



# THE DISPATCHER

www.ilwu.org

VOL 71, NO 5 • MAY 2013

## THE INSIDE NEWS

LETTERS TO DISPATCHER 2

LA Port Police solidarity 3

NBA decision may help save Seattle Longshore jobs 3

Port of SF celebrates 150th anniversary 7

TRANSITIONS 8

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEO 8



Foreign grain merchants continue lockouts. [page 4](#)



**Re-dedicated:** The ILWU family was joined by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on May 18 to re-dedicate a plaque honoring the 1934 West Coast strikes that gave birth to the ILWU.

# Honoring the "First Blood" shed for our union

Several hundred ILWU members, families, Pensioners, Federated Auxiliary, community supporters and elected officials gathered in Southern California's harbor area on May 15 to participate in two "First Blood" events honoring the first workers killed during the 1934 West Coast strikes that led to the formation of the ILWU.

### A union founded in struggle

Seventy-nine years ago, the possibility of a strong union for longshore workers in Los Angeles/Long Beach harbors and most West Coast Ports was still a dream. While some Northwest ports such as Tacoma had unions chartered in the late 1800's that were able to win some improvements, most longshore workers toiled under miserable conditions.

The summer of 1934 saw a dramatic shift in the balance of power on

the waterfront. The change resulted from a bold strategy that aimed to unite workers into a unified organization and undertake a coordinated strike. Their willingness to undertake repeated and risky militant action – while incurring seven deaths and hundreds of injuries – eventually forced employers to recognize the union and negotiate a uniform contract that covered all West Coast U.S. ports.

### Remembering First Blood in '34

The events started early at Wilmington's Waterfront Park where a new plaque was unveiled and re-dedicated to commemorate the early struggles by West Coast longshore workers for fair wages, hours and working conditions. The memorial specifically recalls the violent clash between dock workers and company-paid strike-breakers that occurred on May 15, 1934, near the memorial. The plaque honors Dickie Parker, a 20-year-old San Pedro High School graduate who was killed during the 1934 melee, and John Knudsen who died on

June 5, 1934 as a result of injuries he sustained on May 15.

The original plaque was dedicated in 1985 across the street from Waterfront Park in Wilmington, but was removed and lost several years ago during the redevelopment of the TraPac terminal. A committee of ILWU members and pensioners consisting of Art Almeida, Jerry Brady, Socorro Fimbres and David Serrato, worked with officials from the City of Los Angeles and Port of Los Angeles to secure the new monument.

Speakers at the unveiling ceremony included ILWU Local 13 President Chris Viramontes, Local 63 President Mike Podue, Local 94 President Danny Miranda and former ILWU International President and current LA Port Commissioner Dave Arian. Each paid their respects to the martyrs Parker and Knudsen, emphasizing that today's wages, benefits and working conditions that ILWU members enjoy were possible because of the blood and sacrifice of earlier generations. *continued on page 6*

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





# LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

## Dear Editor,

I appreciated the extensive report from brother Dan Imbagiazzo that appeared on page 5 in the April issue of *The Dispatcher*. Imbagiazzo did an excellent job of explaining why some of us have had problems getting medical claims processed—and what our union is doing to fix it. I encourage all members to read this and other articles in *The Dispatcher* so we can get the facts and stay informed.

**Bruce Kreiger, Local 13 (retired)**  
Long Beach, CA

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

## MAY IS MEDICAL, DENTAL PLAN CHOICE MONTH

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and/or dental plans during the Open Enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2013. The change will be effective July 1, 2013. In addition to the May Open Enrollment period, members may change their medical plan and/or dental plan once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan or Group Health Cooperative HMO Plan for the first 24 months of registration. After 24 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under the Mid-Year/Annual Review hour's requirement will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Los Angeles, Portland/Vancouver and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

**MEDICAL CHOICE:** The medical plan choices are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan or the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 46, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92. In the Washington State area, the medical plan choices for Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98 are Group Health Cooperative or the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan.

**DENTAL CHOICE:** For Los Angeles Locals 13, 26, 63 and 94 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Harbor Dental Associates or Dental Health Services. For Southern California Locals 29 and 46 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For San Francisco Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Dental Health Services, or Gentle Dental San Francisco. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals 18, 34 and 54 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For Portland/Vancouver Locals 4, 8, 40 and 92 the dental plan choices are LifeMap-Willamette Dental, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan or Oregon/Washington Dental Service. For Washington Locals 7, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 47, 51, 52 and 98 the dental plan choices are Washington Dental Service or Dental Health Services.

Information on the medical and dental plans, and forms to change plans, can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office.

**All Medical and Dental Program Choice Forms and enrollment forms, as applicable, must be completed and received by the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the enrollment change to be effective July 1.**

## Ah Quon McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice

### A Fund of the Hawaii Labor Heritage Council

May 6, 2013

#### Request for Proposals:

The Ah Quon McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice, a fund of the Hawaii Labor Heritage Council, is seeking proposals from non-profit organizations to develop educational programs for rank and file members and leaders of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and other community and labor activists.

#### About the Fund:

The Ah Quon McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice (FESJ) was established in February 2009 after A.Q.'s death on December 11, 2008. Through the generous contributions of her friends, family members and organizations—including those who did not always agree with her—the FESJ reflects A.Q.'s wishes to establish a program whose purpose is to "educate members (of the ILWU), leaders and others in the areas of political action, economic structural changes, globalization, equality, and democracy and how they are affected by employers with whom they negotiate and by occurrences throughout the world." Implicit in A.Q.'s wishes was the need to combine educational objectives with action programs.

The FESJ is a fund of The Hawaii Labor Heritage Council (HLHC). The HLHC serves as fiscal agent for similar funds. The FESJ Advisory Board is composed of a representative of the ILWU Local 142, the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawaii (CLEAR), the HLHC, a family member, and others who were close to A.Q. in work and in her personal life. The Fund will make two (2) annual awards of up to \$5,000 each.

#### Criteria for Proposals:

The Fund will review submissions based on the following criteria:

- Does the proposal address issues related to political action, economic structural changes, globalization, equality and democracy and how they are affected by employers with whom unions negotiate and by occurrences throughout the world?
- Does the proposal focus on members and leaders of the ILWU, or the broader labor community?
- Does the proposal include a specific action program?
- Are the results identifiable and measurable? If so, how?

## Ah Quon McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice

Request for Proposals, page 2

#### Eligible:

Not-for-profit organizations and individuals who are supported by a non-profit fiscal sponsor.

#### Deadline:

Proposals are due on Monday, July 8, 2013 and may be submitted by e-mail or ground mail postmarked no later than July 8, 2013.

E-mail: [long-gail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:long-gail@sbcglobal.net)

Ground mail: Gail Long  
Ah Quon McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice  
17012 Lomond Blvd.  
Shaker Hts. OH 44120

#### Format:

- No more than 1,000 words;
- Electronic documents must be submitted in Microsoft Word 1997-2003 compatible format; and
- Include: description of organization; description of project; goals and objectives; action steps; timeline; project budget and budget narrative; and evaluation criteria.

#### Documentation:

Please submit as attachments the organization's IRS determination of non-profit status (or that of your fiscal sponsor). If applying as an individual, also include a letter of support for the proposal from the executive officer(s) or board of directors of your sponsoring organization.

#### Announcement of Awards:

September 1, 2013.

#### Project Period:

September 1, 2013—August 31, 2014.

#### Final Report:

Due within 60 days of the completion of the project.

## DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees  
Communications Director and Managing Editor  
Roy San Filippo  
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS  
Robert McElrath, President  
Ray A. Familathe, Vice President, Mainland  
Wesley Furtado, Vice President, Hawaii  
William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. *The Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



# ILWU support for Hong Kong strikers

**O**n April 18, the ILWU Coast Longshore Caucus approved a solidarity contribution and delegation visit to support a historic strike by dockworkers for better pay and working conditions at the Port of Hong Kong. Up to 450 workers were involved in the job action, making it Hong Kong's largest strike in six years. Many ships were diverted and faced long delays because of the strike.

The ILWU delegation joined Hong Kong dockers on the 41st day of their strike.

"We secured a pay rise with a good percentage increase and the union is strengthened," said Chan Chiu-wai, Organizing Coordinator for the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions.

Workers won 9.8% pay raises, promises of protection against retaliation, and improved working conditions.

"This is an important development for dockworkers in Hong Kong and throughout the region," said ILWU

International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, who led the delegation. While the strike marked an important step forward, Familathe noted that workers ended their strike without securing a legally-enforceable collective bargaining agreement.

ILWU members were briefed within hours of their arrival about these and other challenges by the Union of Hong Kong Dockers (UHKD) and the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions. The strikers explained how they had squared-off against one of China's most powerful tycoons – Li Ka-shing – who owns HutchisonWhampoa, Hutchison Port Holdings, and Hong Kong International Terminals.

"This was a completely different world for most of us because there were several unions involved and no history of contracts or collective bargaining laws," said Local 34 President Sean Farley who praised the strikers for their bravery and courage. Instead of signing contracts, dockworkers in Hong Kong had traditionally been forced to rely on verbal assurances and one-sided company declarations that aren't enforceable in court.



International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe led an ILWU delegation to support the Union of Hong Kong Dockers on May 8. The delegation included Local 10 Vice President Ed Ferris, Local 40 member George O'Neil, Local 8 President Jeff Smith, Local 19 member Jerome Johnson, Local 13 Executive Board member Jesse Enriquez, Local 63 President Mike Podue, Local 23 President Scott Mason, Local 34 President Sean Farley, and Local 52 Business Agent Sean O'Donnell.

Other challenges included the inability to negotiate directly with terminal owner Li Ka-shing, who used a series of subcontractors to evade responsibility for the low pay and inhumane working conditions at his terminals.

## Dockers take a step forward

Workers were able to win what they described as a significant "step forward" in the form of written assurances from Li Ka-shing's four subcontractors. Workers said their strike forced

*continued on page 5*

# LA Port Police solidarity



ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe along with Local 13 President Chris Viramontes, Local 63 President Mike Podue, Local 94 President Danny Miranda and IBU Regional Director John Skow spoke at the Los Angeles Port Commission meeting on May 16 to express their support for the Los Angeles Port police and the work they do to keep the harbor safe. Several Port Police officers who are members ILWU Local 65 were in attendance.

The ILWU officers expressed concern about the possibility of other law enforcement agencies encroaching on the jurisdiction of the Port Police. "We don't want a duplication of efforts with other law enforcement agencies," said Local 65 President and Port Police Officer Nathaniel Blair. "We have a good working relationship with other agencies but we are the primary law enforcement agency for the Port of Los Angeles."

"The LA Port Police have been serving the Port for over 100 years," said Vice President Familathe. "This is a unique community. The Port Police know the workers and the businesses here. Another agency can't just drop-in and fill the same role as the Port Police."



**Negotiating support:** International President Bob McEllrath was on hand to support the ILWU's electronics and information affiliate, American Radio Association (ARA), during their latest round of contract talks on May 16 in San Francisco. ARA members include seagoing radio operators, Electronic Officers and Master Electronic Officers employed by U.S. flag merchant vessels operated by Matson and Central Gulf Lines, which is based in Mobile, Alabama. ARA's newly-elected President John Radcliffe says he expects the negotiations will be "difficult and contentious." Newly-elected ARA Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Walker said the May 16th session marks the fifth time they've met with employers, and expects many more sessions will be needed. Pictured are (R-L) ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, ARA President John Radcliffe, ARA General Counsel Ed Steinberg, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, and ARA Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Walker.

# NBA decision may help save Seattle Longshore jobs

**L**ocal 19 members had reason to celebrate on May 15 when the NBA Board of Governors voted down a plan by wealthy investors to relocate the Sacramento Kings basketball team to Seattle's SoDo ("south of downtown") area near the docks. Local 19 members worried that the new stadium would increase congestion and threaten good industrial and waterfront jobs.

Immediately after the NBA decision, Local 19 President Cameron Williams sent a letter to local elected officials, asking them to "step back, take a deep breath" and consider other locations, including Memorial Stadium and Key Arena as possible options for an NBA arena – if those locations meet environmental standards. Williams urged the wealthy investors "to do what is right for the community."

The NBA decision probably wasn't based on compassion or con-

cern for protecting good waterfront jobs in Seattle. It likely came down to pleasing the wealthy tycoons who own NBA teams – and that may leave Sacramento residents on the hook to pay for an expensive new stadium. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, himself a former NBA player, promised owners that Sacramento would somehow pay for a new stadium, as he lobbied against the Seattle investors who offered to pay most of the cost for a new stadium. That approach probably offended NBA owners who

have grown accustomed to black-mailing taxpayers to pay for the cost of new stadiums. "Give us a new publicly financed stadium or we'll move to Seattle" is a threat that works as well in any city with a sports team, according to Matthew Yglesias, business and economics correspondent for the online publication, *Slate*.



# Foreign grain merchants continue lockouts; longshore workers stand strong



Photo by Jared Moultrie

**Locked Out:** Members of Local 4 are on the picket line after being locked out by Mitsui-United Grain in Vancouver, WA.

Longshore workers in Oregon and Washington are continuing their round-the-clock fight for a fair contract at grain terminals owned by some of the world's largest grain corporations nearly a year after negotiations began last August. ILWU workers have exported a significant portion of the nation's grain through Northwest ports under a collective bargaining agreement that dates back to the 1930's.

Of the four employers in the Pacific Northwest Grain Handlers Association, three are waging an attack on the ILWU workforce that have made

them profitable in the region. Two Japanese-owned companies, Mitsui-United Grain in Vancouver, WA, and Marubeni-Columbia Grain in Portland, have locked out ILWU members under dubious conditions and imported scab replacement workers. A third company, French-owned Louis Dreyfus, operates grain export terminals in Seattle and Portland. All three foreign companies imposed a concessionary contract in December that had been rejected by union members by a 94% "no" vote.

The fourth grain employer – and the only one based in the United States – is TEMCO, owned by U.S.-based Cargill and CHS, with terminals in Kalama, Tacoma and Portland. Unlike the foreign-owned grain corporations,

TEMCO declined to impose unilateral concessionary terms on workers and chose instead to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement that was ratified by 74% of the members of Locals 4, 8, 19, 21 and 23 in February.

## Police overreaction

The month began with an event on May Day at the Mitsui-United Grain picket line in Vancouver, where union members watched as dozens of police cruisers and motorcycles suddenly appeared. The police were using an excessive amount of public resources and overtime to crowd the picket line for reasons that were never explained.

"We weren't sure why so many of them came to watch our picket line, but they eventually left after watching us for a while," said Local 4 President Cager Clabaugh.

## Concern from local clergy

This incident and similar ones sparked a letter of concern from Brooks Berndt, pastor of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver that was published in the local newspaper, *The Columbian*. Pastor Berndt explained:

*"As a person of faith, I believe in the power of nonviolent protest for social change. As a citizen, I believe in the right to peaceful demonstrations.*

*While United Grain Corporation has an enormous amount of money and power at its disposal in imposing the lockout, these workers depend upon their public voice.*

*In addition to being a waste of taxpayer money, such a gross overreaction by the police and sheriff's department does not make me feel more safe. It makes me feel less safe. It makes me feel like I do not live in a place that cherishes freedom as I do.*

*When there are peaceful demonstrations in the future, let the response be proportional to the event and let it contribute to our community's sense of well-being.*

Similar sentiments were expressed by the Rev. Jeremy Lucas of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Battle Ground, WA. He visited a local Holiday Inn on May Day morning with community and union members who were peacefully protesting the presence of Mitsui-United Grain replacement workers. Lucas said police arrived in "riot gear" and made a few arrests for mostly trivial matters. The previous week, another church leader participated in a peaceful protest at the hotel that triggered an extraordinary show of force, with 37 police cars and 50 police officers.

## Marubeni locks out Portland workers

Marubeni locked out ILWU workers from the Columbia Grain elevator in Portland on May 4. The company's hostile lockout was no surprise to Local 8 President Bruce Holte, who noted that Marubeni had already hired out-of-state replacement workers beginning last fall while contract talks were still underway. That move convinced Holte that Marubeni-Columbia Grain wasn't serious about negotiating in good faith to reach a new agreement with the union.

## Charges filed against employers

The ILWU has filed numerous charges against the grain companies for violating federal labor laws, including unlawful lockouts, illegal firing and retaliation against union members and negotiating in bad faith.

"We file charges to make a point and protect our rights, but we have little faith in the government's ability or willingness to protect workers today," said ILWU Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet. "In the final analysis, it's up to workers and the community," he said.

## River protest in Kalama

On the morning of May 7, nine local recreational and fishing boats held a protest on the Columbia River that resulted in a 623-foot long grain ship, the *Mary H*, remaining anchored in the river instead of docking at the Kalama Export terminal to receive a load of grain. Kalama Export – also known as Peavey – is co-owned by Gaviola, a massive grain company currently being purchased by Marubeni. The ship had previously been loaded with another grain shipment by scab replacement workers hired by Mitsui-United Grain in Vancouver.

The nine-boat flotilla was peaceful and remained on the river until a Coast Guard vessel asked the small boats to disperse and respect a "safety-zone" established to protect companies during lockouts. One boat received a citation from Coast Guard officials; possibly the result of a misunderstanding over whether the safety zone was 200 yards or 200 feet.

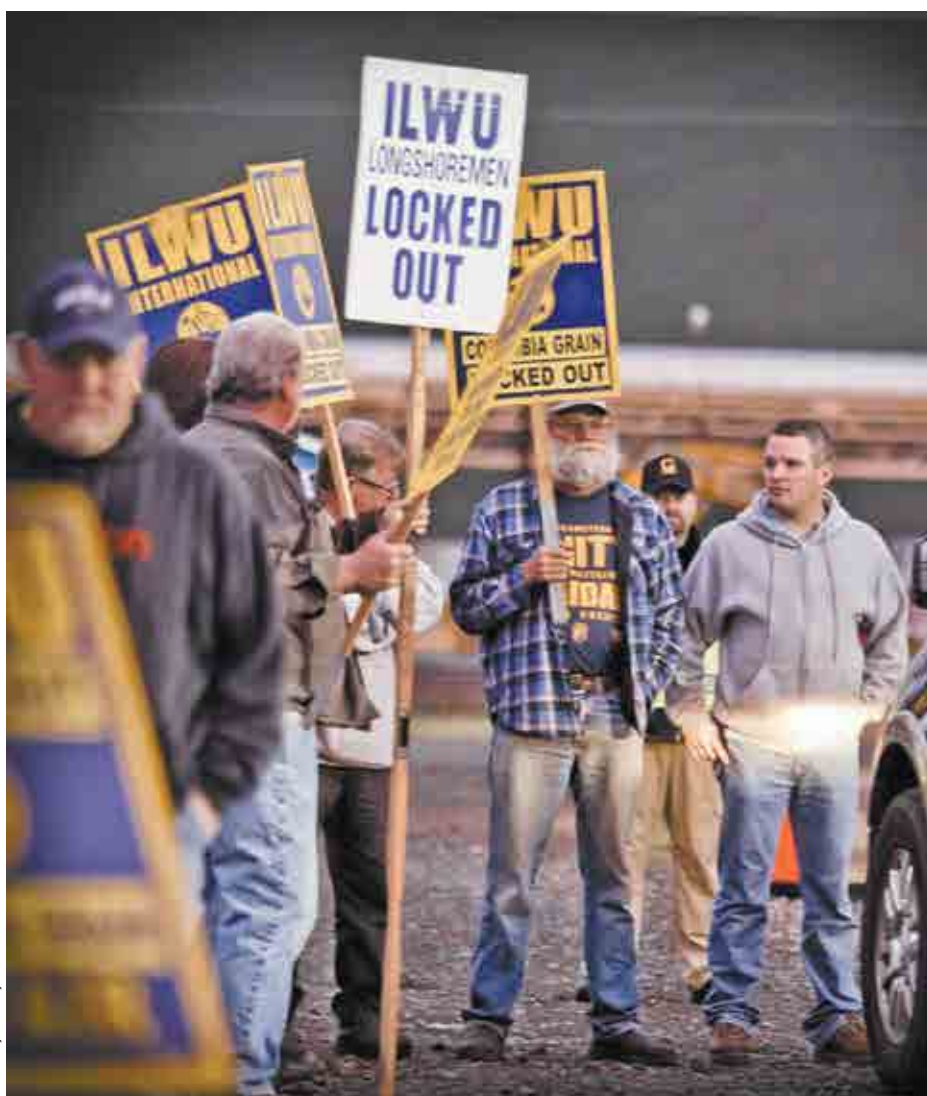


Photo by Kenny Oviatt

**Holding the line in Portland:** Marubeni locked out ILWU workers from the Columbia Grain elevator in Portland on May 4.





**International solidarity:** Leaders from the Union of Hong Kong Dockers and ILWU members joined forces to visit the Hong Kong offices of the Japanese corporation Marubeni, owner of Columbia Grain in Portland, and Mitsui, owner of United Grain in Vancouver, WA. Both corporations have illegally locked-out ILWU members from export grain terminals – and both were told that their abuse of workers will trigger international solidarity.

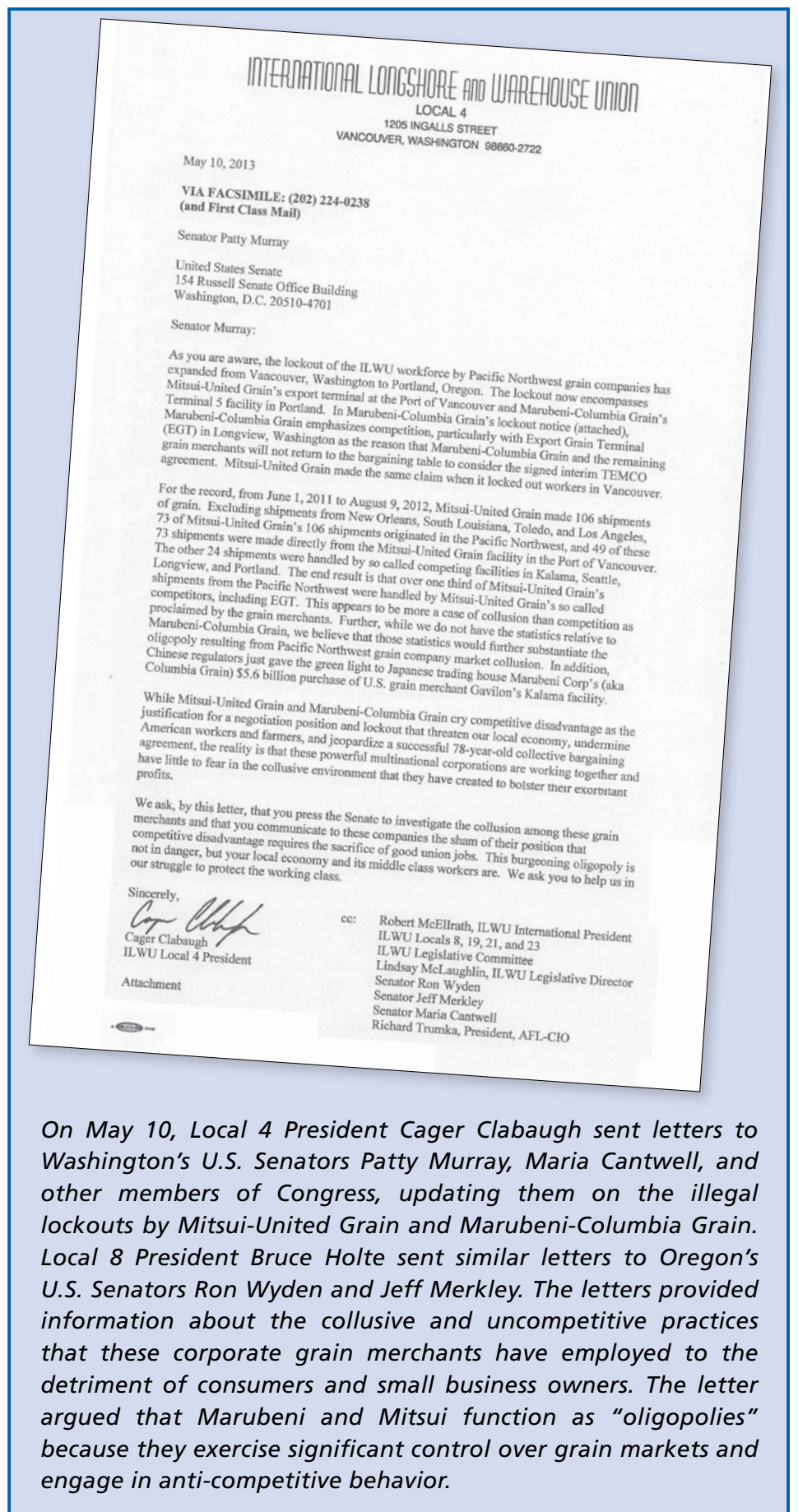
### Walking boss injured by semi-truck at picket line

On May 16, Portland walking boss Karl Minic was among about a dozen picketers who were confronted by a Marubeni customer who was trying to drive a semi-truck into Columbia Grain's gate. When the driver instructed his boxer to attack the workers, the dog befriended them instead. The driver lost his temper, apparently released the brake and allowed his truck to lurch forward – twice – into the workers. Minic was knocked to the ground by the massive truck and sustained injuries to his elbow, knee and back. At press time, the Portland District Attorney's office was reviewing Gettier Security video of the incident, and no charges had yet been pressed against the driver.

Support from the community and pledges of solidarity from around the globe buoy the morale at the picket line, where ILWU members remain 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The companies that have been profitable for decades by the work of ILWU represented workers continue to spend enormous resources preventing such workers from doing their jobs.

The union continues to encourage the foreign employers to use the TEMCO agreement as a template for an agreement.

"There's only one solution: The foreign grain companies that are operating at our public ports must do the right thing, and reach a fair agreement with the workforce that made them successful in the first place," said Sundet.



On May 10, Local 4 President Cager Clabaugh sent letters to Washington's U.S. Senators Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, and other members of Congress, updating them on the illegal lockouts by Mitsui-United Grain and Marubeni-Columbia Grain. Local 8 President Bruce Holte sent similar letters to Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. The letters provided information about the collusive and uncompetitive practices that these corporate grain merchants have employed to the detriment of consumers and small business owners. The letter argued that Marubeni and Mitsui function as "oligopolies" because they exercise significant control over grain markets and engage in anti-competitive behavior.

## ILWU support for Hong Kong strikers

continued from page 3

the contractors to sign written assurances – falling short of legally enforceable contracts, but moving beyond verbal promises and one-sided employer declarations of the past.

This time strikers stayed strong and demanded that employers put their promises in writing, including a 9.8% pay raise for the coming year. That's about half what workers initially demanded – but twice what the company was initially willing to pay.

Another shock to many in the ILWU delegation involved the employer practice of fining crane operators for taking bathroom or meal breaks. Fines against workers of \$300 Hong Kong dollars were typical – while the daily pay for a crane operator was only \$195 Hong Kong dollars—equivalent to \$25.60 US dollars for a lengthy shift that can last up to three days. As a result of the strike, companies were forced to sign confirmations that workers will now be allowed to take meal and bathroom breaks, something workers regarded as real progress because employers had

initially refused to even discuss working conditions.

"Conditions on the Hong Kong docks are like the ones Harry Bridges and other workers faced in the 1930s. Employers would impose the same conditions on us if they thought they could get away with it," said Familathe.

### Re-hiring crane operators

Crane operators were concerned that they had been unable to secure written protection against retaliation and displacement before ending their strike. This was especially challenging for 100 crane operators employed by Global Stevedoring, a subcontractor who closed operations on April 18. During their solidarity visit, ILWU members participated in an action with members of the Union of Hong Kong Dockers to demand the re-hiring of these crane operators.

"We wanted to do what we could to help these crane operators who went out on strike to secure their basic human rights," said Familathe.

On May 20, the Union of Hong Kong Dockers confirmed that 80% of



**Standing with Hong Kong dockers:** The ILWU solidarity delegation joined the Hong Kong dock workers on the picket line as they fought for fair wages and working conditions.

the Global Stevedoring crane operators have already been re-hired by two 'new' contractors and are back to work.

### International support

The Union of Hong Kong Dockers expressed thanks for the donations that came from the ILWU and other unions around the world, saying: "Your

passionate support and generous donations helped us to sustain the strike for forty days, and we are thankful for your unwavering support. Together with you, we have demonstrated the importance of workers' unity in fighting not only for reasonable pay, but also for our dignity and our future."



# Honoring the “First Blood” shed for our union

continued from page 1

“These two men gave the ultimate sacrifice. And because of that sacrifice, we have what we have today—our working conditions, wages and benefits,” said Local 13 President Chris Viramontes.

Local 63 President Mike Podue added: “The wages and benefits we have today were built on struggle. Remember that because contract negotiations will be here in 2014.”

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, whose administration helped secured the new plaque and build Waterfront Park, also spoke at the event.

“I’m here today out of respect for two people who fought for the right to bargain collectively and secure living wages for their families. The sacrifice of these two men and the others workers

killed in 1934 were the catalyst behind building the ILWU which has been so important to the entire West Coast,” said Mayor Villaraigosa.

## Longshore memoriam

Following the plaque re-dedication, ILWU members, Pensioners, Auxiliary members and families marched along Harbor Boulevard in San Pedro to John Gibson Park where a memorial recognizes workers killed during the 1934 strike, honors longshore workers who have been killed since on the job, and pays homage to ILWU leader and former President, Harry Bridges.

Southern California Pensioner Greg Mitre read the names of longshoreman who have been fatally injured at the harbor. Many family members carried photos of their loved ones, holding up the images as their names were read.



**Longshore memoriam:** International Vice President Ray Familathe gave the keynote address at the afternoon memorial honoring ILWU members killed on the job.



**Northwest solidarity:** A delegation of pensioners from the Pacific Northwest travelled to Southern California for the First Blood events.

“These longshoremen went to work and all they wanted was to finish their shift and go home safely to their families, but that didn’t happen,” Mitre said. “The work that we do is dangerous and we risk our lives every day on those docks.”

During the ceremony doves were released—one for each name that was called—while bagpiper George Hall played Amazing Grace.

ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe gave the keynote address at the afternoon memorial. He said the strength of the ILWU can be traced to its roots of militant and democratic struggle.

“Through struggle, ILWU members were able to achieve wages and working condition that are second to none,” Familathe said. “If you look around the world at other strong unions you will see that they are all

militant, democratic, rank and file unions like the ILWU.”

Familathe said that employers have put labor unions into their crosshairs.

“Each and every day, employers are trying to take away what workers have won. Across the country, collective bargaining rights are under attack, health care and pensions are being eliminated. Employers don’t want us to exist. We’ve got two pickets going on in the Pacific Northwest because two foreign companies have locked out ILWU workers. They don’t want to pay prevailing wages and benefits for loading grain in the Pacific Northwest. If we are challenged there, don’t think we aren’t going to be challenged each and every place along the Coast,” said Familathe. “We have to organize, fight back, and be willing to take risks and make sacrifices like they did in 1934.”



**Automation conference:** The ILWU International officers, Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet, and representatives from longshore locals attended a two-day strategy conference in Sydney, Australia on April 29 and 30 to discuss automation — past, present and future. A total of 160 representatives from 11 maritime unions in 10 countries attended the event which was sponsored by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). Among just a few of the topics being covered were: union strategies in dealing with automation; consultation over automation; jobs and skills in automated terminals; maintenance of automated machinery; and hours and working conditions in automated terminals.

ITF president and dockers’ section chair Paddy Crumlin said “We are united in the view that automation will not be imposed, it will come through negotiation. We are building the widest possible alliance to ensure workers’ interests are represented, and employers would be well advised to understand that a global network is solidifying and strengthening its resolve to respond decisively to unilaterally imposed automation.”

## ILWU pensioners protest unfair delays in processing of medical payments



ILWU pensioners in Los Angeles, Seattle, Tacoma and the Bay Area leafleted at several terminals to protest delays in the processing of medical payments by the claims processing company Zenith American Solutions. Zenith was handpicked by the Pacific Maritime Association and sanctioned by the Coast Arbitrator over the objections of the ILWU. (See the cover story in the April issue of the Dispatcher.)

“The leaflet we handed out describes our grievance. Our medical bills are not being paid in a timely manner. Some are months overdue. Pensioners and surviving spouses have gotten threatening phone calls from collection agencies. Some surviving spouses have been brought to tears,” said Pacific Coast Pensioners Association President Rich Austin. “People are frightened. It is callous for a company to treat retired and active workers with such disdain. We felt compelled to take action. That is our heritage. If the problems persist we will be heard from again. We have no other recourse.”



# San Francisco Port celebration includes ILWU

ILWU members were a prominent part of the Port's 150th Anniversary celebrations held during the month of April. The Port declared Sunday, April 28 to be "Maritime Day" and sponsored waterfront events that included public tours, exhibits, boat rides, a scavenger hunt, and open houses.

Local 10, 34, 75, and the IBU sponsored the ILWU 1934 and 1948 educational exhibits and hosted a labor-related film festival at the Port headquarters. The Local 10 Drill Team performed to an enthusiastic audience at the celebration's opening ceremony, followed by a warm welcome from the Port's Executive Director, Monique

Moyer, who thanked the ILWU and noted that the union's contributions and sacrifices had improved conditions for all workers.

Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante was asked to speak on behalf of ILWU members, and he used the opportunity to recount the struggles by previous generations of waterfront workers – while noting that the struggle for good jobs continues today.

The event was very well-attended, and the films initiated great public discussion. In the afternoon, the drill team gave a second performance at the cruise ship terminal.

Earlier in the week, the 1948 exhibit was also shown at a 150th Anniversary gala reception that kicked-off the Port's 150th anniversary, an event attended by ILWU International

Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams who currently serves as Port Commissioner.

Future Port Anniversary events are being scheduled around the upcoming Labor Day weekend. On Monday, September 2, Local 10 is planning a public celebration at their hiring hall, with live music, films, historical displays, food trucks, and informational tabling for labor and community groups. Actor Ian Ruskin will be performing as Harry Bridges on Sunday, September 1 at Local 34's hall, and will provide a shorter performance on Monday at Local 10. The IBU is also planning an event and exhibit on the ferryboat Eureka at the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park. Please see upcoming issues of The Dispatcher and ILWU website for more details.



**Sharing our history:** Drill Team member Valerie Butler was among thousands who viewed the ILWU history exhibit at the Port of San Francisco's 150th anniversary celebration on April 28th.



**Loud & proud:** Local 10's Drill Team was invited by the Port to perform their snappy routine on April 28th. Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante (far left) was asked to speak on behalf of ILWU members from throughout the Bay Area.



**Celebrating labor's role on SF Port Commission:** The Port of San Francisco celebrated their 150th anniversary at a special gala event on April 24th that included union members who served as former and current Port Commissioners. (L-R) Former Port Commissioner Mike Hardeman of Sign Display Union #510; former Port Commissioner F.X. Crowley of the Stagehands Union (IATSE) #6; Public Employee Retirement System Commissioner Wendy Paskin-Jordan; current Port Commissioner and ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams; and former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan.

## Apoye a su familia de ILWU:



### ¡Lo invitamos a nuestra convención del Local 56!

Desde la llegada de las primeras embarcaciones a nuestro puerto, el trabajo sucio y difícil de limpiar los cascos y bodegas lo han hecho los "escaleros". Estos puestos de trabajo amparados por el ILWU han sido el sostén de muchos trabajadores portuarios y sus familias a lo largo de los años.

Hoy, los afiliados del Local 56 de ILWU responden a derrames de materiales peligrosos y hacen el trabajo de saneamiento en nuestros terminales marítimos. Los miembros del Local 56 están organizándose para recuperar la jurisdicción sobre los puestos de trabajo que ahora están en manos de los operarios no sindicalizados, lo cual amenaza las condiciones de trabajo de todos nosotros.

El 4 de noviembre de 2013, se vence el contrato colectivo de los "escaleros". Estos trabajadores necesitan urgentemente mejores beneficios y protecciones en el trabajo, aquellas cosas que nosotros damos por sentado. En la convención de negociaciones del Local 56, que se celebrará el 27 de julio, se destacarán sus condiciones de trabajo difíciles y los retos que enfrentan estos afiliados del ILWU y sus familias. Anovémoslos con un plan de unidad y acción para que sus



**Sábado, 27 de julio**  
**10am – 1pm**  
**Puerto de Los Angeles**  
**Liberty Hill Plaza**  
**100 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**San Pedro CA**



**¡Defendamos el derecho de ILWU de representar a todos los trabajadores en nuestros muelles!**

Para más información llame al representante del Local 56, Rubén Hurtado al 310-809-9371 ó al organizador del ILWU, Carlos Condon: 213-618-1765



**Play ball!** Commissioners and staff celebrated the Port of San Francisco's 150th anniversary at a recent San Francisco Giants game.



**Marching for immigrant rights:** Members of ILWU Local 56 joined thousands of workers, faith-based organizations and community activists at this year's May Day march in downtown Los Angeles. An estimated 30,000 marchers snaked their way through the 1.5 mile parade route ending at Olvera St. The demonstrators marched in support of comprehensive immigration reform.



## Let's Make This Harry's Year!

In October 2011, the San Francisco Port Commission put their final stamp of approval on the monument that will be erected in honor of Harry Bridges in Harry Bridges Plaza at the San Francisco Ferry Building.

In 2012, the Committee for Harry Bridges Plaza raised more than \$100,000 toward the goal of seeing the monument in place at the very gateway of our city. But we still have more to raise.

The monument to Harry can be in place by the end of 2013—if we all pull together!

Please join the many union men and women who have helped to make this important memorial to great man a reality.



**Visit [www.harrybridgesplaza.org](http://www.harrybridgesplaza.org) and make your donation today!**

## A Helping Hand...

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

### ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

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

**ADRP—Oregon**  
Brian Harvey  
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207  
Portland, OR 97221  
(503) 231-4882

**ADRP—Northern California**  
Hunny Powell  
HPowell@benefitplans.org  
400 North Point  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
(415) 776-8363

**ADRP—Washington**  
Donnie Schwendeman  
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503  
Tacoma, WA 98424  
(253) 922-8913

### ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

**DARE—Northern California**  
Teamsters Assistance Program  
300 Pendleton Way  
Oakland, CA 94621  
(510) 562-3600

### ILWU CANADA

**EAP—British Columbia**  
John Felicella  
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300  
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR  
(604) 254-7911

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 4:** Kim B. Lynch; **Local 10:** Michael G. Jackson; Walter L. Adams; **Local 13:** John T. Mingo; Raymond Brady; Michael Chiu; Manuel A. Arroyo; Gregory S. Jones; Neil A. Tufford; **Local 19:** Steven G. Kendall; Toby B. Melzer; **Local 98:** Anthony Gallardo;

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 7:** Clifford A. Cram (Deborah); **Local 8:** Robert Budrow; Roger D. Bispham; **Local 10:**

Guillermo Morales; Michael P. Arrizon (Josephine); **Local 13:** Floyd Ryan (Jonnie); Carmine Vittone; Ray Edelman; Jose A. Medina; Robert Mendoza; Nathan Crumby Jr. (Vestalina); W. R. Bloomingdale (Blanche); Albert Bachelier; Tony Nuno (Celia); Ralph J. Melgoza; **Local 19:** William M. Fairbanks; **Local 21:** Ronald E. Philbrook; **Local 23:** Carl J. Engels Jr.; **Local 29:** Batista Ballatore; **Local 34:** Alan M. Matthiesen;

Norman L. Grosz; Harry K. Mitomi; **Local 63:** Joseph Fields; Gilbert Ortega; **Local 94:** Rino Marconi; **Local 98:** Marshall E. Iseberg

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 8:** Lillian N. Williams; **Local 10:** Kathryn Bonnardel; Vivian Steuben; Clemency Canada; Elaine M. De Sa; Shirley Moton; Aurora Moreno; **Local 12:** Emma Laura Koogler; **Local 13:** Esther Klubnikin; Mary J. Kostrivas; Teena M.

Main; **Local 21:** Evelyn Kimber; **Local 34:** Kathy Clausen; **Local 50:** Ethelyn Reneke; **Local 51:** Letha L. Forbes; **Local 63:** Peggy J. Short; Anna M. Talierno; **Local 75:** Irene Doyle; **Local 92:** Bernice E. Larson; **Local 94:** Elenore J. Van Mulligen;

## ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

### BOOKS

**Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU.** By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. \$17.00.

**A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii.** By Sanford Zalburg: A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii \$13.50 (paperback).

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

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

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

**The Big Strike.** By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. **\$9.00**

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

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

### VIDEOS

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

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

**"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges."** A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD **\$5.00**

## ILWU BOOK & VIDEO ORDER FORM

### ORDER BY MAIL

\_\_\_ copies of **Solidarity Stories** @ \$17 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **A Spark Is Struck** @ \$13.50 ea.= \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **The Legacy of 1934** @ two for \$5 = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **Harry Bridges** @ \$10 ea.= \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **ILWU Story** @ \$5 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **The Big Strike** @ \$9.00 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **The Union Makes Us Strong** @ \$20 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **The March Inland** @ \$9 ea.= \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **Eye of the Storm** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **We Are the ILWU** VHS @ \$5 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ copies of **A Life on the Beam** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$\_\_\_\_

### No sales outside the U.S.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order (U.S. Funds) payable to "ILWU" and send to

**ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109**

Prices include shipping and handling.

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