



THE

DISPATCHER

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22nd IBU Convention report.
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Photo by Monica Almeida/The New York Times/Redux

Prop 32 defeated: ILWU members, pensioners and auxiliary members volunteered their efforts to get out the vote at a phone bank held at the Local 13 office. Southern California ILWU locals and the Southern California District Council mobilized big to help defeat the anti-union proposition which would have silenced the voices of workers.

Election victories for workers & unions

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 Lundgren, 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.

Northwest results

Successes also occurred in the Northwest, where anti-union candidates and ballot measures were generally defeated. One exception was Measure 1185 in Washington State, where anti-union forces won passage of their plan allowing corporate tax loopholes to be passed by a simple majority of the legislature, while requiring tax increases to face a difficult 2/3 vote. The good news in Washington was that Rob McKenna, anti-union candidate for Washington State Governor was defeated by Jay Inslee.

Union voters in Oregon had no "do or die" issues on their November ballot, but strongly backed Measure 85 that funded K-12 education and wisely rejected Measure 84 that

would have rolled back inheritance taxes for the state's wealthiest families. Like Washington, Oregon's legislature has a pro-union majority, and pro-union candidates increased their majority in the State House by 4 votes; the State Senate margin remained the same.

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 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

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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 us 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 to help ICTSI violate our Longshore contract in Portland. Kinder Morgan filed a 10K with the NLRB against Vancouver Local 4 for jurisdiction that was won in arbitration similar to the ICTSI case in Portland. I know many labor laws – especially Taft-Hartley – were written to help employers, but you'd think Obama's NLRB 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 the 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 being threatened with more government intervention.



So despite our disappointments, Romney's defeat and Obama's victory were both positive signs. But it seems like we may have reached a limit for the amount of support we will get from politicians.

Some good things happened in the November election, beginning with the excellent work by the Harbor-area locals in California, who took on the anti-union ballot measure called Proposition 32 and helped win that fight by organizing resources, getting members involved and encouraging people to vote on election day.

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 politicians 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. By Thursday the strike had expanded to most terminals at the Ports 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 hun-

dreds 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 with

the outsourcing. But the remaining 12 companies are refusing to sign an agreement that address 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 opera-

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DISPATCHER

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Local 18 members & ITF help hungry ship's crew in Sacramento

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 Papalios 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, Papalios 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 Papalios.

Local 18 members learned that crewmembers were desperately hungry. Further contact confirmed that the ship lacked sufficient food provisions. The predominantly Chinese-speaking crew said they hadn't been paid or received proper meals for many months. 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 Familathe, 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



International Solidarity: Jeff Engels, West Coast Coordinator for the ITF, delivers food stores to crew of the Sider Pink

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 40 delegates and a dozen special guests from tackling a host of challenges facing IBU members, including:

How to develop 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 Bostick, 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 Kornstien, 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 presence. We are all fighting for the same rights" said Stefan Muller-Dumbois.

"The sisters and brothers from Australia at our IBU Convention added an important perspective by helping members to 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 political process can impact their pay, working conditions and contract negotiations. For the past two years, WSF workers have been pounded by Mary Margaret Haugen, a 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 Democrats 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 and cope with management demands for concessions.

High-stakes gamble

When it came time for the IBU to make political endorsements in the November election, a majority of ferry workers wanted their union to go beyond simply withholding an endorsement for Haugen – by taking the politically risky step of endorsing her opponent, an anti-union, Republican named Barbara Bailey. The move was controversial within the IBU and ruffled feathers among other unions who worried that losing Haugen's seat could cause Democrats to lose control of the State Senate. On Election Day,



Thunder from down under: Paul Garrett, Assistant Secretary of the MUA's Sydney Branch attended the IBU convention on behalf of 2300 workers in Sydney. He detailed the assault on good maritime jobs and dockworkers by employers in Australia. From left to right: ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, IBU President Alan Coté, Paul Garrett and IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast.

those concerns seemed validated when Haugen, a 30-year incumbent in the State Legislature, was defeated. However other democrats won their Senate positions, allowing Democrats to retain control of the State Senate.

More leverage needed

President Coté emphasized that political decisions should be considered in terms of whether they provide workers with more leverage and power. "By now, all of us know that negotiating without leverage is a waste of time," he said, and "it's always been risky to depend on politicians for protection, and the trend today is for things to get even more difficult for unions."

Other campaign examples

Special international guests at the convention included members from Locals 400 and 500 in Canada, along with a delegation of seven guests from the Sydney Branch of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). The IBU & MUA renewed their sister port relationship and vowed to work jointly on a campaign to protect maritime jobs in the respective marine divisions.

International Vice President Ray Familathe urged delegates to consider recent struggles by IBU and ILWU members that may offer some useful lessons. He noted the recent settlement by workers at the Golden Gate Ferry District in San Francisco had been won after a lengthy struggle involving monthly mobilizations and two strikes that kept pressure on management. IBU Regional Director Marina Secchitano worked closely with most of the ferry system unions to coordinate their campaign actions together as a coalition of unions.

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 delegates how it took Rite Aid workers a grueling five-year fight to win their struggle for a union – and how they have to keep fighting every day in order to protect their victory. "That's

the 'new normal,'" said Familathe who explained how the ILWU's 'pin-point boycott' strategy for the Rite Aid organizing campaign focused on two stores in San Pedro that did \$2 million dollars-worth of prescription business with the ILWU. The boycott began on April 1 and helped leverage a settlement on May 1 – but the victory required support from Longshore, other ILWU locals and unions around the country to succeed. Familathe ended his remarks by reminding delegates that the survival of the IBU and ILWU will depend on reaching out to non-union workers. "We need to talk with workers who aren't in a union, and explain to them why you can't survive with 'at-will' employment," he said.

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 and unions. "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. Austin outlined the coming battle over Medicare and Social Security, noting that union members and pensioners will have to provide leadership in order to stop Obama and Congress from going along with plans to weaken Social Security and Medicare.

Caution urged

Former IBU President David Freiboth, who now heads the King County Labor Council in Seattle, began his remarks by honoring former IBU President Burrill Hatch, who passed away in August of 2011. "Burrill was a good mentor to me and very smart about how we use our power," said Freiboth, who was involved in several strikes by public ferry workers in the 1980's. "We struck then because the state legislature took away our collective bargaining rights, but Burrill and I understood that going out on strike should be a last resort." Freiboth expressed sympathy for workers who

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Election victories for workers & unions

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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 Blomquist 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.



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.



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 on-

line viewers across the country and around the world.

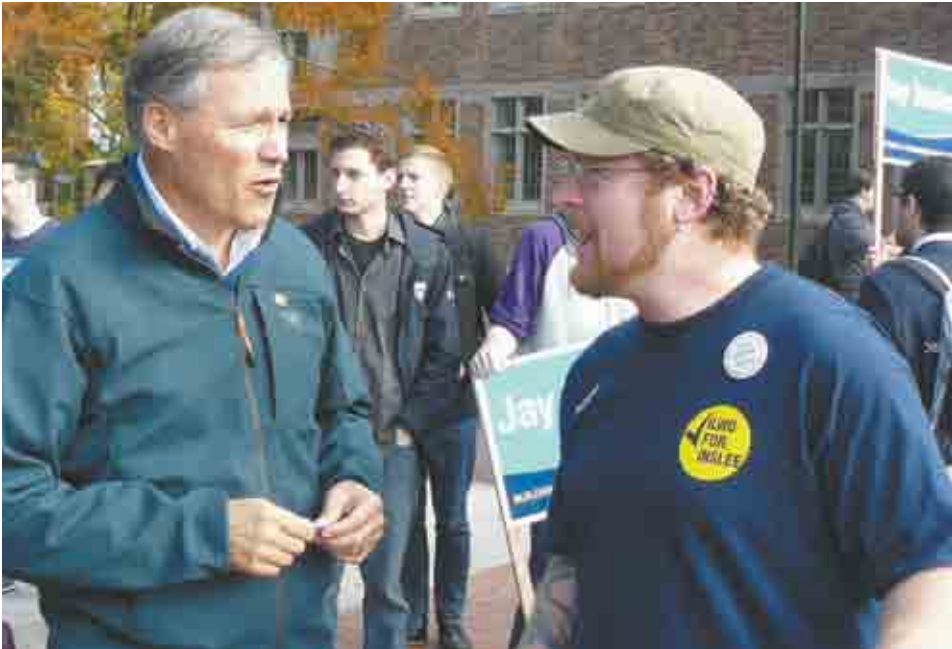
By election-night, the ILWU effort in the Harbor area had recruited dozens of volunteers who were able to reach thousands of members and union-household voters. Combined with work by other union members in the state, thousands of volunteers succeeded in contacting a winning margin of working-class voters.

"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.

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Human billboard: Leading up to November 6, ILWU members and community supporters formed a human billboard in San Pedro to get the word out about Prop 32.



Tight with the new Gov: Local 19 member Justin Hirsch coordinated the Puget Sound legislative program in 2012. Most of his time was spent educating members about where candidates stood on union concerns – and mobilizing volunteers for phone banks. The effort by volunteers helped Jay Inslee defeat anti-union candidate Rob McKenna by a narrow margin.



ILWU puts boots on the ground in Nevada: Eight ILWU members and pensioners spent a week and a half in the crucial swing state of Nevada helping to get out the union vote this election. The ILWU team included: Steven Wintermute (Local 19); Peter Hayes (Local 23); Philip Alexander (Local 4); Michael Jagielski (Local 23, Retired); Louis Hill (Local 94); Fred L. Marcus (Local 63); George Romero (Local 10, Retired); and Max Vekich (Local 52). Diane Romero and Marcee Stone-Vekich also volunteered their time to assist the campaign efforts in Nevada.



Key to victory: ILWU election volunteers stand with Maria Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. The phone banking, precinct walking and educational outreach by Southern California union members was the key to victory in defeating Prop. 32.

Election victories for workers & unions

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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 two 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 order 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 Jagielski, 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 Berkley lost by just over 1% to anti-union incumbent Dean Heller.

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



Victory in South Bay Assembly race: From left to right: Richard Hamming, SoCal District Council (SCDC); Al Muratsuchi, Assembly member-elect for the CA 66th District; and David Serrato, SCDC, at the Muratsuchi victory party

IBU convention in Seattle tackles tough problems

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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



Ship Scaler solidarity: Local 56 President Ilugardo Mendoza spoke at the IBU Convention about their organizing efforts aimed at non-union companies that provide haz-mat services in the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors. Local 56 members are also providing important support for other union struggles in the Harbor, including large turnout for IBU members at Millennium/Westoil who are fighting for a fair contract from the company's owners at Harley Marine.

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 Ilugardo Mendoza and Secretary-Treasurer Ruben Hurtado were introduced by IBU 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 turnout for IBU members at Millennium/Westoil who are fighting for a fair contract from the company's owners at Harley Marine. "We're here for the fight and we're here to help the IBU - it's time for all of us in the ILWU 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 docker 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 IBU, 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 referendum 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 necessity 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.

"Our 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."

Dockworker solidarity in New Zealand



Docker solidarity: From left to right: Ray Fife, Assistant General Secretary, MUNZ, Mark Gordienko, President, ILWU Canada, Carl Findlay, National Vice President MUNZ, ILWU Int'l Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, Garry Parsloe, National President, MUNZ, Joe Fleetwood, General Secretary, MUNZ, ILWU Int'l Vice President Ray Familathe, Int'l Vice President Wesley Furtado, ILWU Int'l President, Robert McEllrath.

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 climaxed 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 Familathe and Wesley Furtado, and

Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko attended to represent ILWU Canada.

- 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, CFMEU 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 be retiring 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 Boatman and ten years later, in 1991, he took on the position of Boatmaster.

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

"He has led with dignity, grace and a level of integrity that is second to none. The confidence instilled by the membership is proven by his 21 year track record," said Mandy Chan, 1st Vice President for Local 517. "Undoubtedly, Michael will be sorely missed around the office. He has been a vital leader that has kept this local relevant and engaged. We will miss his calm demeanor, his sense of humor, his leadership and most of all, his friendship."

Clerical workers strike in LA

continued from page 2

tions; these are powerful multi-national corporations who aren't respecting the local communities," said ILWU International Vice-President Ray Familathe, who added, "these guys can outsource a good-paying job to Taipei with the push of a button, and seem to care less how it impacts a family living in the Harbor area."

"It's not about wages and benefits, it's about outsourcing and the future of good jobs in America and our Harbor communities," said Fageaux. "We just reached the point where somebody had to stand-up and draw the line against outsourcing, because these companies will eventually take all the good jobs."

The ILWU-PMA Coast Labor Relations Committee, the body that establishes policy and administers the contract between the employer and union on the West Coast waterfront, agreed on November 28th that ILWU Local 63 Office Clerical Unit (OCU) picket lines at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach were bona fide. The agreement confirms that longshoremen in ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94 have the right to refuse to cross OCU pickets under the collective bargaining agree-

ment between the ILWU and the PMA. The Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor is impacted but remains open for commerce at greater than 25% capacity.

"I'm proud of the sacrifice that is being made by the men and women of Locals 13, 63 and 94 as they stand in solidarity with OCU and against the outsourcing of the good jobs that this community needs," said Vice President Familathe.

Joe Cortez, President of ILWU Local 13, said, "We support our sister local as its members work to reach a good contract that maintains local jobs with good working conditions, and family wages and benefits. We urge the employers to get back to the negotiating table and reach a good contract with the OCU."

Ray Ortiz, Jr., an ILWU Coast Committeeman who represents all 30 longshore local unions on the West Coast, said, "Longshoremen stand up when other workers need our help. Sure it's a sacrifice to give up a paycheck when you refuse to cross the picket, but it's in the long-term interest of the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor area to retain these good local jobs. By standing with OCU, we stand with the community."



Photo by Robin Doyno

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.

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,

Russel 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 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 7: James A. King; **Local 8:** Ted J. Kirkman; Ben R. Lichtenwald; Newton J. Strike; Harry E. Weisner; **Local 10:** Jose H. Ramirez; Dennis R. Amundsen; Louis P. Piombo; Theodore Campbell Jr; Annie R. Fuller; **Local 12:** Ronald A. Shelton; **Local 13:** Marvin Hardley; Lute A. Padilla; Alexander J. Jones; Joann Fleta; Ramona M. Galindo; Arturo S. Baca; Billy V. Gardner; Mark M. Sample; Wayne L. Laraneta; Eric R. Ballantyne; Edwin Smith; Paul C. Quinones; 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. Bakken; **Local 21:** John F. Jacobson; Herbert W. Roberts; **Local 23:** Fred H. Myers; **Local 25:** Frank R. Clow; **Local 26:** Allen J. Franzen; **Local 32:** Alvin P. Gessner; **Local 40:** Randy E. Ross; Mark J. Dreith; Gregory W. Burk; **Local 46:** Charles A. Razo; **Local 47:** Frederic F. Ray; **Local 52:** James N. Peterson; Candace L. Holland; **Local 63:** Richard F. Martinkus; Yolanda B. Hanamaikai; Brian L. Fuller; Robert Gonzales; Rosemarie Nunez; Pete M. Munoz; Richard C. Vasselle; Jeffrey H. Powell; David J. Ables; Peter J. Favazza; **Local 91:** Rosa M. Tyner; **Local 92:** Steven Popovich; **Local 94:** Raymond Perea; Ronald A. Marinkovich;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

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 Fernandes (Elizabeth); Charles Bishop; Gregory Duarte Jr; Peter Bissell (Victoria); Leroy Wingo; Antonio De Santos (Jessie); Peter H. Brown; **Local 13:** Raul Heredia; Neil E. Mc Cabe; **Local 19:** Zackary Galbraith; Henry E. Bolts; Cheng V. Shih; **Local 21:** Lewis B. Harris; **Local 24:** Louis R. Audette; **Local 26:** Charles R. Evans (Lorna); **Local 27:** Budd Myren; **Local 29:** Armando Miramontes (Lorraine); **Local 34:** Cornelius L. Casimere; James Santana (Jacklyn); **Local 46:** Ruben Zavala; **Local 54:** Stanley Jones; Ralph W. Costa (Helen); **Local 63:** Arthur M. Guerrero; Forestine Thompson (Bobby); Albert L. Perisho (Myrtle); William B. Piercy; **Local 94:** Andy T. Fiamengo (Pauline); Jesse C. Curtis; Roy L. Howard (Frances);

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Ruth A. Pitman; **Local 10:** Alberta Pollock; Bertha Robinson; Margaret Brooks; Luz C. Pacheco; Diane L. Jensen; Doris J. Mc Clarty; Maria Valdivia; Helen Bignone; Lily A. Joberg; **Local 12:** Oma Gene Mc Donald; **Local 13:** Renia Cukrov; Doris J. Taylor; Azilda Scheub; Sharon Torres; Mary L. Ayers; Charlotte Lawrence; Diamantina M. Hernandez; **Local 19:** Mable L. Stone; **Local 24:** Lucine J. Windisch; **Local 34:** Della Lopipero; **Local 52:** Elaine Spellacy; **Local 63:** Jackie R. Hay; Edna R. Wingard; **Local 94:** Connie Pacheco; **Local 98:** Mary I. Ward;

A Helping Hand...

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

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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 services rendered by Blue Shield network providers will be reimbursed 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**
 - o Eligible Active longshoremen and their eligible dependents, and
 - o Pre-Medicare eligible retirees and their dependents, and
 - o 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 that Blue Shield's network has sufficient numbers of providers throughout California and includes the major California hospital systems most utilized by ILWU members.

The Blue Shield of California PPO 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/Voluntary 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
 - o 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
 - o Enter your city and state or Zip code, then click Find Now.
 - o To view the website in Spanish, go to www.blueshieldca.com/networkppo and click En Español at the top of the webpage

To find a BlueCard® provider outside California:

- Call Blue Shield's Toll Free Number; Prior to January 1, 2013 call (800) 219-0030
 - o On or after January 1, 2013 call (800) 955-7376, or
- Go to www.blueshieldca.com/networkppo and click on the link for finding a provider outside of California
 - o On the next screen, click BlueCard® Doctor and Hospital Finder
 - o 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 of California network; If YES, you do not need to do anything further (97% of current Cigna providers are in the Blue Shield Network); If NO, find a 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 (866) 833-5144: Joe Cabrales – Northern California (877) 885-2793

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