

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Thirty-fifth International Convention
San Diego, California
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C
6/7/12 pm

Resolution # R-30

INTERNAL ORGANIZING AND CONTINUING MEMBER EDUCATION

WHEREAS: one of the four main objectives of the ILWU per our Constitution in Article III is to educate our membership in the history of the American labor movement and its present day labor problems and tactics; and

WHEREAS: this objective and the health of our union cannot be maintained without a strong commitment to member education and internal organizing where our rank and file can learn to think critically and be afforded multiple opportunities to explore all internal and external issues from an ILWU point of view as well as from the perspective of the labor movement in general; and

WHEREAS: a democratic union is not the equivalent of simply being given the right to vote on this issue or that candidate, but must also be capable of questioning all assumptions through an open discussion to prevent the conditions that would undermine our principles of solidarity and political and economic democracy, and

WHEREAS: since the Supreme Court decision for Citizen's United, corporations and outside groups are spending untold billions of secret unregulated dollars on disinformation campaigns against the voting public, corrupting our elected leaders and their political parties with fear and cash and are more fervently committed than ever to further weakening organized labor and to externalizing the costs of their unregulated greed; and

WHEREAS: state governors from Christie to Walker and legislators throughout the United States are trying to strip away our most fundamental labor value of collective bargaining while international trade schemes seek to render the extinction of the entire global labor movement, the last twelve years have ushered in an unprecedented assault on working people in this country and abroad, making the counterweight of internal organizing and member education more critical than ever; and

WHEREAS: the need for union representation through a worker's right to organize and

Collectively bargain is greater than it has been in the last fifty years and for this legitimate cause for labor organizing to be met it must be predicated upon a robust internal organizing and member education program that turns our rank-n-filers into ILWU unionists; and

WHEREAS: the International has offered such excellent training in the form of its LEAD and Secretary/Treasurer Conferences in San Francisco covering a wide array of courses which have empowered hundreds of our members with important tools to help strengthen our union; and

WHEREAS: the best external organizers are those that have received an in-depth labor Education through a solid and robust internal organizing program and further that there is no better way to regularly and continually build our internal solidarity and the solidarity and coalition building with other unions and labor organizations that is vital to our mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS: the benefits of a core curriculum, including the essential training in bargaining good contracts and defending them with an army of militant and organized union stewards, cannot be emphasized enough, the additional education necessary to protect our union from the growing threats to all our flanks can best be accomplished by taking advantage of the continuing labor education and the necessary follow-up that it provides from the labor education centers throughout our jurisdiction; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the international through its Education Committee and Education Budget investigate and strive to make available the labor education programs within our jurisdictions to make their resources available to our rank-n-file members including curriculum that could be tailored to the individual needs of our locals; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the International and individual locals partner with these various labor education centers to take advantage of group discounts on the cost of these programs and the necessary curriculum and continuing education and follow-up that they provide throughout our jurisdiction.