day strike by IBU ferry workers on May 1 that shut down service between Marin County and San Francisco during the morning commute. The May 1 action generated national news coverage, including the Washington Post. Faced with the possibility of rolling strike actions by members of other unions, the District made significant movement at the bargaining table. A planned Golden Gate Transit bus strike scheduled for May 10th was canceled after the agreement was reached.

"The strategy to keep pressure on the Bridge District through constant actions proved to be very effective," said IBU President Alan Cote. "Workers sent a clear message that they

were united and not backing down until they received a fair contract."

In the months preceding the May Day strike, workers from the IBU and other unions mobilized to speak at three Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors meetings. They also held several high profile demonstrations including:

- A morning commute rally near the Golden Gate Bridge toll plaza.
- Picketing of a fancy "Golden Gate 75th Anniversary" event at Fort Mason.
- Protesting outside a California Historical Society event for the GG Bridge.
- Picketing in front of a luxury home owned by the Golden Gate Board President.

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



LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

Members and friends of the ILWU have repeatedly demonstrated a deep commitment to learning the lessons of history and preserving the union's legacy through education and protecting the historical record—as at the ILWU's library and archives at International headquarters. Unfortunately, in these difficult times other unions have not been as committed or as able to devote resources to the staff and space needed for these purposes. Case in point is the AFL-CIO's recent decision to close down its National Labor College and the Meany Labor Archives in Maryland. Whatever programs and collections can be preserved through relocation to other organizations and institutions, it is certain that more than a century of labor's heritage will become less accessible, less known, and less remembered. As the ILWU convenes for its 35th International Convention it seems to be an appropriate time to reflect on how essential the union's educational and archival services have been over the decades to fulfilling the ILWU's militant, democratic legacy—and time to reaffirm the wise decisions made by generations of ILWU officers and rank and filers to protect, preserve, and use the incredible historical treasure within the walls of the ILWU library in San Francisco.

In solidarity,

Gene Vrana

**Retired ILWU Director of Educational Services, Librarian & Archivist
Member, San Francisco Bay Area ILWU Pensioners**

Dear Editor,

On April 11, we had an incident with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) at the Maersk rail facility in Long Beach, CA that raises some concerns.

At approximately 2:45 pm, radio talk told of a UTR driver being frisked by customs.

My understanding is that the driver may have knocked over a rubber traffic cone. He was removed from his truck, frisked with his hands held behind his back and admonished loudly and repeatedly by an official who put his finger in the man's face. The driver had his pockets emptied. His TWIC Card and California Driver's License were held for a period of time. Another worker said it was obviously an over-reaction by Customs.

Radio talk expressed concern, outrage and questions about what to do. I called our Walking Boss, the B.A. and eventually the Harbor Patrol.

The Business Agent said that he would not talk to CBP, as it would just make things worse. When the Port Police finally arrived and found the location, they did not stick around long enough to speak to me. As I drove through the customs portals, the Customs officials were laughing and smirking as the Port Police disappeared in my mirrors.

It is my belief that these federal workers are sorely lacking in training. I wonder if they had the necessary psychological evaluations to see if they can handle the responsibility, stress and authority that comes with being a federal law enforcement agent and carrying a loaded weapon. Those of us on the docks remember that it was just a few months ago when a Customs officer shot his supervisor six times before being killed by a fellow officer at their Long Beach office.

I believe we should approach this hazard with as much or more attention and concern as we would with overhead cargo, moving machinery or distracted drivers.

If the intention of CBP was to intimidate they may have succeeded.

If their mission is to help keep the ports safe they are not meeting it.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

In Solidarity,

**Robin Doyno, Local 13
Los Angeles, CA**

Dear Editor,

Recently, I've been hearing talk on the dock about how our union deals with politicians. Much of what I hear is false, so I wanted to set the record straight and give my brothers and sisters the facts.

One thing I've heard is that our dues money is being given away to politicians, which is absolutely false. The fact is that all unions, including

the ILWU, can't contribute a penny of dues money to politicians. It's against the law and it doesn't happen in the ILWU.

Another thing I've heard is that our union only backs Democrats, which also isn't true. The fact is that we shouldn't care about anyone's political party – as long as they're willing to stand up for the ILWU, for other unions and for the working class. A politician who isn't willing to do that shouldn't waste their time with ILWU members.

When it comes to backing those politicians who do have the guts to stand up for us, any contributions they get from us must come from individual members who voluntarily donate to our ILWU Political Action Committee. That money we give to the ILWU PAC is above and beyond what we pay for per-capita dues.

All of us in the ILWU have jobs that could be threatened by anti-union politicians. That's why we need to do a better job of holding politicians accountable. If we don't, our jobs and our right to have a union could easily disappear. If you don't think it can happen here, take a look at what politicians are doing to attack union members in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio. Even in California, powerful corporations and their political friends are trying to put anti-union propositions on the ballot to weaken the ILWU and other unions.

In 2010, the Supreme Court gave big business and the super-rich the right to fund campaigns with unlimited amounts of money. This threat to our democracy allows corporations to get even more control over politicians. That's why the 99% of us have to fight back by getting registered, vote for politicians willing to support us, and make voluntary donations to the ILWU Political Action Committee.

I'd like to see all of us contribute to the Political Action Fund. I say this because I think our jobs and our union is more threatened than ever by anti-union politicians and big business. And based on some of what I hear on the docks, we're also threatened by ignorance within our own ranks. If some ILWU members think we should be backing anti-union politicians, that's their right, but it's a sure form of suicide and a guaranteed way to kiss your job and your future goodbye.

Tony Scirocco, Local 94

San Pedro, CA

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



Protecting benefits: *ILWU International President Bob McEllrath addressed delegates to the Longshore Caucus who met in San Francisco on April 24-25 to discuss efforts being taken to protect benefits. Also pictured (right) is ILWU Local 13 President and Caucus Chair, Joe Cortez.*

DISPATCHER

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SoCal ILWU Locals rally behind IBU tug and barge crews

Over 130 International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) members from Southern California demonstrated outside the offices of Harley Marine, Westoil/Millennium on Friday, May 4.

The demonstration sent a clear message that the ILWU family is united in support of the Westoil/Millennium tug boat and barge crews who are members of ILWU's Marine Division – the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU). The IBU collective bargaining agreement for the Millennium/

Westoil workers expired on April 30, 2012. The workers are presently working under the terms and conditions of the expired agreement.

The tug and barge crews have been meeting for several months to prepare for the contract talks, to discuss what they want achieve in the new contract, and to democratically elect a bargaining committee. They have also received support and training from the ILWU's Organizing and Communications Departments. Workers also met with IBU President Alan Coté to prepare for negotiations. The key issues on the table include protecting afford-



Photo by Robin Doyno

Safer boats, safer harbors: Over 130 ILWU members, pensioners and Federated Auxiliary held a spirited march outside the offices of Westoil/Millennium to demonstrate that the ILWU family was firmly behind the IBU members who are fighting for a fair contract.



Photo by Robin Doyno

United front: ILWU elected officials came out to support IBU members in their contract fight with Westoil/Millennium. Pictured here are (Front row, L to R): John Skow IBU So Cal Region Director, Ray Familathe, ILWU International Vice President; Mike Ponce Local 63 Secretary Treasurer; Joe Cortez Local 13 President; and Mark Mascola ILWU Local 13 Labor Relations Relations; (Back Row L to R): Chris Viramontes, Local 13 Secretary Treasurer; Bobby Olvera, Jr., Local 13 Vice President; Mike Podue Local 63 President.

able health care, ensuring fairness in the dispatch system, and increasing safety by requiring proper manning on all vessels.

Members from ILWU Locals 13, 56, 63, 63OCU, 94 and ILWU pensioners and Federated Auxiliary members held a spirited demonstration at the intersection of Barracuda and Marina in Wilmington. ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe and IBU Regional Director and former Millennium worker John Skow spoke at the demonstration, along with workers.

"We are fighting for a fair contract and safe working conditions," said IBU Regional Director and former Millennium worker John Skow. "We want to be treated with respect and make sure these boats are operating as safely as possible." Currently Westoil/Millennium operates some, but not all of its

tugs with a three person crew. Many vessels operate with only a two-person crew, which increases the chance of a catastrophic accident if the captain or deckhand were to suffer an injury or fall overboard.

"Safer boats means a safer harbor," said Skow. "We owe it to the harbor community to ensure that these boats are operating as safely as possible."

Vice President Familathe said the International was firmly behind the IBU's fight for a fair contract. "We know it's not going to be an easy battle. The company is going to fight you every step of the way," said Familathe. "But the key to winning this fight will be through solidarity. We have several harbor-area ILWU locals currently in contract fights—Port Pilots and Local 63 OCU (Office Clerical Unit). We can win all these fights if we stick together."

Organizing strategy wins jobs; protects ILWU jurisdiction

When the world fastest sailboats – owned by some of the world's richest men – come to the "America's Cup" race in San Francisco during the summer of 2012 & 2013, ILWU members will probably hold many of the waterfront jobs.

A team effort

That's because a framework agreement to secure ILWU jobs and jurisdiction was reached in April. The tentative victory happened because ILWU leaders in the Bay Area joined forces to approach America's Cup organizers and local political leaders in a unified fashion with a clear strategy.

The group included Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante, Local 34 President Sean Farely, Local 75 President

Jason Santana, Local 91 President Fred Gilliam, Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker and IBU Regional Director Marina Secchitano – along with other officers and members.

"We worked closely with the International Organizing Department, who suggested an expert to help us navigate the local politics," said Villeggiante, who joined other ILWU leaders at meetings with the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, City Department heads, Port Commissioners, race officials, and others.

Member involvement

ILWU members turned out in force to attend several meetings of the Port Commission and Board of Supervisors – which generated positive news coverage, and respect from decision-makers at the City, Port and America's Cup.

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams was involved at key points, and local leaders met every few



Securing jobs on the waterfront: ILWU Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante spoke to the media before a recent Port Commission meeting.

weeks to share the latest news and plan their next moves.

Protecting maritime jobs

America's Cup promoters initially wanted a huge event that promised massive private funding to renovate large sections of San Francisco's historic waterfront – in exchange for getting free long-term development rights for the valuable waterfront property. Those plans fizzled after critics questioned the deal and the America's Cup funding failed to materialize from corporate sponsors and wealthy donors. A smaller-scale racing event is now expected, but plans are still moving forward to secure space and build a new cruise terminal that will provide good jobs far into the future.

A learning process

"We learned a lot about the local political process and how to move an agenda for good jobs," said Local 34 Vice President David Hill.

Local 75 Secretary-Treasurer Patric Kim explained, "Plans for the sailboat race got scaled-back, but our top priority was also to protect ILWU jurisdiction on the waterfront. In the end, our team got an understanding that should secure dozens of ILWU jobs and also protect our jurisdiction."

"I won't be comfortable until all the contracts are signed and ILWU members are working at the America's Cup, but right now I'm cautiously optimistic," said Villeggiante.



Standing Strong at the Port Commission: ILWU members mobilized for a San Francisco Port Commission meeting to protect ILWU jurisdiction and jobs.

ILWU SCDC
350 W. 5th St., Room 208
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 521-8796



**Southern California
District Council**
Gathy Familathe *President*
Floyd Bryan *Vice President*
Luisa Gratz *Sec.-Treasurer*

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION
Southern California District Council
2012 Election Pocket Guide

This is the first statewide election using the newly-drawn district lines and open primary system. Please make YOUR voice heard by voting **Tuesday, June 5th.**

**SHARE WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS.
YOU MAY USE THIS CARD WHEN YOU VOTE!**

For more info, call **(310) 521-8796** or email ilwuscde@gmail.com

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Proposition 18
TERM LIMITS
YES**

**Proposition 19
TOBACCO TAXES
YES**

US SENATE

DIANNE FEINSTEIN

US CONGRESS

District 24 **LOIS CAPPS**
District 27 **JUDY CHU**
District 28 **ADAM SCHIFF**
District 29 **TONY CARDENAS**
District 30 **BRAD SHERMAN**
District 32 **GRACE NAPOLITANO**
District 33 **HENRY WAXMAN**
District 34 **XAVIER BECERRA**
District 35 **JOE BACA**
District 37 **KAREN BASS**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS

STATE BALLOT MEASURES:

Proposition 28 Term Limits

Recommend: **Vote YES**

Proposition 29 Tobacco Taxes

No Recommendation

**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES
IN CONGRESS**

District Candidate

- 1 Jim Reed
- 2 Norman Solomon
- 3 John Garamendi
- 4 Jack Uppal
- 5 Mike Thompson
- 6 Doris Matsui
- 7 Dr. Ami Bera
- 8 No Endorsement
- 9 Jerry McNerney
- 10 Jose Hernandez
- 11 George Miller
- 12 Nancy Pelosi
- 13 Barbara Lee
- 14 Jackie Speier

15 Fortney "Pete" Stark

16 Jim Costa

17 Mike Honda

18 Anna Eshoo

19 Zoe Lofgren

20 Sam Farr

21 Blong Xiong

22 Otto Lee

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Dianne Feinstein

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

District Candidate

- 1 Robert Meacher
- 2 Wes Chesbro
- 3 Charles Rouse
- 4 Mariko Yamada
- 5 Marc Boyd
- 6 Reginald Bronner
- 7 Roger Dickinson
- 8 Ken Cooley
- 9 Dr. Richard Pan
- 10 Michael Allen

11 Jim Frazier

12 No Endorsement

13 Xochitl Paderes

14 Susan Bonilla

15 Nancy Skinner

16 Joan Buchanan

17 Tom Ammiano

18 Abel Guillen

19 Phil Ting

20 Bill Quirk

21 Adam Gray

22 Kevin Mullin

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

District Candidate

- 1 Les Baugh
- 3 Lois Wolk
- 5 Cathleen Galgiani
- 7 Mark DeSaulnier
- 9 Loni Hancock
- 11 Mark Leno
- 13 Jerry Hill
- 15 Jim Beall
- 17 Bill Monning



**ILWU Local 502 second annual
Children's Hospital fundraiser**

ILWU Local 502, British Columbia, Canada has embarked upon their second annual Children's Hospital fundraiser. In just a few weeks they raised \$15,000 and are well on their way to beat last year's total of \$20,502. A challenge has been issued to all groups and unions to meet or beat their total for this great community cause. Local 502 will be making a presentation at the annual Children's Hospital Telethon which will be broadcast live on Global TV on June 2 and 3.

An added incentive for the members this year has been a Vancouver Canucks jersey signed by the team to help with the fundraising. Hockey is a very popular sport in this region and the jersey is a hot commodity. The Canucks won first place in the NHL the past two seasons.

True colors: John Pospischil, Sukhminder S. Buttar, Amarjeet S. Atwal and Jason Franklin proudly show union solidarity behind their favorite team's colors.

District 38 **LINDA SANCHEZ**
 District 40 **LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**
 District 41 **MARK TAKANO**
 District 43 **MAXINE WATERS**
 District 44 **DUAL - JANICE HAHN OR**
LAURA RICHARDSON
 District 46 **LORETTA SANCHEZ**
 District 47 **ALAN LOWENTHAL**
 District 51 **DENISE MORENO-DUCHENY**
 District 53 **SUSAN DAVIS**

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

District 19 **JASON HODGE**
 District 25 **CAROL LIU**
 District 27 **FRAN PAVLEY**
 District 29 **GREG DIAMOND**
 District 31 **DUAL - STEVE CLUTE OR**
RICHARD ROTH
 District 33 **RICARDO LARA**
 District 35 **ROD WRIGHT**
 District 39 **MARTY BLOCK**

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

District 31 **HENRY T. PEREA**
 District 32 **RUDY SALAS**

District 33 **JOHN COFFEY**
 District 34 **MARI GOODMAN**
 District 37 **DAS WILLIAMS**
 District 38 **EDWARD HEADINGTON**
 District 39 **RICHARD ALARCON**
 District 40 **RUSS WARNER**
 District 41 **CHRIS HOLDEN**
 District 42 **MARK ANTHONY OROZCO**
 District 43 **MIKE GATTO**
 District 44 **DUAL - JEFF GORRELL**
OR TOM MULLENS
BOB BLUMENFIELD
 District 45 **ADRIN NAZARIAN**
 District 46 **JOE BACA, JR.**
 District 47 **ROGER HERNANDEZ**
 District 48 **EDWIN CHAU**
 District 49 **BETSY BUTLER**
 District 50 **JIMMY GOMEZ**
 District 51 **NORMA TORRES**
 District 52 **JOHN PEREZ**
 District 53 **HOLLY MITCHELL**
 District 54 **MANUEL V. PEREZ**
 District 56 **LUIS MARQUEZ**
 District 58 **STEVEN BRADFORD**
 District 62 **ANTHONY RENDON**

District 64 **ISADORE HALL**
 District 65 **SHARON QUIRK-SILVA**
 District 66 **AL MURATSUCHI**
 District 69 **JULIO PEREZ**
 District 70 **BONNIE LOWENTHAL**
 District 71 **PATRICK HURLEY**
 District 72 **JOE DOVINH**
 District 75 **MATTHEW HEROLD**
 District 78 **TONI ATKINS**
 District 79 **DUAL - SHIRLEY WEBER OR**
SID VOORAKKARA
BEN HUESO

LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CARMEN TRUTANICH

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

District 2 **MARK RIDLEY THOMAS**

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Office #3 **LAURENCE KALDOR**

CITY OF LONG BEACH

District 4 **PATRICK O'DONNELL**

New Zealand Update

Members of the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) in Auckland (Local 13) are back to work at the Port of Auckland, according to Secretary-Treasurer Joe Fleetwood's latest report in mid-May. Fleetwood noted that tensions remain high because the Port Company doesn't seem committed to reaching a genuine long-term solution with the union and continues to assert they have a right to replace union dockworkers with independent contractors. The government's Employment Relations Authority called on both sides to sit down for a process of "facilitation" in late May.

Fleetwood's report also noted:

- ✓ Legal progress has been made to secure strong court injunctions that will delay any contracting-out until a full hearing is completed.
- ✓ Continued communication with the elected Auckland Council. There are signs that the body is willing to consider inserting a "good employer" provision into the Port's Statement of Intent. The Council is also reviewing the employer's unreasonable rate of return target of 12% that had been used to justify the need for outsourcing.
- ✓ The Wellington Branch of MUNZ declined to settle charges imposed after members allegedly refused to service the Maersk Aberdeen for five days following the lockout in Auckland. The settlement would have required the union sign away their right to collective action, at least until 2013 when the contract term expires.



Community outreach: Members of the Maritime Union of New Zealand hand out flyers to the public to educate them about their fight for good jobs.

- ✓ New Zealand's conservative federal government continues proposing new anti-union legislation. "The contributions and messages of solidarity have been invaluable in

achieving the results we have so far," said Fleetwood, who encouraged supporters to visit the union website for the latest news and updates at www.saveourport.com



Solidarity fundraising: Local 52 President Andrea Stevenson went the extra-mile in an effort to help support New Zealand dockworkers who have been fighting for a fair contract from the Ports of Auckland. Stevenson sold 700 solidarity t-shirts and has been encouraging locals to donate to the solidarity fund for MUNZ Local 13 members and their families who were hit hard financially during their lockout. "I just really wanted to help raise awareness about the attacks on the New Zealand dockworkers. When employers undermine the wages and working conditions of dockers anywhere in the world, it is an attack on all of us."

ILWU Local 12 members, pensioners and Auxiliary 1 members join picket to support Oregon Community College workers

On May 8, members of the ILWU Local 12, Auxiliary 1 and Local 12 Pensioners proudly joined a picket line to support members of Local 3072, the Southwestern Oregon Community College classified employees.

The Local 3972 members have been waiting more than a year for a new contract, enduring months of stalled negotiations and uncertainty. The reduced working hours forced many workers to visit food banks and pinch pennies just to afford the cost of driving to their jobs.

ILWU Local 12 has a keen interest in these negotiations because the college was the idea of Henry Hansen, a Local 12 longshore worker. Hansen and other Local 12 members helped make the Community College a reality instead of a dream.

To inform the public, the local newspaper, *The World*, was called along with local TV station KCBY. Both outlets were told about the disrespect toward classified employees at Southwestern Oregon Community College. Local 3972 President, Vickie Brumit, told *The World* newspaper that union and college administrators are currently in mediation, unable to agree on wages, recall rights, and benefits.



Solidarity: From left to right are: Kip Gumm, Marvin Caldera, Local 12 President, Gary Alford, Suzanne Sundet, Doyle Williams, retired Local 12 President, Carolyn Williams, ILWU Federated Auxiliary President, Jim Davidson, Local 12 Pensioners President and Marcia Strike, Auxiliary 1 President.



ILWU desert racer: ILWU Local 19 member Curt Treadwell, a third generation longshore worker from Seattle proudly displays the ILWU letters on his Polaris RZR XP 900 desert racer. This photo was taken before a desert race in Lake Havasu, AZ in March. "The ILWU allows me the freedom to follow my dream and I thank each and every one of my fellow brothers and sisters for that," said Treadwell.

If you have a photo of you and your car, truck or motorcycle showing your ILWU pride, please send it to editor@ilwu.org along with your name, local and contact information for consideration for publication in the *Dispatcher*.



Troublemaker Award: Local 21 President Dan Coffman received a "Troublemaker Award" on behalf of Local 21 members at the semi-annual Labor Notes Conference in Chicago on May 5 that was attended by 1500 union activists. Coffman praised the courage of ILWU members and officers at home and throughout the union for their determination to secure good jobs for the community and protect ILWU jurisdiction. Accompanying Coffman was Local 21 member and Labor Relations Committee representative Bud Lile.

Local 5 leader Marty Kruse passes

Marty Kruse, union organizer, bookseller, poet, father and founder of ILWU Local 5, died on March 26, 2012 of colon cancer. He was 47.

In Fall of 1998, Marty made the daring move of calling for what became the first Local 5 union meeting. Marty responded to an email sent by Powell's Books calling for reduction/elimination of annual wage increases. That day, he strolled around the store, lifting his shirt to show a cardboard, hand letter sign that read, "Pissed off? Meet us at Ringler's Annex tonight at 11." People were pissed, but they were also scared. Nevertheless, many meetings and actions later, the unionization of Powell's Books was a success and in August 2000, ILWU Local 5 was born.

The path to fearlessness in the face of the boss was a difficult journey, and Marty led the charge. He was one of the first employees to wear a Local 5 button, prompting his co-workers to follow suit. His union activism, bravery and outspokenness in the shop and



in the media prompted many to believe this was the main reason he was fired by the Powell's in 1999. But his firing only worked to galvanize many workers who had previously either been on the fence or complacent to show their support and walk out in support of Marty and ILWU Local 5. This and many other solidarity actions lead to the Powell's workers getting their first

continued on page 8

Local 6 members continue pressure on Waste Management

More than 200 Local 6 workers in the Bay Area waste industry continued their contract campaign in April and May to secure agreements with better pay and benefits – especially for low-paid recycling workers.

The workers' target is Waste Management – a dominant player in the East Bay and national waste industry. The company holds three separate contracts – all expired – with Local 6 workers in landfill, clerical and recycling positions.

Strategy to move forward

The contract campaign has made it possible for workers to be more organized, better informed and empowered to take action – while also building support in the community.

Last month, recycling workers organized to protest a rat infestation problem at their Davis Street recycling facility in San Leandro. They won that fight by getting everyone to sign a petition and meeting together to demand action from management.

Cities control lucrative concessions

This month, workers have been meeting with members of the Oakland City Council who are deciding terms and conditions for a 20-year waste contract with the City – a lucrative concession that Waste Management would like to retain.

Waste Management's low-paid recyclers are asking City Council members to develop new bidding requirement that would include better pay for recycling workers from whatever company wins the new concession. Stronger job security is also being sought to stop companies from outsourcing good jobs, like Waste Management did in 2009 when they sent dozens of ILWU customer service jobs to a non-union facility in another state.

"Passing this kind of legislation is difficult, but Local 6 workers are making progress," said the local's Secretary-Treasurer, Fred Pecker.

Community support & agitation

Community support is making a difference, with letters seeking better recycling wages submitted to the

Oakland Council from community groups including, Causa Justa/Just Cause, the Sierra Club, Urban Habitat, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, and others.

Another boost has come from workers and community supporters who have been appearing at waste industry conferences and events sponsored by Waste Management. By passing out flyers and speaking at these events, the voice of workers is being heard – and the company is being reminded that their disrespect for low-paid workers comes with a cost. In early May, recycler Alejandra León and AFL-CIO staff were passing out flyers at the gigantic Waste Expo in Las Vegas, North America's largest waste and recycling trade show. Two weeks later, flyers were distributed to attendees at the Anaerobic Digestion (composting) conference in San Francisco.

Worker commitment and follow-through

Workers have appeared at several Committee and Council meetings, and met privately with City Council members and staff. On March 27, a group

of 18 workers attended a meeting of the Oakland Public Works Committee where recycler Victoria León testified. Twenty-eight recycling workers returned on April 24th where Diego Martinez, Irma Molina, Jose Romero, and Marleny Mendez delivered testimony to the Committee – along with former customer service worker Tiffany Douglas who lost her job when waste Management sent dozens of good local jobs to a non-union facility in Washington State. On May 8, another group of workers went back to the Committee hearing where more testimony was provided by recycling workers Magdalena Ramirez and Rogelio Chinchilla who joined landfill worker Jose Martinez and outsourced customer service worker Tiffany Douglas. Progress was made on Tuesday, May 15, when the full City Council decided to delay voting on new bidding terms for a 20-year waste contract until there was more clarity on options to help recycling workers.

The City Council is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 5 at Oakland's City Hall.

Local 13 member Vic "Kid" Ponce to be inducted into CA Boxing Hall of Fame

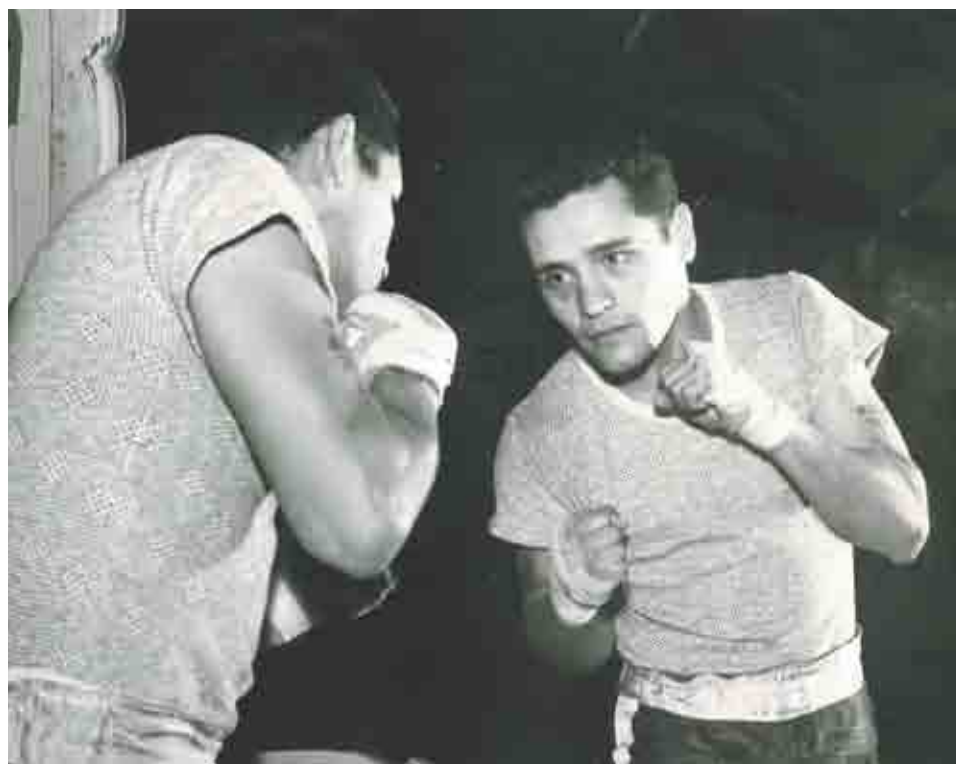
Vic "Kid" Ponce will be inducted into the California Boxing Hall of Fame on October 20, 2012. Vic was a member of ILWU Local 13 for 26 years. He retired in 1985 as a Lineman. Vic passed away on October 20, 2007. The induction ceremony will take place on the fifth anniversary of his death.

Vic was well known on the waterfront and Harbor Area community. He began his boxing career in 1943 at the age of 14 as a bantamweight, then advanced to the heavier featherweight division. Many of his amateur boxing battles took place in Southern California; the South Gate Arena, Wilmington Bowl and Hollywood Bowl. He also fought in Tacoma, Washington.

Vic boxed as an amateur for four years before turning professional. In 1956 Vic battled Paul Armstead. During this fight Vic's eye was poked by the thumb of Armstead's boxing glove, causing damage to the retina in his right eye. After an infection settled in, the eyeball had to be removed. This injury brought Vic's boxing career to an end.

Vic "Kid" Ponce will be inducted on October 20, 2012 at 12:00 noon at The Sportsman Lodge in Studio City, CA. Also being inducted are Sergio Martinez, Tony "The Tiger" Lopez, Rocky Marciano, Joe Frazier and boxing announcer Jim Lappley.

Lunch will be served. Ticket are \$50 each or \$500 for a table (10 guests per table). All are welcome to attend. For information call Don Fraser at (818) 761-4887



Golden Gate Bridge District settles with IBU workers

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- Marching along the waterfront and holding a rally in front of AT&T Park.

The main sticking point in the dispute had been health care. The Bridge District wanted workers to contribute an 8-percent share of costs, but ultimately backed-off that proposal. The tentative agreement calls for a two-percent pay raise in each of the contract's three years. In order to help District address a deficit, the Coalition agreed

to change the pension formula for new hires, and shift retiree health care into a Medicare supplement plan.

Unions in the Golden Gate Bridge Labor Coalition bargain together on economic issues such as wages, pensions and health care, but reach separate terms on other issues. Negotiations on these "side table" agreements are ongoing. Individual unions could still take additional actions, including strikes, if their side tables are not settled.



Local 5 leader Marty Kruse passes

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contract as well as a settlement of the Unfair Labor Practice charges filed because of Marty's unfair termination.

At Local 5's tenth anniversary, Marty was honored for his invaluable contribution to the labor movement with lifetime union card, and membership number "1". Marty is survived by his wife (and Local 5 member) Carole Reichstein, their daughter Claire and his son Nick Kruse and daughters Nezzie Kruse and Medbh Campbell from previous relationships.

On April 1st, a memorial celebration of Marty Kruse's life was held with his family, and his numerous friends and union sisters and brothers. One of the readings at the memorial was written by ILWU Executive Board Member and Local 5 Union Representative, Ryan Takas.

There are so many ways to describe Marty.

But there is one word I do not believe is accurate and I will not use.

Was.

The world is bursting with so many different types of people and personality. But I think when we die, it all falls away and there are really only two kinds of person: an "is" person and a "was" person.

A was person is one who came to this planet, took in its air, drank its water, accepted its gifts and followed the map that time has made for us: birth, life and death. And when they die, and likely not long after, the person simply was. There is nothing shameful or wrong about being a was person. It is natural and it is easy. In fact, history is overflowing with was people.

But Marty is no was person...

An is person is one who comes to this planet and gives it life, builds community, profoundly changes the course of people's lives. An is person does more than eat, drink and live. Not content to follow that same map of time, the is person explores the boundaries of what it is to be alive and creates something bigger than themselves. An is person is a rare person indeed.

Marty is an is person.

I know everyone here has a story of how knowing Marty affects who they are in this world. I too have a story. My story starts without me in it, before my time.

My story starts with someone being brave enough to speak out against injustice. With being smart enough to know you can't do it alone. And with being crazy enough to actually do it. This story begins when Marty worked at Powell's. The Company was in the midst of change. All of the changes were, needless to say, det-

rimental to the profession Marty loved, being a bookseller. So he walked around the store and flashed a cardboard sign to like-minded coworkers. The sign simply said "Ringle's Annex." But the message was clear to all: enough was enough; it was time to band together and take hold of our own destiny. It was time to form a union.

That single action set forth into motion all the events that would ultimately culminate in the formation of ILWU Local 5. At our 10-year anniversary in 2010, I had the privilege of honoring Marty Kruse, along with Mary Winzig, as the founding members of Local 5. But what is it exactly that he is the founder of? Why does it matter?

Unsurprisingly, through the years, Powell's has attempted to continue actions similar to those Marty initially rallied against. But because of Marty, his struggle and what he started, they had to deal with his community, his union. As such, they have not been successful.

Now I could tell you about the great struggle between capital and labor or the political drive for democracy in the workplace. I could read excerpts from Marx or sing a refrain from The Internationale and all would be entirely accurate, appropriate, and would probably echo what you have already heard from Marty himself. But instead of repeating those truths now, first I will tell you what Marty is to those folks who never even had the good fortune to meet him.

Marty is a decent wage and the ability to put food on the table and pay the rent.

Marty is childcare for your kids.

Marty is healthcare care for the sick.

Marty is protection from unfair bosses.

Marty is job security from layoffs

Marty is the right to continue standing together, speaking out against injustice and doing something about it.

That is what Marty is to the people he has never even met.

To me, Marty is a friend and inspiration. He reminds me why I am in the struggle for what is right.

We are the lucky ones to know Marty and been changed by him.

I know that through each of you, in enduring and profound ways, Marty is.

I look forward to continue knowing Marty and being affected by him through his community and by his legacy.

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

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Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St. #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Northern California
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ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
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ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
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ADRP—Washington
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Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU CANADA

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John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR
(604) 254-7911

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 13: Kenneth P. Perez; George M. Ruano; James Adams; Vinko Caric;
Local 19: Mervin L. Smythe; **Local 23:** Bruno Petricic; Everett L. Hobbs;
Local 34: Lawrence D. Pieraldi; Anthony E. Cashero;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Arthur Williams (Lillian); Jack D. Fortner; Thomas L. Foster;
Local 10: Ralph Zamacona (Mabel); Jack Moisieve Jr.; Francis Mc Gill; Leroy W. Bunn; **Local 12:** Harry Stamper (Holly); **Local 13:** Edward Sanchez; Manuel Garcia; Ronald J. Ortiz (Natalie); Thomas H. Duncan;
Local 19: Jeannie M. Nutt;

Local 21: Chester L. Hunter;
Local 24: Warren N. Jewell;
Local 40: Billie C. Jones; **Local 51:** Robert S. Johnson; **Local 52:** George G. Winthers (Betty); **Local 63:** Herman J. Thomas; Jacqueline J. Hanna;
Local 98: Gilbert G. Gutierrez;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Leola H. Harrison;
Local 10: Carole D. Ford; **Local 19:** Mary E. Bowen; **Local 23:** Doris M. Peterson; Pamela Snyder; **Local 24:** Freda Hendrickson; **Local 32:** Mary A. Brown; **Local 34:** Elsie Carlson; Linda L. Latimer; **Local 40:** Mary J. Ross;
Local 63: Vlasta Yanko; **Local 92:** Betty J. Walker;

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