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Portland ILWU members march against  
“Fast Track” and the TPP

ILWU members in Portland joined other union and community activists on March 9 to protest the latest “free trade” agreement, called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Corporate interests are trying to ram the deal through Congress using a process known as “Fast Track” – the same tactic used to streamline passage of the NAFTA with Mexico and subsequent deals with Colombia and Korea.

Fast Track farce
To pass the controversial “free trade” deal, corporate-friendly legislators are proposing the Fast Track maneuver that was originally created during the Nixon era to expand Presidential powers and weaken Congressional oversight of international agreements. While the U.S. Constitution gives Congress authority over trade legislation, and it makes sense to delegate some power to the President to negotiate new deals, it makes no sense to allow the President to do so in secret, without any accountability for meeting negotiating goals set by Congress. Under Fast Track, Congress must limit debate to just 90 days and then conduct a simple majority, “yes” or “no” vote without allowing any changes or amendments.

Corporate goodies
Like NAFTA, the TPP is being sold with claims that it will expand trade, create jobs and include “labor and environmental protections” in order to win votes from Congressional Democrats. But unions say these claims amount to little more than window dressing, and fail to address all of the corporate deals concealed inside the secret pact. These include generous patent and intellectual property protections that generally benefit the 1% at the expense of everyone else, especially the working class.

Keeping secrets
The actual TPP agreement is cloaked in secrecy. Even members of Congress who wish to view the text are required to read it in a secure room, are not allowed to take notes, and cannot bring a staffer with them. The secure room is filled with “experts” from the U.S. Trade Representative’s office – the agency responsible for negotiating and promoting the agreement.

Threat to U.S. laws
The TPP includes provisions for bypassing national sovereignty – allowing U.S. laws to be challenged by corporations who claim our laws amount to unfair trade barriers. This can be used to file claims against environmental protection laws, “Buy American” contract preferences, and public investment programs to promote new energy and transportation industries. Such claims would be reviewed by a three person binding arbitration panel. The ramification is that a multi-national corporation could sue for damages if they believe a U.S. law is cutting into their profit margin.

Money & politics
Corporations hoping to benefit from the TPP have been making campaign contributions to Congress in an effort to pass the bill. The TPP includes provisions for bypassing national sovereignty – allowing U.S. laws to be challenged by corporations who claim our laws amount to unfair trade barriers. This can be used to file claims against environmental protection laws, “Buy American” contract preferences, and public investment programs to promote new energy and transportation industries. Such claims would be reviewed by a three person binding arbitration panel. The ramification is that a multi-national corporation could sue for damages if they believe a U.S. law is cutting into their profit margin.
Dear Editor,

In the early 1960’s, brother Bill Kanui and other longshoremen transferred from Hilo, HI to Local 12 in North Bend, OR. Being an avid bowler, Bill soon started the ILWU bowling league at a local bowling center with about 12 teams.

In 1965 the league decided to host a regional invitational bowling tournament. Notices were sent to every ILWU local from Eureka, CA to Ladysmith, British Columbia. I believe there were 14 teams in the first tournament.

Since then, there has been a tournament every year in various ports. In the last few years, the tournament has been held only in Longview, WA and North Bend, OR due to a lack of interest.

We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the tournament on June 19th and 20th this year.

I am the only one left that I know of who bowled in the first tournament, and sadly, this will be my last one. I believe I have only missed 6 or 7 during the last 50 years.

If any member of the ILWU would be interested in joining us in this tournament, please contact me by email at PatC53@gmail.com.

Pat Richardson, President, Auxiliary 1
North Bend, OR

Dear Editor,

I had the pleasure and honor to work with Brother Frank Billeci during the time I served as Chairman of the Local 34 Delta Unit, the largest Clerk Unit on the Coast.

The numerous conversations Brother Billeci and I had regarding how we would protect our jurisdiction and jobs is a memory I will always cherish. When a problem in the Delta Unit surfaced and the Unit was gearing up to protect Harry’s Union, before any action was taken, I would call Brother Billeci for advice. There was no one better to listen to a problem, analyze what he was just told and set the strategy on how we should proceed. If the decision was made to go to war, Brother Billeci would always tell me before he hung up. “Greg, keep me out of arbitration.” I remember most of the time the Unit was able to do just that, but there were a few occasions we were not successful.

Brother Billeci would then take care of business.

Brothers and sisters, when Brother Billeci presented a Delta Unit dispute to the Area Arbitrator, he had the remarkable ability to present our case with such knowledge and skill it was a pleasure to observe. I can’t remember a time when Local 34 Delta Unit had an issue that Brother Billeci was not there to help us solve a problem. With his guidance, knowledge, and unwavering support along with the participation of Delta Unit members, we did not lose very often.

Brother Billeci was not only respected in our area, but because of his leadership and integrity, he had the respect of longshore workers and clerks up and down the Coast. I am proud to say, Frank and I became friends over the years and I will never forget him. I will never forget what he did for Local 34, Local 34 Delta Unit and Harry’s union.

In closing: May God Bless the Billeci family during these trying times and may God bless the greatest union on this planet, the ILWU.

Greg Delucchi, Local 34 (Ret.)

Marilyn Richards, Secretary, Auxiliary 1
North Bend, OR

The members of Auxiliary 1 asked that this letter be sent to you for publication in the Dispatcher.

Marilyn Richards, Secretary, Auxiliary 1
North Bend, OR

ATTENTION: LOCAL 10 MEMBERS

Based always on available assets, the Fund historically has awarded scholarships in a range from $1,000 to $2,500 for full-time students at four-year colleges or universities, and from $750 to $1,750 for full-time students at two-year colleges.

Trustees are Beth Ross, counsel for ILWU Local 10, David Ekkila, a retired member of Local 10 and a friend of Victor Smolin, and Eugene Vrana, retired Director of Educational Services and Liaison for ILWU.

If you have a son or daughter who is applying to enter college next fall, or is already a college student who is planning to continue, and the above requirements are met, you might want to apply for one of these scholarships.

To request an application, simply call Nicole Bridges at (415) 771-6400 or email her at nbbridges@tunecarder.com. She will then send you the application form with the necessary explanatory materials.

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Send your letters to the editor to: The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org
The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on January 27 to approve the proposed redevelopment of the historic building that served as the longshoremen’s hall during the 1934 waterfront strike. The building located at 110 The Embarcadero on the City’s waterfront will become the permanent headquarters of The Commonwealth Club of California. The 112-year old public affairs forum bought the building two years ago but the project has been delayed by a neighborhood group that opposed the project.

The building was the headquarters for the longshoremen during the City’s historic 1934 waterfront strike and was the site of pitched battles between workers, police and private security forces. Two workers, Nicholas Bordois and Howard Sperry, were shot and killed by police on Bloody Thursday—July 5th, 1934. Their bodies lay in the empty hall until their funeral. The deaths of Bordois and Sperry rallied public support for the strikers and eventually sparked a four-day general strike in San Francisco.

The building has been vacant for years. A previous development project, which was ultimately rejected by the Board of Supervisors, proposed tearing down the building entirely and replacing it with a high-rise condominium project. The ILWU passed a resolution at its convention in 2009 opposing that project.

The Commonwealth Club reached out to the ILWU from the outset of the new project and was very clear that the building’s history would be appropriately honored. The façade on Staeurt Street, where the longshoreman occupied the building, will be restored to its original 1934 appearance. The building’s history will also be commemorated with a plaque on the outside and a historical exhibit inside. The side of the building facing the Embarcadero, which no longer bears and resemblance to its 1930s character, will be replaced with a modern curtain-wall façade.

Local 10 member Felipe Riley, Bay Area pensioner John Fisher and ILWU historian Harvey Schwartz spoke in favor of the project because of the Commonwealth Club’s commitment to honoring the history of the ILWU and the important role the 1934 waterfront strike played in the City’s history.

The Commonwealth Club will be working with the ILWU to design the marker and exhibit detailing the building’s history that will be seen by thousands of people attending the Club’s events every year.

### IN MEMORIUM

Frank Billeci, former Local 34 President passes

**Former ILWU Local 34 President Frank Billeci died on February 1 at the age of 79.** Frank was a member of Local 34 for 42 years and served his local in several positions starting in 1969 when he was elected to the Local 34 Investigating Committee.

In 1973 he was elected to the Local 34 Labor Relations Committee and in 1973 was a delegate to the Longshore Caucus and Convention. He also served on the International Executive Board and the ILWU Container Freight Station Committee. In 1977, Frank was elected Vice President of Local 34 and after six months, he assumed the office of Local 34 President when Jimmy Herman was elected ILWU International President.

He served as Local 34 President until 1989 when he took a break from elected office to return to the docks and work on projects with the International. He was again elected Local 34 President in 1994 and served in that position until his retirement in 1999.

After retiring, Frank spent time with his wife and family. He enjoyed following his favorite teams, the San Francisco Giants and San Francisco 49ers, camping on the Sacramento River, fishing with his son and being a grandfather.

"Frank's dedication to his work and the ILWU family was unsurpassed," said Local 34 Secretary-Treasurer Allen Fung. "He never made himself the spotlight; instead he was always the one to give others the opportunity to shine. If there is one word that can be used to remember Frank, that word would be integrity."

He is survived by Joan, his wife of 44 years, his daughter Tina, his son, Roger, his sister, Rose, and four grandchildren: Peter, Nathan, Lauren and Caroline.
Recycling workers celebrate two years of success

Hundreds of Alameda County recycling workers filled the Local 6 union hall on March 1 to celebrate two years of hard work that yielded dramatic improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions—and opened the door to helping new workers organize and join the ILWU.

Like the historic “Alameda County Recycling Workers Convention” held in the same location two years ago, the room was filled again with family members, community supporters and political allies who came to celebrate the string of remarkable organizing victories by workers at the largest recycling operators in Alameda County.

Recycling worker Alejandra Leon co-chaired the event with fellow recycling worker Pedro Sanchez. Both did an excellent job and conducted most of the event in Spanish—the language preferred by a majority of recycling workers—but simultaneous professional translation services were offered with headphones to everyone attending.

Blessings

Monseignor Antonia Valdivia provided an inspirational blessing to begin the event. He started by recalling that his own father had been a long-time member of Local 6, and used to bring home copies of the ILWU’s Dispatcher newspaper, which little Antonio would read out loud for his father who was unable to read. Monsignor Valdivia concluded by speaking to all the children in the room, asking them to respect how hard their parents are working at difficult jobs in order to provide bread for their families.

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker added his welcome, thanking workers and special guess. He recounted the many accomplishments made during the past two years, explaining, “you’ve done so much good work to make life better for hundreds of workers employed in this industry—but many more recyclers are still suffering, and we’re now in a better position to help them.”

Superhero support

A surprise visit was paid by the superhero, “Recycle Woman,” who appeared at the event in brightly-colored tights and a cape, played by Jessica Robinson. After hearing the audience, she led the children into a back room where she shared games that taught “zero waste” recycling skills for the children to use at home and school.

Solidarity from Brazil & Colombia

Environmental organizer Christie Keith of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAA) brought a message of solidarity and support from recycling workers in Colombia, Brazil and other members of the Latin America Recyclers Network. She noted that all recycling workers share a common bond for the important environmental work that they perform—and the struggle for justice required to gain recognition and respect. GAA organizer Monica Wilson, who serves on the Campaign for Sustainable Recycling Steering Committee, also attended.

Legal action

Attorney Emily Maglio from the Leonard Carder law firm was recognized for helping ACI workers prevail in a class-action lawsuit that was recently settled for $1.1 million and will provide many workers with significant back-pay awards. Workers Ignacia Garcia, Maria Granados Flores and Griselda Mora were named on the lawsuit were recognized and thanked for their courage.

Political leadership

Alameda Mayor Trish Spencer was congratulated for hearing the concerns of recycling workers who have appeared before the City Council several times to provide updates and seek support for improvements at ACI, which provides recycling services for Alameda residents.

Recycler Ruben Ramos introduced Fremont City Councilmember Vinnie Bacon and thanked him for taking leadership to protect the environment and promote worker justice. Fremont was the first city in Alameda County to help workers work to make life better for hundreds of workers employed in this industry—but many more recyclers are still suffering, and we’re now in a better position to help them.”

Moving forward

ACI worker Jose Gomez explained how recyclers are overcoming fear to win dramatic pay and benefit improvements.

Praising progress

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams praised recycling workers for their courage and effort to build coalitions with community allies.

Local 6. He reported that co-workers are now negotiating an ILWU contract that meets the “Alameda County Recycling Worker Standard,” calling for “sorters” to earn $20.94 by 2019 along with affordable family health benefits.

Community support

“We couldn’t do all this by ourselves,” said Pedro Sanchez, who said the room was full of “compañeros” who supported the “causa” of improving conditions for recyclers. A group of special guests was then recognized and thanked—each receiving the gift of a commemorative framed poster signed by recycling workers.
Cientos de trabajadores del reciclaje del condado de Alameda llenaron el salón del Local 6 el 1 de marzo para celebrar dos años de trabajo arduo que llevó a una espectacular mejora en los salarios, beneficios y condiciones de trabajo – y abrir la puerta para ayudar a otros trabajadores a que se organicen y se unan a ILWU.

Al igual que la histórica Convención de Trabajadores del Reciclaje del Condado de Alameda realizada en el mismo sitio hace dos años, el salón se llenó de nuevo con familiares, simpatizantes de la comunidad y aliados políticos que llegaron a celebrar la serie de victorias extraordinarias de organización por los trabajadores de las compañías más grandes de reciclaje en el condado de Alameda.

Alejandra León, trabajadora del reciclaje dirigio el evento con otro compañero del reciclaje, Pedro Sánchez. Ambos hicieron un trabajo excelente y llevaron el evento principalmente en español – la lengua materna de la mayoría de los trabajadores del reciclaje – y además se ofreció el servicio profesional de traducción simultánea con auditórios a todos los que asistieron.

Bendiciones

Monsenor Antonio Valdivia pronunció una inspiradora bendición en la apertura del evento. Empezó por recordar que su propia padre había sido miembro del Local 6 por muchos años y acostumbraba llevar a casa el Dispatcher, periódico de ILWU que el pequeño Antonio le leía en voz alta a su padre puesto que no sabía leer. Monsenor Valdivia terminó por hablarle a los niños que se encontraban en el salón, pidiéndoles que respetaran a sus padres, ya que estos se esforzaban mucho por hacer un trabajo difícil con tal de alimentar a sus familias.

El Secretario Tesorero del Local 6, Fred Pecker también les dio la bienvenida bendiciendo a los trabajadores y a los invitados especiales. Mencionó todos los logros obtenidos durante los últimos dos años, explicando que todo el buen trabajo que habían hecho había mejorado la vida a cientos de trabajadores de este ramo – pero que todavía quedaban otros trabajadores del reciclaje que están sufriendo y ahora estamos en mejores condiciones de ayudarles.

Apoyo de la super heroína

La super heroína Mujer Recicladora (Ana Joaquin- Robinson) comparte con la audiencia una mano de izquierda, fundamentalmente, vespe de caña y manzanas coloridas. Después de saludar al público, se llevó a los niños a un salón por separado para enseñarles con juegos cómo reciclar y jugar en su casa y su escuela a fin de reducir la basura a cero.

Solidaridad con Brasil y Colombia

La organizadora medioambiental Christie Keith de la Alianza Mundial de Alternativas a los Incineradores (GAIA) transmitió un mensaje de solidaridad y apoyo de los trabajadores del reciclaje de Colombia, Brasil y otros miembros de la Red de Recicladores de América Latina. Ella afirmó que todos los trabajadores de recicladores comparten un lazo común debido al trabajo medioambiental importante que están realizando – y porque luchan por justicia que se requiere para que se les reconozca y respete. La organizadora de GAIA, Mónica Wilson, integrante del Comité Directivo de la Campaña por el Reciclaje Sostenible también asistió al evento.

Dirigentes de ILWU

El vice presidente internacional de ILWU (territorio continental) Ray Fami- lathle y Willie Adams, el secretario tesorero también estuvieron presente para expresar su apoyo y aliento. Familathle, que supervisaba las campañas de organización del sindicato, dijo que el sindicato internacional ha apoyado el proyecto de organización de recicla- dores por años porque ha sido una muy buena manera de ayudar a los tra- bajadores en colaboración con el Local 6. Prometió seguir dando el apoyo y animó a los recicladores a que continuara- ran organizándose.

Alejandra León agradeció a Willie Adams por asistir dos años atrás a la primera Convención de Recicladores; en ese entonces preguntó “Esta cam- pata que estamos emprendiendo no ganará con discursos – sólo se ganará con el apoyo de los aliados, colabora- dores y un fuerte compromiso.” León le agradeció por apoyar el proyecto y dijo que sus palabras de hace dos años eran “proféticas”. Adams respondió agradeciéndole a los trabajadores que le han apoyado en el centro de trabajo.

Trabajadores jugaron un papel clave

Parte principal del evento fueron los cuentos cortos que los tra- bajadores compartieron acerca de las luchas que libraron durante los últimos dos años con tal de mejorar sus salarios y beneficios.

“Hace dos años, venimos aquí para hacer un plan para mejorar nuestros empleos. Establecimos un meta de algunos – incluso algunos dirigien- tes de los sindicatos de Teamsters y Maquinistas – dijeron que no se podía cumplir porque era ‘exigir demasiado y demasiado pronto’. Josefa Solano de BLT en Fremont explicó cómo convirtieron en el primer grupo de trabajadores del reciclaje en ganar aumentos y beneficios conforme a la nueva norma.

Dimora Jordan, empleada de Waste Management, compartió cómo lucha la lucha larga y difícil pero que final- mente llevó al triunfo contra una de las compañías de recolección de basura más grandes del mundo.

Jose Gomez de ACI explicó cómo los trabajadores superaron los salarios mínimos, la falta de beneficios, la falta de sindicato y la falta de respeto para los empleados inmigrantes, ya que ahora están negociando un contrato con la ayuda de ILWU que cumple con la Norma de Trabajadores de Reciclaje del Condado de Alameda que requiere que los “sorters” ganen $20.94 para 2019, y además reciban seguro médico familiar asequible.

Líderes políticos

La alcaldesa Emily Maglio del bulle jurídico de Leonard Carder fue reconocida por la ayuda prestada a los trabajadores de ACI, para que ganaran su demanda colectiva, ya que recientemente se resolvió con el pago de $1.1 millones, lo cual proveerá a los tra- bajadores salarios atrasados significati- vos. A las trabajadoras Ignacia García, María Granados Flores y Griselda Mora que participaron en la demanda se les dio un reconocimiento especial y se les agradeció su valentía.

Líderes locales

Se le recordó homenaje a Ruth Abbe por su servicio en la campaña, incluso su trabajo en el Comité Directivo de la Campaña de Reciclaje Sostenible. Abbe también jugó el rol de líder en el Comité de Cere Casas de Sierra Club y la asesoría que brindó a los traba- jogadores fue sumamente valiosa. El Cen- tro de Salud Ambiental también ofreció apoyo medioambiental a la campaña. La organizadora de la comuni- dad, Brooke Anderson, afiliada a la red Movement Generation, corrió hacia el púlpito para recibir su premio por apoyar la campaña de los trabajadores del reciclaje. Ella ha organizado talleres de entrenamiento para los trabajadores acerca de la base económica del rango del reciclaje, y participa en el Comité Directivo de la Campaña de Reciclaje Sostenible. Apoyo comunitario adicio- nal fue ofrecido por la Alianza por la Economía Sostenible East Bay en Oak- land (EBASE).

La trabajadora del reciclaje, Mire- lla Sarquag, felicitó al personal del Programa de Salud Ocupacional de la Universidad de California (LOHP) por ofrecer excelentes sesiones de entre- namiento sobre la salud y seguridad industrial a cientos de trabajadores del reciclaje. Los empleados de LOHP, Suzanne Terán, Dinorah Barton-Anto- nio y Valeria Velásquez fueron reconoci- dos por su trabajo importante. La organización Worksafe! prestó apoyo adicional y defensa de la seguridad en el centro de trabajo.

Grupos religiosos

Para cerrar, se presentaron los últimos honores al Pastor Pablo Mora- taya de la Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispánia de Oakland. Como un aliado clave de la campaña en apoyo a los tra- bajadores, el pastor Mortaya patro- cinó el primer evento importante de enlace con la comunidad en noviem- bre de 2013, en el que los líderes políticos de Oakland prometieron su apoyo para mejorar las condiciones de los trabajadores del reciclaje. El también ha sido un firme defensor de los trabajadores inmigrantes de ACI.

Joséfa Solano, trabajadora del reciclaje de BLT, compartió las estrategias que se siguieron en la campaña para lograr el éxito y conseguir la norma salarial.
Small port workers win big in Anacortes

A small group of maintenance workers at the Port of Anacortes in Washington State won a big victory in early February when they finalized their long battle to secure an ILWU contract and join Local 25.

It began in January 2013 when a group of workers sat down together for the first time together at the ILWU Local 25 hall. As long-time Port employees and residents, workers had watched their workplace become ever more corporate, and untenable in terms of management style.

Executive Director Bob Hyde and Deputy Director Chris Johnson’s management team was issuing orders to employees while ignoring worker concerns, constructive criticism and suggestions. Management kept employee paychecks flat and standard—while executive salaries became bloated. Managers became increasingly incompe- tent when it came to securing the Port’s long-standing sources of industrial revenue.

With help from Local 25 Business Agent Tyler Ashbach and ILWU International Organizer Jon Brier, three maintenance department workers—Dave Bost, Mike Wray and Ole Knud- son—formed an organizing committee to begin the process of winning union recognition and a fair contract.

Because the Port workers were public employees at an agency with a long history of community support that was overseen by an elected Commission, it seemed like forming a union and bargaining a contract was likely to be relatively simple. The pro- cess required workers to file for an election with the Washington State Public Employee Relations Commis- sion (PERC), then sit down to work out contract details with managers. Instead, Port workers discovered that Hyde and Johnson were willing to violate workers’ rights and state laws repeatedly while wasting huge sums of taxpayer dollars in a clear effort to break the union. As soon as workers filed their PERC petition for a union election, Hyde sprang into action, illeg- ially forcing workers to remove ILWU buttons before the vote was held.

Despite the intimidation, Dave, Mike and Ole quickly filed charges with the state, and employees went on to win the election in the fall of 2013.

The five new Local 25 members formed a bargaining committee. They quickly received strong volunteer sup- port from Pacific Coast Pensioner Association President Rich Austin, Sr., who helped the group prepare contract proposals and sit down for the first time with management. Meanwhile, manager Hyde and Johnson retained a union-busting legal consultant to stall the bargaining process as officials ramped-up pressure to intimidate and wear down workers.

From late 2013 into spring 2014, managers brazenly flaunted state labor laws and aggressively targeted the new union. Management refused to bargain before changing health plans, refused light-duty work to a worker recov- ering from serious illness and elimi- nated parking options for maintenance employees. They even tried to prevent workers from testifying to state PERC investigators at a hearing concerning management law-breaking.

While weathering these attacks and filling charge after charge with PERC, the bargaining committee pushed hard on management to bargain fairly. Local 19 Labor Relations Committee Chair Rich Austin, Jr. volunteered critical assistance by offering to lead the negoti- ating effort, despite already carrying a heavy load of responsibilities at Local 19 and the region.

By the summer of 2014, it was clear that the fight for a contract could only be won by first building power on the job, in the streets and at the Port Com- mission. It was equally clear that sim- ply filing legal charges with the state labor commission would not be enough to compel the Port to act fairly. But when PERC ruled for union members by concluding that Hyde had broken the law when he ordered workers to remove ILWU buttons and union media releases, it boosted morale and added credibility for the workers’ campaign.

From July through October, Local 25 members joined with other union sisters and brothers, plus local area res- idents to pack the next six Port Com- mission meetings. At each meeting they flooded the public comment peri- ods, expressing outrage at Port manag- ers for violating state labor laws while urging the Commission to hold man- agement accountable.

Speakers at the Commission in- cluded members of Local 25’s longshore division, the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific, Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, Skagit Valley Labor Dem- ocrats, Carpenters Locals 70 and 75B, Fire Fighters Local 1537, Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, IBEW Local 191, Laborers Local 292, and SEIU Local 925. Letters of support for the maintenance workers were sent to the Commission from officials at ILWU Canada, United Steel Workers Local 12-591 and Washington State Repre- sentative Kristine Lytton. Farmworkers on strike at nearby Sakuma Brothers Farms helped mobilize turnout and sent letters to the Commissioners.

At the same time, community activ- ists organized picket lines in late sum- mer and early fall at the Port’s main break-bulk loading operation. ILWU Local 25 longshore members honored the lines both times, which delayed operations including the transfer of industrial coke. Maintenance workers joined these community supporters in highly visible leafleting and banner actions at some of the biggest annual Port events, passing out hundreds of leaflets and engaging community mem- bers to contact Commissioners.

In November, the coordinated pressure from members, unions, community groups, and residents—com- bined with the failure of Hyde and Johnson to secure a new industrial coke contract—forced Commission- ers to take decisive action. Hyde was forced to resign by the Commission on November 6 and Johnson’s position was eliminated a month later. Com- missioners announced a new interim Executive Director was being recruited. By the end of the year, Commissioners selected former Director John Hachey for the interim position, who Local 25 and other stakeholders viewed as repu- table, competent and fair, based on his past tenure.

In just under one month of bar- gaining with the new management team, Local 25 maintenance employ- ees reached a Tentative Agreement on January 22 with the Port. It included important job rights, including a “just cause” requirement for termination, progressive discipline, grievance and arbitration, and seniority for awarding promotions and shifts. Also included were strong safety and health pro-

New Zealand dockers unanimously ratify new contract

Members of the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) voted in mid- February to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement with the Port of Auckland, Limited (POAL).

MUNZ National President Garry Parsloe reported that union members had voted unanimously in favor of the agreement.

The new contract was reached after a bitter struggle between MUNZ and the POAL. The company proposed a “restructuring” plan in late 2011 that called for replacing union workers with casual employees.

By early March of 2012, POAL announced plans to fire 292 union dockworkers. Within days, thousands of union members and supporters were marching through the streets of Auckland, including members of the ILWU and Maritime Union of Aus- tralia in solidarity. Strong global solidarity, and support was also provided by the International Transport Workers Fed- eration (ITF).

“We pledged to have ILWU boots on the ground within 72-hours of the company’s threat to fire dockwork- ers, and longshore locals delivered,” said ILWU International President Bob McElrath, who requested the “emergency mobilization” to support MUNZ workers.

In addition to worker delega- tions that flew to New Zealand, ILWU members organized solidarity protests in front of New Zealand consulates and port offices in Los Angeles, Oak- land, Portland, Seattle and Washing- ton, D.C.

In December of 2012, the com- pany was fined $40,000 for hiring strikebreakers during the dispute.

“Solidarity makes a difference,” said McElrath, “and the MUNZ settle- ment is another good example.”

MUNZ National President Garry Parsloe described the agreement as a positive step for workers.
ILWU members continue holiday giving tradition

Despite the ongoing battle for a fair longshore contract, ILWU members, pensioners and auxiliary clubs organized generous toy drives and donated their time and money to local charity groups to help struggling families last holiday season. Several thousand families and down the coast had a happier Christmas last year because of the generosity of members and the spirit of solidarity and giving that is core value of the ILWU.

Southern California Children’s Christmas Party

The 2014 Southern California ILWU Children’s Christmas Party helped approximately 3,000 kids have a happy holiday season. The holiday events committee partners with local non-profits to identify families in the area who may be in need of some assistance. Volunteers began preparations in the early morning of December 16. ILWU volunteers fill the ILWU Memorial Hall with rows of toys and sports equipment. Children were allowed to pick a toy of their choice and were treated to cookies, punch, face painting and a visit from Santa.

“The important thing is to be consistent,” said Lisa Tonson, Local 13’s secretary-treasurer. “The most important part, however, is allowing the children to have one of their dreams come true.”

Local 34 also donated to Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army. The volunteers who helped to coordinate those efforts were Jacqueline Peralta, Kevin Gibbons and Allen Fung.

Local 91 Secretary-Treasurer Ed Capizano helped to organize a toy and fund drive for the victims of a wildfire that devastated the town of Weed, CA last fall. Capizano saw the destruction first-hand while on a motorcycle ride that took him through the town. He was moved to act after seeing the destruction that left many residents homeless and without shelter. Local 91 members raised thousands of dollars and purchased food, sundries and camping supplies to provide temporary shelter to those who lost their houses during the fire. They also raised money to help provide Christmas toys and clothing to children from 28 families.

Local 19 Christmas for Kids

Seattle’s Local 19 supported several charities that help children and youth in need including Harborview Medical Center, Teen Feed (University District), Holiday Magic and Tree House. The volunteer committee included Chairperson Tony Cappiello.

Tacoma toy drive

Because of the generosity of the Local 23 and Local 98 members, pensioners members the Tacoma holiday toy drive was a success and over 750 children had a great holiday season.

Members donated over $34,300 which was a new holiday fundraising record. The toy drive committee purchased toys, bikes and jackets for the kids at a local, union Fred Meyer store with discounts on top of the sales to make our donations go even further. Local 23 also has an annual holiday school gift-card program during the holidays covering 17 local school districts including 138 local elementary schools. A school counselor or a teacher at each school recommends a hard working student who is in need to receive a $200 gift card to a Fred Meyer store. A total of $32,000 worth of gift cards were donated for this program.

Local 23 members, pensioners and friends also volunteered on Christmas to help prepare and serve dinner to people in need at the Tacoma St. Leo’s Hospitality Kitchen. Local 23 donates over $12,000 throughout the year to this program and Local 23 volunteers serve food there monthly.

Oregon Labor of Love

Locals 8, 40, 92, and the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) all contributed through the Local 8 Credit Union to the Oregon Labor Council’s “Unions Labor of Love” which teamed up with Present from Partners for a holiday toy drive to benefit local children. ILWU members donated 90 bikes and many other toys and helped to coordinate the pickup and delivery of the toys to the program. Local 12 in North Bend, OR, with the help of Auxiliary 1, organized a toy drive in conjunction with the local Fire Department and a food drive to benefit Midland House.

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Helping hands: Local 23 members raised money and donated their time to St. Leo’s Hospitality Kitchen. They helped to feed the hungry on Christmas and throughout the year.

Auxiliary volunteers: The hard work Auxiliary 8 volunteers helped to make the Southern California party possible.

Local 23 also donated $3,000 to support a local backpack program, Team Backpacks-Forgotten Few. The program provides homeless teen students in the Tacoma Public High Schools with a backpack including special gifts for the students like socks, gloves, school supplies, personal items and gift cards.

Hall of toys: Memorial Hall in Wilmington was filled with rows of toys for the Children’s Holiday Party.
Small port workers win big in Anacortes

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tections including the right to refuse unsafe work, controls over subcon-tracting, average wage increases of 10-15 percent and affordable family health care benefits. In early February, Local 25 members voted unanimously to ratify the agreement.

Further vindication came when the union won a PECR charge against Port managers who denied light duty work to member Dave Bost, who is being compensated for lost wages.

The ultimate victory came on Feb-

uary 5, 2015 when Port maintenance workers and community allies attended the Commission meeting where the new contract was unanimously approved. Workers were flanked by sister and brother union members and commu-

Sustainable Economy (ERASE). Recycler Mirella Jauragui con-
gratulated staff from the University of California’s Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) for providing excel-

lent health and safety training sessions to hundreds of recycling workers. LOHP staffs Susan Taner, Dino-

rah Barton-Antonio and Valeria Velas-

guez were recognized for their impor-
tant work. Additional workplace safety advocacy and support has been pro-

vided by the Worksafe! organization. Faith community

The final honors were reserved for
Pastor Fabio Morataya of the Primera
Iglesia Prebisteriana Hispana en Oak-

dard against the Reverya Debor-

Lee de la Coalición Interreligiosa por los Derechos de Inmigrantes. Otros líderes religiosos que apoyaron

los trabajadores del reciclaje celebraron dos años de éxitos

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que fueron amenazados con la dis-

criminación y despidos. Otro apoyo importante para los trabajadores ACI por parte de la comunidad religiosa fue brindada por la Reverenda Debo-

rah Lee de la Coalición Interreligiosa por los Derechos de Inmigrantes. Otros líderes religiosos que apoyaron la campaña de los recicladores fueron el Reverendo Kun Kuhwald, Kristi Laughlin y Servant B.K. Woodson de la Alianza Religiosa por una Economía Etica (FAME).

El evento se cerró con música –
destacándose las voces inolvidables
de Pedro Sánchez y Gustavo Nuñez, destacándose las voces inolvidables
de Pedro Sánchez y Gustavo Nuñez, quien también tocó el teclado. Los

members of the family of Rosa Delia Pérez offered the services of the “DJ” and music adicional. Se ofreció una
cena estilo buffet para todos los invi-
tados y familiares.

It is probable that José Delgadillo, empleado de ACI, haya resumido los

sentimientos de muchos de los que se

colaboraron en el salón cuando dijo:

“Todos nosotros que trabajamos en ACI hemos visto todo lo que el Local 6 y el ILWU han hecho por ayudarnos. Ahora vemos que es posible tener una

mejor vida – no sólo para nosotros, sino para otros recicladores que pueden

trifalar si nosotros les ayudamos.”

Recycling workers celebrate two years of success

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in the Sierra Club’s Zero Waste Com-

mittee and has been providing workers with invaluable advice. Other environ-

mental support for the campaign has been offered by the Center for Environ-

mental Health.

Community organizer Brooke Anderson, affiliated with the Move-

ment Generation network, ran to the

podium to accept her award for sup-

porting the recycling worker cam-

paign. She has organized workshops to train workers about the economics of the recycling industry, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Cam-

paign for Sustainable Recycling. Other community support has been provided by Oakland’s East Bay Alliance for a

the afternoon event concluded with music – featuring the beautiful

voices of Pedro Sanchez and Gustavo Nuñez, who also played keyboard. Family members of Rosa Delia Perez provided the “DJ” service and more music. A buffet dinner was provided for all family members and guests.

Organizing continues

ACI worker Jose Delgadillo prob-
ably summed up the feelings of many in the room, when he said: “All of us who work at ACI have seen how much Local 6 and the ILWU have done to help us. We can now see that a better life is pos-

sible – not just for us, but for other recy-

lers who can win if we help them.”