The November elections results brought generally good news for ILWU members and working class America.

Mitt Romney’s anti-union campaign was defeated, along with nearly a dozen anti-union members of Congress. Pro-union Senate candidates Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts and Tammy Baldwin in Wisconsin both won new seats, and longtime union-advocate Sherrod Brown defeated his anti-union challenger in Ohio. California voters gained six seats in the House of Representatives at the expense of anti-union candidates – while passing “Living Wage” ordinances in Long Beach and Santa Clara County.

Critical California wins
ILWU activists in California won two critical ballot measures in a face-off against anti-union extremists. Proposition 32, a scheme to weaken unions by restricting political activity, was defeated. Proposition 30, a measure to raise income taxes on the super-rich for public education, was passed. Other union-backed upsets included pro-union candidate Ami Bera who won his Congressional seat south of Sacramento against longtime anti-union politician Dan Lungren, and candidate Scott Peters who defeated incumbent anti-union Congressman Brian Bilbray of San Diego – where voters also elected a pro-union Mayor, Bob Filner. Voters in Southern California’s harbor-area elected Janice Hahn for the Congressional seat previously held by Laura Richardson.

High stakes in CA
The efforts in California to kill Proposition 32 and pass 30 were epic battles that pitted unions against massive spending by corporate and anti-union forces. The notorious Koch Brothers dumped tens of millions of dollars into the California campaigns through a network of secret committees that were only exposed in the final days of the election.

A clear campaign plan
The ILWU joined in a massive union mobilization effort in vote-rich Southern California. Local 13 coordinated their effort with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor to develop a plan that called for education, voter registration, and member-to-member outreach. The ILWU’s Southern California District Council (SCDC) began their...
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

People who know me understand how I feel about politicians. As a general rule, I don’t trust them and usually try to keep my distance. I think that comes from a few things I learned a long time ago. First, I don’t like outsiders getting involved in our union, especially politicians. Second, I get fed up with the promises they make during an election that get broken after they win. That doesn’t make me special; I think most Americans probably feel the same way.

The problem is, politics may stink, but we can’t afford to stay away. The November elections made that clear.

I’m glad Romney lost. At least Romney made it clear that he can’t stand unions. Where exactly Obama stands with unions is a lot harder to say. I’ve been disappointed with him for a while. Like most of you who voted for Obama, we started with high hopes. And I know he got dealt a bum hand from Bush who left behind the economic mess that Obama had to clean up. But things turned sour for me when Obama hired the same guys from Wall Street to “fix” the problems that they caused.

His health care plan was another sore spot. Obama used to support a “single-payer” system – like Medicare – the same approach that the ILWU has backed for decades. But Obama dropped his support for single-payer when the election got close. And the plan he finally passed was a sad excuse for “change we can believe in.” It let private insurance companies run the show with a few rules and generous taxpayer subsidies. The real kicker for me was his decision to levy “taxes” against so-called “Cadillac” health plans with benefits that ILWU longshore workers and some other union members fought for decades to win.

Finally, we’ve had some bad experiences with Obama’s National Labor Relations Board. For example, they took the employer side in the EGT struggle in Longview and are doing the same thing today to the ILWU in Long Beach. I know many labor laws – especially Taft-Hartley – were written to help employers, but you’d think Obama’s NLRC could do better. The lesson is that the responsibility for making things happen is ultimately in our hands and the working class – not some politician’s – so there’s a limit to how much we can complain or expect from them when it really comes down to us and what we’re willing to do for ourselves and the working class.

Other challenges we face as of this writing of this article, include the threat of the grain elevators locking us out in Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver and Portland. And, after a two and a half year struggle in Los Angeles Long Beach with the OCU contract, we are threatened with more government intervention.

There was also important work done in the Northwest, with good results in both Oregon and Washington State. Local 142 in Hawaii helped elect three pro-labor candidates to Congress including a new U.S. Senator, Mazie Hirono. All of them defeated anti-union candidates.

A team of 12 longshore workers and pensioners travelled to Las Vegas where they spent almost two weeks contacting other union members and families in that important swing state.

In Long Beach, Albuquerque and San Jose, voters supported a raise in the minimum wage.

I want to thank the Political Action Committee for their work in getting supportive candidates elected and unfavorable propositions defeated. Thank you and the membership for your hard work and tireless efforts.

These election results don’t change the fact that unions are still in serious trouble here and around the world. Employers will still keep doing everything they can to exterminate unions. And politics will keep making promises and disappointing us.

But the November results show that a majority of Americans seem to share our concerns about fairness, equality and respect – and that should give us a good foundation for connecting their concerns with ours. Building bridges and making those connections – through action, organizing, and hard work – will help us to be stronger, and America to be better.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

Clerical workers strike to stop outsourcing good jobs in LA

As the Dispatcher was going to press, ILWU Local 63-OCU clerical workers went on strike beginning Tuesday, November 27, against 12 employers at the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The strike involves big companies who have been outsourcing dozens of good-paying ILWU clerical jobs. The jobs support hundreds of working families in the Harbor community.

Members of ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94 are exercising their right to honor the picket line under the collective bargaining agreement between the ILWU and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA).

“We’re drawing the line against corporate greed and outsourcing that’s destroying the good-paying jobs that support working families in our community,” said Trinie Thompson, a Logistics Clerk who works at the Port. “The jobs here come with excellent wages and benefits – but they’ll eventually disappear if companies keep outsourcing them to Texas, Costa Rica and other places.”

The 800 members of ILWU Local 63’s Office Clerical Unit (63-OCU) have been trying to negotiate an agreement with big international carriers and terminal operators for more than two years, since their three-year contract expired on June 30, 2010. Two companies signed agreements two years ago and aren’t involved in the outsourcing. But the remaining 12 companies are refusing to sign an agreement that addresses outsourcing.

“We’ve been meeting with the companies for more than two years, trying to deal with this outsourcing problem but the company has been refusing to admit to outsourcing – even when they’ve been caught red-handed,” said 63-OCU President John Fageaux.

“This outsourcing isn’t being done by little mom-and-pop operations...” he continued on page 7

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When the Liberian-flagged vessel “Sider Pink” docked in Sacramento on October 9th to take on a load of rice for Libya, it seemed like a routine call. But controversy soon surrounded the ship, triggering action by Local 18 longshore workers and involving inspectors from the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) who worked together to save the ship’s crew from abuse.

On October 13th, U.S. Marshalls boarded the Sider Pink – without notifying Local 18 – to announce that the ship was being seized because of a court order involving a financial dispute. The ship’s owner, Nikolas Papalos of Greece, had apparently run up a $10 million tab with creditors who took action in U.S. courts to prevent the vessel from leaving.

Like many owners, Papalos registered his ship in the West African country of Liberia to avoid labor, safety, environmental and tax laws. Besides operating under a “flag of convenience,” the vessel’s ownership was concealed by a maze of different companies connected to Papalos. Local 18 members learned that crewmembers were desperately hungry. The predominantly Chinese-speaking crew hadn’t been paid or received proper meals for many days. At one point, crewmembers said they had resorted to eating seaweed in order to avoid starvation.

After hearing of the crew’s plight, Local 18 members hastily organized a collection that raised $800 to purchase groceries that they delivered to the hungry crew. “All of us scrambled to help these guys after we realized what they’d been through,” said Local 18 President Derek Peterson.

To provide additional help, Local 18 Vice President Tim Campbell Jr. contacted ITF West Coast Coordinator Jeff Engels who gathered details, made plans to fly-down the next morning from Seattle, and spent all night on the phone with ILWU International Vice President Ray Famalhathe, the ship’s owners, ITF headquarters in London, U.S. Coast Guard officials, and lawyers representing the owner and creditors.

When Engels arrived at the dock in Sacramento, he found that the U.S. Coast Guard had already written-up the company for failing to provide sufficient provisions. The Guard was also willing to assist and observe Engels during the ITF inspection process. The ship’s captain spoke very little English, but communication with the crew was aided by a Chinese interpreter who was secured by an ITF Inspector in Houston. The interpreter allowed crewmembers to explain their plight.

It turned out that the “Sider Pink” was covered by an ITF Collective Bargaining Agreement, but important terms of the contract weren’t being honored. Because the contract allowed ITF Inspectors to review important documents on the ship, it should be easy to verify if the crew was being properly paid and fed. But because the “Sider Pink” and most other ships operate under a “flag of convenience,” they often keep two sets of books; one for the inspectors and another for the owners. After hours reviewing documents, reading personnel contracts, and interviewing the crew in private, Engels concluded that the ship owner had violated the contract by failing to pay the crew properly. A demand was made for the crew to be immediately paid for all their current and back wages, which finally happened. Proper payment was confirmed by talking with crewmembers and reviewing bank records that proved the back-wages owed had been paid.

The combination of solidarity from Local 18 members, support from the ITF and enforcement action by the U.S. Coast Guard resulted in $14,000 worth of food stores being delivered to the Sider Pink while the ITF inspection took place. The ship owner agreed to pay for the food along with back pay that ran through October.

A new treaty called the Maritime Labor Convention (MLC) would help crews facing similar problems, and the framework is already in place, with representatives from the foreign-flagged nations who agree to meet with ship-owners and ITF inspectors when crews are abused. The MLC has already been approved by 30 countries – including Liberia – but not in the U.S. Because Republicans have blocked it and other legislation that protects workers. Until stronger laws are in place, it will be up to ILWU members and ITF inspectors to hold employers – including foreign-flagged ship owners – more accountable.

“IT’s impossible to know for sure if the vessel’s owner will continue to honor the contract or try to cheat the crew again after they leave the West Coast,” said Engels. “but they’re bound to be more careful because ITF inspectors are stationed at ports around the world and we can track the Sider Pink as she travels the globe.” He credited ILWU Local 18 members for their quick action and “front-line solidarity” that aims to help all waterfront workers.

**ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan – Coastwise Claims Office**

**Zenith American Solutions to replace Cigna**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

Effective January 1, 2013, Zenith American Solutions will replace Cigna as the administrator for the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan, as well as all other Welfare Plan Benefit programs currently administered by Cigna at the Coastwise Claims Office. Please note that there will be no changes to any of the benefits currently administered by the Coastwise Claims Office.

**What is changing?**

As of January 1, 2013, the Coastwise Claims Office will be located at: 221 Main Street, Suite 250, San Francisco, California 94105

**What is not changing?**

The Coastwise Claims Office Toll Free Telephone Number – (800) 955-7376 The Coastwise Claims Office Fax Number – (415) 495-0511

**What do I need to do?**

Nothing, at this time

**What can I expect in the future?**

New Identification (ID) cards, New forms, New information about how your providers can submit a claim

If you have any questions, please contact your Area Welfare Director at the number below or call the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office at (415) 673-8500

Sam Alvarado – Southern California (866) 833-5144 Nick Buckles – Puget Sound and Washington Area (877) 938-6720

Joe Cabrales – Northern California (877) 885-2793 Ty Gorton – Columbia River and Oregon Coast Area (866) 226-0013 A copy of this memo can be downloaded at www.benefitplans.org
IBU convention in Seattle tackles tough problems

The Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) held their 22nd Convention on October 3-6 at a Seattle hotel overlooking the beautiful blue waters of Puget Sound. But the spectacular scenery didn’t stop 500 delegates and a dozen special guests from tackling a host of challenges facing IBU members, including:

How to do new leaders and get them more involved in the union;

How to do a better job of reaching out to make new allies and win public support;

What to do when politicians betray workers and unions, and;

What kind of strategies could generate more leverage on employers to win better contracts.

Encouraging new leaders

“We try hard to make the IBU conventions a place where newer and older members can come together to learn, discuss and debate the challenges that we’re facing,” explained IBU President Alan Coté. He observed that the IBU and other unions urgently need to train a new generation of leaders, and he encouraged young people at the convention to speak up, participate, and share their ideas.

Process aimed at participation

IBU President Coté and Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast designed the convention to allow ample time for discussion and debate. They organized panel discussions with speakers representing different points of view. Questions and comments were encouraged from the floor. Speakers with varied opinions were treated respectfully. IBU leaders shared their concerns about challenges facing the union and encouraged delegates to weigh-in with ideas and suggestions.

Training for the future

One of the youngest attendees at the IBU convention was Michael Feliciano, a student at the Tongue Point Seamanship program in Astoria, Oregon, who is scheduled to graduate from the program in 2013. Feliciano read an inspiring essay about the importance of unionism. A detailed report on the Tongue Point program was delivered by Jim Van Wormer, Director of Tongue Point’s training program that is part of the federal Job Corps program. Tongue Point has been providing training since 1964 to qualified young people ages 16-24, at no charge to the students—who graduate with ratings and qualifications that enable them to get good-paying union jobs represented by the IBU.

Panel on international solidarity

The convention included a panel discussion on international solidarity featuring IBU member Kenyata Whitworth and MUA delegate Gavin Boswick, who recently attended a worldwide meeting of maritime union rank and file members in Morocco that was sponsored by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). They shared their experiences of learning about the needs for international solidarity and offered ideas for getting rank-and-file members more involved in the global fight.

IBU member and ITF Inspector Stefan Muller-Dombois shared his experiences of fighting to help Seafarers from all over the world defend their rights. He emphasized the commonalities that all have in common because of their work experiences.

Another panelist, IBU member John Kornstein, attended the Maritime Union of Australia’s (MUA) tri-lateral convention last spring in Sydney, Australia. He talked about meeting delegates from all over the world in Sydney and how many were concerned about the effects of global warming on the Island nations. “The MUA is very involved in climate issues and the fight for rights for indigenous peoples,” said John.

Delegates asked panelists questions from the floor, resulting in a good exchange of ideas. Panel members concluded that the IBU should continue to send members to international union programs.

As capital moves around the globe, international unions need to have the same experience. “We are fighting for the same rights,” said Stefan Muller-Dombois.

“The sisters and brothers from Australia at our IBU Convention added an important perspective by helping members see beyond our own horizons,” said Terri Mast. “It’s good to know that we share so many of the same challenges, no matter where we live and work.”

Political challenges

Hundreds of Washington State Ferry (WSF) workers who belong to the IBU have recently learned how much politicians and the public can process has impact their pay, working conditions and contract negotiations. For the past two years, WSF workers have been pounded by Mary Margaret Haugen, State Senator who chaired the Transportation Committee. The Senator used her bully pulpit to vilify the IBU and other union members in the State Ferry system for promoting alleged waste, fraud and abuse. While she was leveling those charges against workers, Haugen and other Demo- crats were cutting ferry funding from the state budget. Haugen’s attacks were accompanied by a series of sensational exposés on Seattle’s largest TV station—putting heavy pressure on the IBU and other unions that were trying to negotiate contracts.

Caution urged

Familathe also cited the 2010 struggle against Rio Tinto’s lockout in Boron, noting that it required a significant shift of local and international union resources in order to win, along with solidarity from unions in the region and around the world.

“There’s no ‘normal’ anymore,” said Familathe, who reminded IBU members that the survival of the IBU depends on politicians for protection, and “it’s always been risky to depend on politicians for support.”

Other campaign examples

Panel on political action

A panel discussion on political action offered insights from recent and historical campaigns. Panelist Rich Austin Sr., President of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, left no doubt about his contempt for many politicians—especially those who turn their backs on workers at the first opportunity. “The party labels don’t matter as much anymore, because some Democrats are just as willing to stab us in the back as any Republican,” he said.

Familathe brought in the ongoing battle over Medicare and Social Security, noting that union members and pensioners will have to provide leadership in order to stop cuts to these vital programs. “If we don’t stand up and fight, we’ll lose these programs,” he said.

Caution urged

Former IBU President David Freiboth, who now heads the King County Labor Council in Seattle, began his remarks by warning the IBU delegates how much they have over-looked in election campaigns. Freiboth referenced a recent opinion poll which found that many voters had no idea what a life-long union member like himself does for a living.

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Campaign in February by distributing information about the dangers of Prop. 32 to delegates attending the California Democratic Party Convention in San Diego. By May and June they were making member-to-member presentations at Southern California locals and continued to help locals mobilize against the anti-union ballot measure up until election day. SCDC President Cathy Familathe made arrangements to work full-time and coordinate the ILWU and LA Fed’s “get-out-the-vote” effort. Bianca Bluquist was assigned by the ILWU Washington, DC office to work on the campaign the last few weeks in Southern California.

Local 13 President Joe Cortez convened an “All Presidents” meeting that brought together California locals on August 21 and he worked closely with his team that included Local 13 Mobilization Coordinator Sunshine Garcia and Local 13 member volunteers Melody “Melon” Hall-Ceaser and Christine Aguirre.

“Proposition 32 was designed by extremists to cripple unions in California, and it would have spread nationwide if we didn’t defeat it here first,” explained President Cortez.

Election victories for workers & unions continued from page 1

Bay Area ballot results: An election day rally by volunteers for Local 10 member Derek Mohammad wasn’t enough to secure him a seat on Oakland’s City Council. Volunteers from Locals 6, 10, 34 and 75 also campaigned for pro-union Assembly Candidate Abel Guillen, who narrowly lost a chance to represent Oakland in the State Legislature. Efforts to help Bill Harrison become Mayor of Fremont were successful.

Member commitment

Harbor-area locals and the Coast Longshore Division took the campaign seriously, allocating money from their treasuries to fund full-time campaign coordinators to recruit and train volunteers, manage phone banks, staff precinct walks, organize rallies and a “get-out-the-vote” push leading up to election day. Their efforts gained national attention when a photographer from the New York Times captured the ILWU phone bank in action and ran the photo and story in the front section of the paper that was seen by millions of readers and online viewers across the country and around the world.

By election-night, the ILWU effort in the Harbor area had recruited dozens of volunteers who were able to reach thousands of members and union-household voters. Combined with work by other union members in the state, thousands of volunteers succeeded in contacting a winning margin of working-class voters.

“We started from behind and this was a close race until the end, so it’s clear that we made a real difference this time,” said Cathy Familathe.

Long Beach living wage: A living wage measure for Long Beach, CA hotel workers passed with more than 60% of the vote. The city’s hotels will be required to pay workers a rate that is $4 more than California minimum wage and provide them with five sick days each year.

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Continued on page 6
Lessons in Las Vegas

The ILWU Longshore Division sent a delegation of 10 campaign workers to the swing state of Nevada, where President Obama’s election and a U.S. Senate seat were up for grabs.

The team, which included 3 pensioners and 2 spouses, accomplished an impressive amount during their two-week stay in Las Vegas. They visited construction work sites, usually early in the morning, to contact an estimated 1000 workers on the job who were personally encouraged to vote. They also placed over 500 phone calls, and knocked-on hundreds of doors.

A special outreach effort was made to contact 100 ILWU pensioners in the Las Vegas area who were encouraged to vote. The retirees were also urged to consider forming a Pensioners Club in their area to promote networking and ongoing political work in Nevada.

“I reminded them of the Pensioner’s Slogan, that we retire from our job - but not from the struggle,” said Local 23 pensioner Mike Jagelski, who added, “the political battles in Nevada will continue into the future.”

Mitt Romney was defeated in Nevada, in what had been predicted to be a very close race, although Obama eventually won by almost 7%. The race for the U.S. Senate seat in Nevada was disappointing, however, because pro-union candidate Shelley Burgerderyd lost by just over 1% to anti-union incumbent Dean Heller.

“We went to Nevada because nobody wanted to see Mitt Romney win his anti-union agenda,” said Local 52 and International Executive Board member Max Velocci, Jr. “It would have been nice to also defeat Nevada’s anti-union Senator, but that will just have to wait until next time.”

IBU convention in Seattle tackles tough problems

continued from page 6

feel frustration when politicians turn their backs on union members, but he cautioned that losing power to anti-union forces in the legislature would be far worse than the disappointments experienced now.

Deadlock in DC

ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin delivered a frank assessment of the frustration he faces when dealing with anti-union leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Since the Republicans won power two years ago, it’s been nearly impossible to accomplish anything for workers,” he said. McLaughlin noted the creeping erosion of longtime protections for maritime jobs, and cited an example of the recent decision to transport strategic oil reserves without using American-flagged vessels. He also noted the growing number of waivers being sought to avoid compliance with the Jones Act, a federal law that requires ships serving multiple U.S. ports to be flagged in the U.S. and comply with domestic labor laws.

Solidarity with Ship Scalers

Two officers from Local 56 in San Pedro spoke to delegates about efforts to re-build their historic Ship Scalers union that today provides hazardous materials clean-up and prevention services. Local President Iluardo Mendoza and Secretary-Treasurer Ruben Hurtado were introduced by ILWU Southern California Regional Director John Skow. Mendoza and Hurtado explained that Local 56 members are mostly immigrants who have adopted a militant approach to their organizing efforts aimed at non-union companies that provide haz-mat services in the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors. “We organize picket lines every week and sometimes every day,” said President Mendoza. Local 56 members are also providing important support for other union struggles in the Harbor, including large turnouts for ILWU members at Millennium/ Westoil who are fighting for a fair contract and looking to network with each other and help our union family grow,” concluded Mendoza.

International perspective

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams addressed the IBU delegates with a perspective that was fresh from his meeting with other dockers unions at the ITF conference in Morocco. He noted that the repression facing union members abroad can be harsh – such as the imprisonment this summer of Morocco’s dockworker union leader who was recently released.

Turning to domestic politics, Adams told of his recent appointment to the San Francisco Port Commission, and his efforts to bring more maritime work to the Port, including a recent trip to Houston in search of more break-bulk business. As for dealing with politicians, Adams noted that many former friends are now just lukewarm to union concerns, but he reminded delegates that “we have to have faith in ourselves – and do things for ourselves. Nobody is going to give us anything that we didn’t earn and didn’t fight for.” He concluded with a warning that the problems the union faces now won’t be solved by living on past glories. “We can’t live on memories and those who came before us. We have to stand-up and stand-up strong for the challenges we face today.”

Thunder down under

Paul Garrett, Assistant Secretary of the MUA’s Sydney Branch, delivered a solidarity greeting on behalf of 2300 workers back home in Sydney, Australia – and he pulled no punches in detailing the problems they face down-under. He discussed their struggle against the notorious anti-union employer, Patrick Ports & Stevedoring, which recently slashed their union workforce by half throwing 270 dockworkers on the street. He said the union was negotiating for 20 months with Patrick, but the company never disclosed their plans to axe workers who learned about the layoffs on Facebook. He continued with another story about the fallout from a 2011 election victory by conservatives who quickly announced plans to privatize Sydney’s ferry system. MUA members prepared for the fight by making it clear they would accept nothing less than their current wages. A series of rallies and job actions, including some highly-disciplined walk-offs, resulted in a victory that kept every job with no cutbacks.

“Let’s keep working together and help each other as much as we can,” said Garrett, who proposed a regular exchange of members between both unions.

Well-attended workshops

The IBU convention included a pair of evening workshops that were both well-attended by delegates. The workshop on organizing strategy filled the room, as recent struggles within the IBU and ILWU were reviewed and analyzed. The willingness of union members to continue working under expired contracts – and take advantage of laws protecting their right to engage in militant job actions – was one of the more popular topics. Staff from the ILWU Organizing Department reviewed how this tactic has been recently used with good success by ILWU, ILWU and other workers. The Communications Strategy workshop was also popular, and covered some controversial topics, including how unions can avoid the danger of alienating public opinion – and focus on winning public support. Both workshops were based on current examples and recent IBU experiences.

“The goal of these workshops was to go beyond presenting information by encouraging members to take measures into their own hands, and give them some powerful new tools to fight for a better life,” said President Coté. “The IBU is embracing the concept of working without a contract and organizing job actions to generate more leverage, he explained.

Sound financial footing

Delegates authorized a new three-year budget and approved a ballot referendums for two small dues increases that are needed to stabilize the IBU budget. Membership approval of the referendum will provide the union with the necessary resources to improve steward training and organizing efforts.

The convention concluded with a call for unity and the necessary to take action in order to keep making progress – and challenge the growing anti-union threat across the country and up and down the West Coast.

“Your union is blessed with so many talented and committed members,” said Terri Mast. “They can lead this union into the future if we help these new leaders get the training and experience they need to win the fights for the next generation.”

Victory in South Bay Assembly race: From left to right: Richard Hammang, SoCal District Council (SCDC); Al Muratsuchi, Assembly member-elect for the CA 68th District; and David Serrato, SCDC, at the Muratsuchi victory party.
Dockworker solidarity in New Zealand

ILWU International officers attended the Maritime Union of New Zealand’s (MUNZ) 4th Triennial Conference from November 6-9. Delegates meeting in Wellington reviewed three years of intense struggles including:

- The battle at the Ports of Auckland that climaxd with a lengthy lockout of longshore workers.
- Privatization fights at other ports.
- A campaign against “casualization” by employers that threatens to destroy good jobs.
- Efforts to promote tougher health and safety regulations in the maritime industry.

MUNZ General Secretary Joe Fleetwood said the union will keep fighting on two fronts – to support maritime workers and aid the wider working class. Toward that end, alliances were strengthened with leaders from the global union movement who attended, including:

- A delegation from the ILWU led by International President Bob McEllrath and included Vice Presidents Ray Furtado and Wesley Furtado, and LWU International officers.
- International President of the International Transport Workers’ Federation and Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, Paddy Crumlin.
- Three officials of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) attended to represent dockworkers at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports.
- Other international unions represented at the conference include the Maritime Union of Australia, CFMU Mining and Energy Division (Australia), Electrical Trades Union (Australia), Australian Workers’ Union, All Japan Dock Workers Union (Zen Kowan), and Britain’s RMT – the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

“Our brothers and sisters in New Zealand have been through some tough times, but all of us are facing similar battles back home,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath. “The employers are more united than ever, so solidarity among unions is more important than ever.”

Local 517 President Michael Gorman retires

Michael Gorman, President of ILWU Local 517 in Vancouver, BC, will retire at the end of his term in November. He has served in that position for 21 consecutive years.

Michael Gorman started his career at National Harbours Board in 1981 as a Boormran and ten years later, in 1991, he took on the position of Boormaster.

In his over two decades of service to the ILWU, Gorman has shown tremendous dedication to an extremely diverse membership that includes harbour patrol, office administrative staff, maintenance and trades personnel and professional employees.

Clerical workers strike in LA

A campaign against “casualization” by employers that threatens to destroy good jobs.

- Efforts to promote tougher health and safety regulations in the maritime industry.

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the Dispatcher for their fine article and support of ILWU Walk the Coast’s first fundraiser. The membership can be very proud of our initial effort. There is a little update that I would like to offer. The September issue reported that our combined events in the Pacific Northwest, Bay Area and Southern California raised over $65,000. There have been a few accounting updates since that edition. Our coastwise final total reached almost $100,000! That is an amazing figure and something for which our union can be very proud. Using the ILWU’s organizing abilities is a tremendous benefit for the charities, unifies our great union and gives the community a chance to better understand the ILWU and the labor movement. We are pleased to announce that additional locals have committed their participation next August 10, 2013.

Dan Imbagliazzo, Local 13
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Dear Editor,

Please accept our compliments and best regards to the Dispatcher. Enclosed is a $100 contribution that we hope you can put toward paying the postage so we can continue receiving copies of your newspaper.

Best regards,

Rusell Gow, Bill Highfield & Ray Harrison
Maritime Union of Australia, Sydney Branch, Retired

Send your letters to the editor to: The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-0800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

Protecting good jobs: ILWU Local 63-OCU clerical workers went on strike in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The strike involves big companies who have been outsourcing dozens of good-paying ILWU clerical jobs.
NEW PERSONNEL:
Local 7: James A. King; Local 8: Ted L. Kirkman; Sean Lichtenwelder; Newton Joiner; Eddie H. Weinman; Local 10: Jose H. Ramirez; Dennis R. Amundsen; Louis P. Pombo; Theodore Campbell Jr; Annie R. Fuller; Local 12: Ronald A. Shenton; Local 13: Marvin Hardley; Lute A. Padilla; Alexander J. Jones; Joann Piau; Ramona M. Gilindo; Arturo S. Baca; Billy V. Gardner; Mark M. Sample; Wayne L. Lararana; Eric R. Gallanty; Stephen Smith; Paul C. Roes; Ronald J. Armesto; Ronald J. Apodaca; Victor S. Jimenez; Charles E. Jones; Richard A. Penhall; Edward J. Corley; Local 14: Herman Zwald; Local 19: Rodney C. Bakker; Local 21: John F. Jacobson; Herbert W. Roberts; Local 23: Fred H. Myers; Local 25: Frank R. Claus; Local 26: Allen J. Franzen; Local 32: Alvin P. Gesser; Local 40: Randy E. Ross; Mark J. Deitl; Gregory W. Burr; Local 46: Charles A. Razo; Local 47: Frederick F. Ray; Local 52: James N. Peterson; Candace L. Holland; Local 63: Richard F. Martinikus; Yolanda B. Hanamaki; Linda B. Fuller; Robert Gonzalez; Rosemarie Nunez; Pete M. Munoz; Richard C. Vasselle; Jeffrey M. Powell; David J. Ailes; Peter J. Favaiaz; Local 91: Rosa M. Tyner; Local 92: Steven Popovich; Local 94: Raymond Perea; Ronald A. Markinkovich
DECEASED PERSONNEL:
Local 4: Lee W. Combs; Local 7: Joe R. Marshall; Local 8: Earl Landsborough; Robert Rice (Ruth); Edgar R. Burton; Local 10: Peter Maffei; Joe Fernandez (Elizabeth); Gregory Duarte Jr; Peter Bisell (Victoria); Leroy Wingo; Antonio De Santos (Jessie); Peter H. Brown; Local 13: Raul Heredia; Neil E. McBee; Local 19: Zackary Gallaher; Henry E. B. Cheng V. Shih; Local 21: Lewis H. Harris; Local 24: Louis R. Audette; Local 26: Charles R. Evans (Lorna); Local 27: Budd Myren; Local 29: Armgaard Minarets (Lorraine); Local 34: Cornelius L. Caiminers; James Santana (Jacklyn); Local 46: Ruben Zavala; Local 54: Stanley Jones; Ralph W. Costa (Helena); Local 63: Arthur M. Guerini; Francesco Thompson (Bobby); Albert L. Perisho (Myra); William A. Perry; Local 94: Andy T. Flamengo (Paulina); Jessica C. Curtis; Roy L. Howard (Frances);
DECEASED SURVIVORS:
Local 8: Ruth A. Pitman; Local 10: Alberta Pollock; Bertha Robinson; Margaret Brooks; Luc C. Pacheco; Diane L. Jensen; Doris J. McClarty; Maria Valdivia; Helen Bignonne; Lily A. Jorgberg; Local 12: Oma G. Mc; Donald; Local 13: Rena Cukrow; Doris J. Taylor; Azilda Scheid; Sharon Torres; Mary L. Ayers; Charlotte Lawrence; Diamantina M. Hernandez; Local 19: Mable L. Stone; Local 24: Lucine J. Windisch; Local 32: Della Lopisero; Local 52: Elaine Spalacy; Local 63: Jackie R. Hay; Edna R. Wingard; Local 94: Connie Pacheco; Local 98: Mary I. Ward.

Important information about the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan

**Effective January 1, 2013**: New California Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Blue Shield of California PPO Network to replace Cigna PPO Network (Great West Healthcare PPO Network)

**What changes will be made to the Coastwise Indemnity Plan PPO Provider Network?**

As of January 1, 2013, Blue Shield of California will be the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) for California members enrolled in the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan. The ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan will no longer use the Cigna PPO Network (formerly Great West Healthcare PPO Network) in California for dates of service after December 31, 2012.

**After this date, only Blue Shield network services providers will be reimbursable at the network rate (PPO rate).**

**Who is affected?**

- **Northern California** Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75, 91 and Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 46, 63, 94
  - Eligible Active longshoremen and their eligible dependents, and
  - Pre-Medicare eligible retirees and their dependents, and
  - Pre-Medicare Survivors and their dependents

**Why was the Blue Shield of California PPO Network selected?**

The Blue Shield of California PPO network is a broad comprehensive network of health care providers. Prior to this change made by the Joint Trustees, research was conducted to confirm the Blue Shield network has sufficient numbers of providers throughout California and includes the major California hospital systems most utilized by ILWU members.

The Blue Shield network includes more than 63,000 physicians, 351 hospitals and options at hundreds of skilled nursing facilities, ambulatory surgery centers, dialysis centers, urgent care facilities, mental health providers, x-ray, diagnostic laboratories and access to a national organ transplant network – Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants.

Additionally, the national BlueCard® PPO network will now be available to you when you need medical services outside of California.

**What remains the same?**

- **All Coastwise Indemnity Plan’s benefits and features remain unchanged** - as long as you use preferred providers; covered service remains at 100% of PPo rates.
- **If your current mental health provider is a participating member of Magellan Health Services, you may continue seeing your Magellan provider and your mental health service claim will be paid at the Magellan in-network rate (100% of the PPO rate).** There will be no changes to your mental health benefits.
- **Chiropractic benefits for non-Medicare participants will be paid at 100% if the services are performed by the California chiropractic PPO network Chiropractic Health Plan of CA (CHPC). There will be NO benefit if the Chiropractic services are performed by a non-CHPC provider. Chiropractic benefits will remain unchanged.**
- **Voluntary Hospital Utilization/Participating Case Management will continue through Innovative Care Management (ICM). ICM’s Toll Free Telephone Number (866) 275-1014**

**How do I find if my current provider(s) are in the Blue Shield network?**

To find a Blue Shield network provider in California:

- **Ask your current provider(s) if he/she is a Blue Shield PPO Provider, or**
- **Call the Blue Shield’s Toll Free Number: Prior to January 1, 2013 call (800) 219-0030**
  - Or on or after January 1, 2013 call (800) 955-7376, or
  - Go to www.blueshieldca.com/networkppo and click on the link for the type of provider you're searching for (e.g., a doctor or a facility); Once on the Find a Provider page, click on Advanced Search to further narrow your search, such as by name or specialty
  - Or enter your city and state or zip code, then click Find Next Now.
  - Or to view the website in Spanish, go to www.blueshieldca.com/networkpko and click En Español at the top of the webpage

To find a Blue Shield provider outside California:

- **Call Blue Shield’s Toll Free Number: Prior to January 1, 2013 call (800) 219-0030**
  - Or on or after January 1, 2013 call (800) 955-7376, or
  - Go to www.blueshieldca.com/networkpko and click on the link for finding a provider outside of California on the next screen, click BlueCard® Doctor and Hospital Finder
  - Enter the first three letters of the identification number on your Blue Shield ID card (if you don’t have your ID card, choose the Guest tab and then select BlueCard® PPO)

**Can I continue using my current provider(s) if they are not in the Blue Shield network?**

Yes, you may continue with your current non-preferred provider (Cigna PPO Network Provider) at the in-network benefit level for a limited time, but no later than March 31, 2013. Any claims for covered services incurred with any Non PPo Network Provider on or after April 1, 2013, will be paid at the Non-PPo benefit level.

**What do I need to do?**

- **Find out if your current provider(s) are in the Blue Shield network:** If YES, you do not need to do anything further (97% of current Cigna providers are in the Blue Shield Network);
- **If NO, Blue Shield network provider**
- **For appointments on or after January 1, 2013, confirm that your provider is in the Blue Shield network, at the time you make your appointment**

**What can I expect in the future?**

You will be mailed to your address of record a new identification (ID) card in mid-December 2012, which will include updated information – such as how to submit claims – for those enrolled in the plan and for providers who submit claims on their behalf. If you have any questions concerning the change to the Blue Shield network or any of your benefits in the ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan, please contact your Area Welfare Director at the number below, or call the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office at (415) 673-8500.

Sam Alvarado - Southern California (868) 833-5144; Joe Cabrera - Northern California (877) 885-2763

A copy of this memo can be downloaded at www.benefitsplan.org