



# THE DISPATCHER

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## THE INSIDE NEWS

LETTERS TO DISPATCHER	2
TRANSITIONS	2
International Election Notice	3
Coast Longshore Caucus meets	3
Policies Adopted by the 36th Convention	6
Candidate statements	12
ILWU BOOKS & VIDEO	20



Remembering LeRoy King [page 16](#)



**ILWU's leadership team:** Delegates at the ILWU's 36th International Convention held in Hawaii on June 8-12 adopted resolutions and nominated officers to lead the union for the next three years. The International Officers nominated were (L-R) Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, President Robert McEllrath and Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado. These four, plus candidates for the International Executive Board and Coast Committee-man positions, will stand for election this summer. Ballots will be mailed on July 27.

# 36th Convention delegates choose unity again

**D**elegates to the ILWU's 36th convention in Hawaii debated union policy and made plans for the future during five days of meetings that emphasized unity over differences.

### History & tradition

The group of 360 delegates joined together with 35 ILWU Pensioner and Auxiliary "fraternal" delegates, along with a host of invited guests. On the opening day, delegates met in the Sheraton Waikiki hotel in Honolulu, Oahu, where ceremonies began with ILWU International President Robert McEllrath inviting Local 142 President Donna Domingo to the podium, thanking her and the host committee for their two years of hard work preparing for the convention. Domingo explained that they wanted delegates to experience some of Hawaii's culture and tradi-

tions, then introduced artist Aaron Sala and Local 142 member Kumu Hula Keola Kapu. The pair offered a traditional Hawaiian blessing for the convention, with Sala recounting an island legend about service, commitment and community that inspired the blessing.

Dozens of musicians from Hawaii's Royal Band were on hand at the opening ceremony to play the national anthems of the United States, Canada and Panama. The Royal Band is a unique public treasure in Hawaii that was founded 175 years ago by King Kamehameha III, and performs 300 times a year.

### Political welcome

ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado introduced another special guest, Hawaii Governor David Ige. The Governor welcomed delegates, acknowledged the importance of labor unions, and concluded by recalling the summers

he spent working as a young man in a pineapple processing plant where the ILWU contract meant he and other workers were paid fairly.

### President's address

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath returned to the podium – after receiving a gracious introduction by International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams – to deliver a speech outlining his views on the critical issues facing ILWU members.

McEllrath began by thanking his wife and family members who were asked to stand and received a long round of applause, then acknowledged the contributions of his fellow officers: Vice Presidents Ray Familathe and Wesley Furtado, Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, and Coast Committeemen Ray Ortiz, Jr., and Leal Sundet.

He then invited delegates to view a short video featuring dramatic

*continued on page 5*

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# LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I'm a former Local 13 member who is now a pensioner. Each month I look forward to receiving my copy of the *Dispatcher*, and was deeply moved by the poem written by Luke Peterson of Local 23 that appeared in the April issue. That poem really got to me. It was a fine piece of work that captured what it means to be in the ILWU. I also want to say that we have the best health care benefits in the country, and I never take them for granted, or forget what it takes to protect them. The *Dispatcher* is my lifeline. Thanks for keeping me and others in touch.

**John Sneesby**  
Local 13 Pensioner

Dear Editor,

I just got my *Dispatcher* this morning and wanted to share some comments with other readers.

I'm a retired member of local 514 who's been a pensioner since May 1, 1985. First, I want to congratulate the membership and negotiating committee for getting a good longshore contract. I know it was a tough fight. Second, I'd like to thank the members of Local 10, 13, 34, 63 and 6 for marching against police brutality. These members deserve credit for trying to keep the police in line.


Sometimes I meet people who ask why I stay interested in union affairs. I point to the back of my car with a bumper sticker that says: "ILWU – Life member retired." I explain that the union gave me everything I have. Without the ILWU, I wouldn't have anything.

**Beverley Mills**  
Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

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



**ILWU Sculptor:** Local 19 pensioner and sculptor Ron Gustin created 15 bronze hook sculptures especially for the 36th ILWU convention which were given as gifts to the guest speakers. Ron also designed the "Bloody Thursday" plaque that is on display at Peck Park in San Pedro and was commissioned by the Southern California Pensioners group. A version of the plaque is also on permanent display at the Odyssey Maritime Museum at Pier 66 in Seattle.



**ILWU LOCAL 13, 63, 94, PENSIONERS & ILWU CREDIT UNION HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) provided its 13th annual Scholarship Program to local High Schools. This program awards up to three students from each participating high school with \$600 scholarships to help with school tuition costs. Each scholarship recipient wrote an essay on Harry Bridges, the founder of the ILWU, in which they recognized his integrity and the value of his struggle to help the working class. These students are real heroes who have shown they can persevere and continue with their studies. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the educators, ILWU members and staff whose efforts make this program a success.

*We congratulate all the recipients of the 2015 ILWU Scholarship Program*

**Bishop Montgomery High School**  
Natalie Aceves - Keilani Calinao - Michael Hagmaster  
**Cabrillo High School**  
Janaye Davis - Aaliyah Gates - Karen Marin  
**Carson High School**  
Aileen Martinez - Alice Orszco - Bryan Sierra  
**Lakewood High School**  
Matthew Calezas - Mia Miller - Aubrey Yuen  
**Long Beach Polytechnic High School**  
Keith Daniels, Jr. - Monique Lozano - Martool Macias  
**Mary Star of the Sea High School**  
Neil Green - Kristen Gonzalez-Valle - Stephanie Vasquez  
**Mayfair High School**  
Matthew Caudillo - Emily Frondarina - Chizozie Oduola  
**Millikan High School**  
Caitlin Green - Sierra Moreno - Camille Romero

**Nathaniel Narbonne High School**  
Cesar Mark Noyga - Ellen Tran - Benjamin Warr  
**Palos Verdes High School**  
Zander Bobek - Emily Pilato - Hannah Stapleton  
**Peninsula High School**  
Michael Jomich - Christopher Stefan - Bailey Witt  
**Phineas Banning High School**  
Guadalupe Almaraz - Vanessa Chavez - Lance Mondozza  
**Port of Los Angeles High School**  
Leah Becerra - Melissa Rodriguez - Eric Velazquez  
**San Pedro High School**  
Luis Lora - Amie Olonada - Yaqulin Sucup  
**Torrance High School**  
William Im - Ezekiel Hernandez - Maya Thompson  
**Woodrow Wilson High School**  
Marianne Aguilar - Alana Gans - Ester Mota

The ILWU continues its tradition of supporting young people in education, youth sports, events and non-profits in our local communities. A special THANK YOU to the community for their support during the negotiation process.

- Local 13 President, Bobby Olvera, Jr
- Local 63 President, Joe Gasperov
- Local 94 President, Danny Miranda
- ILWU Pensioner President, Greg Mitre
- ILWU Credit Union President, Ralph Ruiz Jr
- ILWU Scholarship Committee Members



## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Kevin G. Brunton; **Local 10:** Frank Koch; Edward E. Espinoza; **Local 13:** John M. Lopez; Ralph Gutierrez; Robert F. Almeida, Jr.; Michael P. Shanahan; Jack E. Keenan; Delfina Moreno; David B. Muniain; Dale Q. Lundberg; **Local 19:** Jason L. Nevilier; William C. Morrison; **Local 21:** Todd A. Froemke; **Local 34:** Randolph M. Reinhardt; **Local 63:** Dinko Ursic; Meri Ursic; Stacie T. Rokic; Rhonda P. Erving; **Local 91:** Jennifer Airhart (Daniel)

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 7:** James H. Regnier; **Local 8:** Laurence G. Bailey; John F. Reeves; **Local 10:** Homer Riley; James K. Davis; **Local 12:** Phillip W. Swearingen; Dale R. Colebank; **Local 13:** Edward T. Hightower; Ernest L. Wannagat; Carlos M. Ponce; Betty L. Wilson; Jay W. Rawson; **Local 19:** William H. Johnson; **Local 21:** Maynard Gnuschke; **Local 23:** Ralph M. Loudin; **Local 34:** Donald Watson (Jane Colman); Joseph Johnson;

**Local 40:** Edwin J. Gibbs; Donald I. Weiss; **Local 50:** David B. Hellberg; **Local 54:** Danny J. Caruso; **Local 63:** Arnfinn Hvitfeldtsen; Raymond Jones; Louis W. Sasso;

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 4:** Roxanna C. Blair; **Local 8:** Marie E. Noonan; Mildred P. Hopson; **Local 10:** Alda I. Pineda; Erma L. Key; Ernestine W. Brown; Martha Jackson; **Local 13:** Elodia Villanueva; Odella Sandoval;

Monica P. Esparza; **Local 21:** Ruth Mode; **Local 23:** Jennifer L. Burklund; **Local 27:** Diane M. Head; **Local 32:** Phyllis Meacham; **Local 46:** Maria Herrera; Dolores M. Zavala; **Local 52:** Hazel I. Bishop; **Local 54:** Concepcion Lopez; **Local 63:** Ida Brenden; Joyce Bradford; **Local 94:** Mildred I. Hagstrom; **Local 98:** Janis K. Kitzinger

## DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees  
Communications Director and Managing Editor  
Roy San Filippo  
Editor

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

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# Coast Longshore Caucus meets after convention

The Coast Longshore Division Caucus convened from June 15-June 19 in Honolulu, Hawaii, immediately following the ILWU's 36th International Convention. Eighty-nine Caucus delegates elected from Longshore, Clerk and Walking Boss locals were joined by 39 fraternal delegates and 24 pensioners. Together, the Caucus tackled several key issues, including a legislative assault against the ILWU by employers, anti-union Congress members and business groups.

The caucus also made plans to increase member education, strengthen the Fighting Fund to prepare for the 2019 longshore contract negotiations, and form a Coastwise Communications and Public Relations Committee. The Caucus also passed a resolution honoring Coast Committeeman, Ray Ortiz, Jr. who is retiring after 18 years of service as a Coast Committeeman, along with a resolution honoring Local 52 member Glen Anderson for chairing the Clerk's Technology Committee during the past 12 years.

## Moment of silence for Charleston tragedy

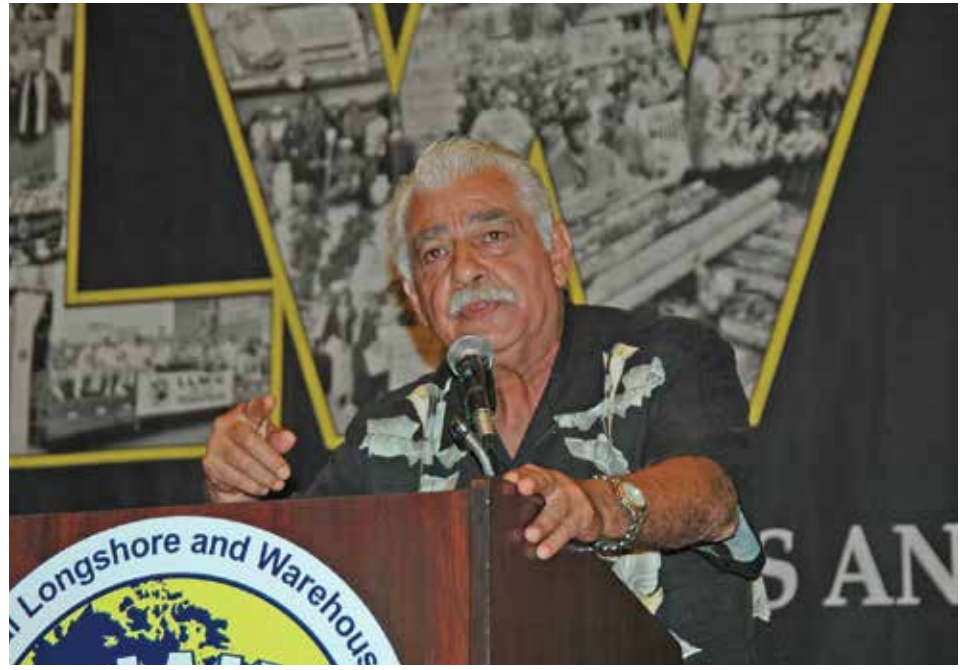
A moment of silence was held by the Caucus on June 18th to remember State Senator Clementa Pinckney, Rev. Sharonda Singleton, Myra Thompson, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lee Lance, Cynthia Hurd, Rev. Daniel L. Simmons Sr., Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, and Susie Jackson; the nine parishioners who were murdered on June 17th at the Emanuel African Methodist

Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina in a racially-motivated terrorist attack. International Longshoremen's Association member Tyrone Saunders lost his youngest son and aunt in the brutal act of terror.

## Legislative attacks

Employers and business groups are working with anti-union politicians in Washington to push new bills that would expand governmental powers to intervene in the collective bargaining process and weaken the ILWU during negotiations. Some of the proposed legislation in Washington includes:

- GAO Investigation: In April, Nebraska Republican Senator Debra Fischer asked the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to research the impact of what she called "labor-related slowdown at the West Coast Ports," referring to employer-caused congestion involving night-side lockouts, mismanagement of the chassis supply, insufficient training and certification, understaffing and firing of longshore crews. Fischer asked the GAO to complete the investigation within 18 months, and she appears to be setting the stage for a formal congressional investigation.
- Port performance monitoring: In May, South Dakotan John Thune, the Senate's third-ranking Republican, introduced legislation directing the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide congress with a report on the performance at key US ports. The bill would require the DOT to report before and after labor contracts expire, in order to determine whether labor negotiations had any impact on port productivity.



**Honoring Ray Ortiz, Jr:** The Longshore Division Caucus honored outgoing California Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. for his dedication and service to the ILWU. Ray is retiring after serving as Coast Committeeman for 18 years.

- Risch Amendment: Also in May, Idaho Republican Senator Jim Risch introduced an amendment to the "fast track" trade promotion authority that would remove a union as the sole employee representative, if that union was found to have directed a port slowdown. The Senate did not consider the Risch Amendment when the trade bill was approved because it wasn't "germane" or (related to the trade bill). However, it is likely that similar legislation will resurface in the future.
- PORTS Act: In June, Republican Senators Cory Gardner of Colorado and Lamar Alexander of Virginia introduced the PORTS Act which would empower the President to halt port labor slowdowns

as well as strikes, and allow state governors to initiate federal back-to-work injunctions whenever there was a slowdown or a strike at any port in the state. This drastic expansion of the Taft-Hartley provisions in the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) would give anti-union governors new powers to attack the ILWU in port labor disputes.

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath described the legislative proposals as being dangerous threats to all workers. "Port employers are coming after us but want to tie our hands behind our backs before they do. Defeating these attacks in Washington will be our number one legislative priority moving forward," said McEllrath who plans to lead an ILWU delega-

*continued on page 4*

## International Election Notice

**CANDIDATE  
STATEMENTS  
P 12**

*For posting at all ILWU union halls and offices from July 27, 2015 through Sept 10, 2015.*

An election by secret ballot of the ILWU membership is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and, for members of Longshore Division locals only, Coast Committeemen. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for voting in this election. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures, located at the back of the ILWU Constitution. No later than Monday, July 27, 2015 ballot packets will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List.

If for any reason you do not receive in the mail a ballot packet by Monday, Aug. 3, 2015 and if you believe you are an ILWU member who is eligible to vote in this election, you can obtain a ballot packet by personally calling Global Election Services, the outside agency assisting in this election, at the appropriate number below:

Mainland U.S. and Hawaii 1-800-864-1263  
Canada 888-840-7574  
Alaska 888-507-7273  
Panama 8365627 (Toll Free)

Since most ILWU members should receive their ballot packet from the mailing, telephone calls to Global Election Services will not be accepted until after August 2, 2015. A ballot packet can only be obtained from Global Election Services and not from the ILWU, the ILWU Election Procedures Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

Please also note that all voters must return their ballots by mail in the envelopes that come with the packet in time to be received at the designated post office box in San Francisco, Calif., no later than 9:00 am PST, Sept 10, 2015. Ballots mailed before but received after the September 10, 2015 deadline will not be counted under any circumstances.

To prevent ineligible persons from voting, please note that any individual who requests a ballot packet and who is not on the Voter Eligibility List will be sent a challenged ballot for voting. All challenged ballots will be subject to possible later investigation as to the voter's eligibility. Also, the ballot packets are electronically coded to prevent anyone from having more than one ballot counted. If a voter mails in more than one ballot, the ballot with the latest postmark or receipt stamp will be counted and the prior one(s) will be voided. However, where it is not possible to determine the latest postmark or receipt stamp, all ballots cast by the same voter will be voided.

Any ILWU member who has a question about the election may call the ILWU Election Procedures Committee at 1-415-775-0533 to leave a voice mail message. If you call before 9:00 am, after 5:00 pm or on weekends and holidays, please dial extension 150 during the answering machine message to be connected to the correct voicemail.

# Coast Longshore Caucus meets after convention

continued from page 3

tion to Washington at the end of June to meet with elected officials about the new anti-worker proposals.

## Honoring Ray Ortiz, Jr.

The caucus honored retiring Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. with a resolution acknowledging his 18 years of service to the union. The resolution was jointly introduced by delegates representing all Longshore, Clerk and Walking Boss locals.

Ortiz was first elected to the Coast Committee on 1997 where he has defended ILWU members and their benefits against employer attacks. Many speakers thanked Ortiz for his dedication and service to the ILWU. Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr. rose to thank Ortiz's family for allowing him to serve the ILWU, which involved time away from home for long stretches.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve this great union," said Ortiz to the Caucus, noting he was thankful that his family will still have great health care in his retirement because of the ILWU contract.

## Other Caucus action

A resolution was passed by the Caucus to honor the dedication of Local 52 member Glen Anderson who served as Chairman of the Clerk's

Technology Committee since 2003.

The caucus also passed a resolution raising the previous \$3 million limit on the Coast Longshore Division's Fighting Fund, in order to begin preparing for the 2019 Longshore contract negotiations. A resolution calling for the creation of a Coastwise Longshore Division Public Relations and Communications Committee was also passed. This committee will be comprised of one delegate from each big port and one small port delegate from each state (Washington, Oregon and California).

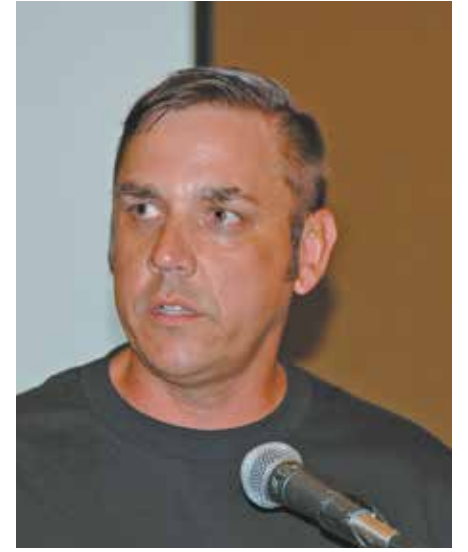
The caucus also addressed the issue of membership education and rank and file leadership development, passing a resolution to hold Leadership Education and Development institutes each year, except in contract years.

## Coast Committeemen nominations

The Caucus ended their week-long meeting by nominating candidates for two Coast Committee positions. Frank Ponce de Leon from Local 13 was the sole nominee for the California position. For the Pacific Northwest position, Cameron Williams of Local 19 and incumbent Leal Sundet of Local 8 were both nominated. The winner will be determined in an election held this summer.



Local 10 Sec-Treas Farless Daily



Local 21 President Jason Lundquist delivered the Grain Report at the Longshore Caucus.



**IDC solidarity:** General Coordinator Jordi Aragunde of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) attended the Coast Longshore Caucus meeting along with other international guests.



**"Thanks for the respect!"** ILWU members and concerned community allies gathered at Portland City Hall on May 12 to thank Mayor Charlie Hales for opposing a controversial propane export terminal at the Port of Portland. Hales initially supported the project despite opposition from the ILWU, residents and environmentalists. Working together, the groups continued to campaign against the dangerous project that promised few long-term jobs and would cause an increase in rail traffic that would choke off access for existing cargoes like grain and intermodal at the port. In the weeks leading up to the mayor's change of heart, his office received 3,200 calls opposing the project and only three in favor. ILWU Local 8 president Mike Stanton testified against the project in hearings, receiving heartfelt thanks from community members who appreciated the longshore support. The Canadian company backing the \$500 million project, Pembina, promised to continue fighting for the propane export terminal despite growing community opposition.

# 36th Convention delegates choose unity again

continued from page 1

highlights from ILWU struggles during the previous eight years. After the video, he noted that the union could not have endured so many challenges without strong support from rank-and-file members and dedicated local officers.

“If it’s true that fighting in these struggles makes us stronger, then we must be Hercules by now!” said McEllrath.

He recalled the frustration of dealing with other unions when ILWU members were locked-out by big grain companies in the Pacific Northwest. “It’s pretty hard to get a contract when other unions are walking through your picket lines,” he noted.

McEllrath said the decision to leave the AFL-CIO, initiated by delegates at the previous 2012 convention, was correct, but said ILWU locals should remain active with other unions in their communities.

“We are out of the AFL-CIO, but not out of the labor movement,” he reminded delegates.

## Anti-ILWU legislation

McEllrath then addressed the recently concluded longshore contract, noting that employers had fired many workers and curtailed operations during the conflict – then blamed workers for the resulting congestion.

The contract settlement doesn’t mean the struggle is over, he said, pointing to new legislation being introduced in Congress that aims to weaken longshore union bargaining power in future contracts.

McEllrath said the proposed legislation would re-write federal labor laws by requiring regular monitoring of production levels at West Coast ports – and give state governors new power to threaten union members with court injunctions in order to maintain production levels during a contract dispute.

“They’re coming after us, saying ‘you can’t stop work at the ports.’ They want to take away your power on the docks. This is one of the most draconian things that we’ve seen in the labor movement, and we’re going to fight it as long as we can.”

The way forward, said McEllrath, is both simple and challenging because

it requires unity and support from all union members: “We’ve all got to do our jobs, maintain our jurisdiction, fight the employers and outsmart them.”

## Committee work

After the President’s speech, convention delegates adjourned to begin working on a committee of their own choosing. Unlike many unions, the ILWU’s democratic tradition allows individual delegates to choose which committee they will serve on. The most popular committees were Resolutions and Constitution & Programs. Both committees heard a wide variety of proposals for new policies and procedures. In order to be considered for a vote by delegates on the convention floor, proposed resolutions were first required to win support from a majority of local union members or a majority of local union delegates attending the convention. Then each resolution was thoroughly explained, debated, amended and subject to an up or down vote in one of the committees before finally reaching the convention floor. This requirement meant some committee meetings went late into the night to consider all of the proposed resolutions. A total of 46 proposed resolutions were heard by the Committees and most – but not all – of the proposals went on to the convention floor for further consideration by delegates.

## International solidarity

Trade unionists from around the world attended the ILWU convention in Hawaii – part of the union’s long tradition of international solidarity – which included the following special guests:

**Chris Cain**, Secretary of the Western Branch, Maritime Union of Australia, explained how their union has experienced dynamic growth and involved young members into their leadership. Growing recently from 1,000 to 5,000 members, the Western Branch is being challenged by powerful employers, including Chevron. He noted the need to be politically involved and constantly organizing new members.

**Stephen Cotton**, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), a global network of 700 unions in 150 different countries. Cotton has served as an ITF staffer for 22 years and was recently elected to the top position.



**ILWU tapestry:** The Federated Auxiliaries sold raffle ticket for a quilt made of ILWU t-shirts from various ILWU locals. The quilt will be raffled on Bloody Thursday.



**Friendship renewed:** Kozo Matsumoto, President of Zenkowan, the All-Japan Dockworkers Union, signed a “Friendship and Solidarity Statement” between Zenkowan and the ILWU. The document was also signed by ILWU President Robert McEllrath and Vice President Wesley Furtado.

**Paddy Crumlin**, National Secretary for the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) also serves as President of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). In Australia, the MUA is facing an anti-union government that has been waging war against workers. Rogue operators, including ICTSI, are investing in Australian ports. In the country’s Northwest, giant corporations including Chevron are exploiting the country’s resources, threatening to undermine worker standards, and suing MUA members for over \$20 million dollars because of a safety dispute. Crumlin’s leadership at the ITF has helped to coordinate actions on behalf of 4 million workers around the globe.

**Joe Fleetwood**, General Secretary of the Maritime Union of New Zealand, recently helped the MUNZ membership conclude a bitter anti-union campaign in which the Ports of Auckland, Limited, sought to “casualize” dockworkers by turning good union jobs into junk jobs. The ILWU and other unions mobilized quickly for solidarity rallies and marches, but the dispute required a three-year battle before an agreement was reached.

**Marc Lorian**, Federal Secretary for the Ports of Belgium Transport Workers Union, known as the BTB, is a frequent participant in global solidarity efforts but their union faces challenges at home from anti-union politicians who have been pushing a big busi-

ness agenda to weaken unions, lower labor standards, and give more power to management. In 2013, BTB workers went on strike for 6 days after employers tried to conceal the hiring of non-union, low-wage workers who were secretly performing union warehouse work near the docks.

**Kozo Matsumoto**, President of Zenkowan, the All-Japan Dockworkers Union, leads a militant, democratic, and progressive union that recently engaged in a series of one-day port strikes and provided critical support for ILWU Pacific Beach Hotel workers to reach their first contract settlement. In a gesture that has become an important tradition, President Matsumoto brought a “Friendship and Solidarity Statement” from Zenkowan that was signed by him and ILWU President Robert McEllrath in front of delegates.

**Niek Stam**, General Secretary of the Dutch dockworkers union (FVN) led a successful 7-year battle to recover pension funds that were stolen from workers through an insurance swindle. With help from the ILWU and other unions, the FVN was able to eventually recover \$260 million that helped restore retirement plans for workers. Stam is also an expert about the impact of new technology on dockworkers because the ports in Holland employ some of the world’s most automated systems.



Local 142 President Donna Domingo and delegates from the Maui Division delegation start to take their seats before general session.

continued on page 18

# PROGRAM AND POLICIES Adopted by the 36th Convention

## Union Business

### STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CONVENTION LOCATIONS (CP-1) AS AMENDED BY MINORITY REPORT (CP-1A)

The Titled Officers recommend that Article XI, Section 1.A of the International Constitution be updated to reflect the current Convention schedule. The revised section will read:

**SECTION 1.** A Convention of the International shall be held every three (3) years beginning at 10 a.m. on the second Monday following Easter Sunday. However, the International Executive Board may authorize a different Convention location and starting date, which shall be no earlier than March 1st nor later than June 30th of the year in which the Convention is to be held.

Conventions will be held on the following rotational basis in a host city of each area enumerated, except when granted an exception by the International Executive Board as stated above:

1. Oregon/Columbia River Area 2018
2. Panama 2021
3. Northern California Area 2024
4. ILWU Canada 2027
5. Washington/Puget Sound/Alaska 2030
6. Southern California Area 2033
7. Hawaii Area 2036
8. Oregon/Columbia River Area 2039

### STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PER CAPITA (CP-2)

The Titled Officers and the International Executive Board recommend that the per capita to the International be increased by three percent (3%) effective January 1, 2017 (no increase in 2015 and 2016) which will be sufficient to fund the activities of the International Union in the 2015-2017 triennium. The budget for the International Union provides the continuation of the policies and programs of the International Union. Should new programs be adopted at this Convention additional sources of funding must be developed to fund those programs.

The per capita rates will increase according to the following table:

Per Capita Group	1/1/17 Increase
Base Rate less than \$16	\$0.22
Base Rate greater than \$16 and less then \$21	\$0.37
Base Rate greater than \$21	\$0.60
In an industry or division when average annual earnings exceed \$90,000	\$0.81

Therefore, Article X, Section 1.a of the International Constitution will be amended to read:

**SECTION 1a.** Per capita to the International by the locals shall be a single amount per member per month depending upon the hourly rate of pay of the member. Per capita payment shall be paid on all members and other workers under the local's jurisdiction who pay dues and/or fees to the local.

Effective January 1, 2017 per capita to the International by the locals shall be Seven Dollars and Forty-Six Cents (\$7.46) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is less than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) per hour; Twelve Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$12.86) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) but less than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00); Twenty Dollars and Forty-Four Cents (\$20.44) per member per month for those members whose rate of pay is equal to or greater than Twenty-One Dollars (\$21.00) per hour; and Twenty-Seven Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$27.90) per member per month for those members in a division or local where the average earnings exceed Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) per year.

### ARTICLE VI OFFICERS SECTION 2 (CP-3)

Amend ARTICLE VI. Officers, Section 2, third paragraph, third sentence as follows:

"Any local with more than 14,000 members shall be entitled to one ex-officio member of the Executive Board, who shall be determined by the local involved and whose replacement, if they cannot attend a meeting, shall be determined by the local involved.

**Reason:** The amendment clarifies that this member of the IEB is not determined through the regular nomination and election procedure. Also, ILWU Local 142 has determined that its President is the IEB member and has succession process, if the President is unable to attend a meeting.

### ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF OFFICERS SECTION 6 (CP-4)

Amend Article VI, Election of Officers, Section 6, third paragraph to add a new sentence after the third sentence:

"However this restriction shall not apply should an industrial grouping cease to exist."

The purpose of this new sentence is to not restrict the IEB in filling an IEB vacancy from Hawaii because an industrial grouping has ceased to exist between Conventions.

### ARTICLE VI SECTION 13 RENTAL REIMBURSEMENT (CP-5)

**RESOLVED:** Article VI, Section 13 shall be changed to read as follows, "Titled Officers who relocate to the San Francisco Bay Area or to Oahu, in the case of the Hawaii Vice President, shall receive a rental subsidy of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per month for rent reimbursement."

### EXTENDING MEMBERSHIP IN AUXILIARIES (CP-7)

**RESOLVED:** to amend Article XX, Section C of the International Constitution to read:

"ILWU Federated Auxiliaries shall include relatives of all workers (excluding casuals) associated with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, regardless of craft. No charter shall be issued to conflict with this section."

### STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CONSTITUTIONAL HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS (CP-9)

As a result of the creation of the Panama Canal Division, the first affiliate of that Division being the Panama Canal Pilots, the International Constitution needs to be amended to full reflect this new affiliation. Therefore the International Executive Board recommends that:

Article IV, Section 1 be amended to read:

"The geographic jurisdiction of the International shall extend to the United States, Canada, and Panama.

And Article IV, Section 3(b) be amended to read:

"To issue all charters to local unions except those in Canada and Panama.

### STATEMENT OF POLICY ON TITLED OFFICERS' SALARIES (CP-10)

The Titled Officers recommends that the Titled Officers continue to be compensated on the same basis as is presently provided for in the International Constitution, Article VI, Section 13. That section should be updated to reflect the May 1, 2015 salary levels as follows: (The proposed additions are underlined and the proposed deletions are lined out):

**SECTION 13.** The titled officers shall receive such salaries as may be provided for by action of the Convention.

The salary of the International President shall be One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars and Ninety-One Cents (\$125,688.91) per annum, and the salary of the other titled officers shall be One Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Fifty-Eight Dollars and Three Cents (\$122,058.03) per annum. Commencing May 1, 2016 and effective each May 1 thereafter, the annual wages of the titled officers shall be adjusted by a percentage equal to the average of the increase in percentage terms in the base rate of pay in the ILWU's three major industries—Longshore, Northern California Warehouse, and Local 142's major hotel agreements (Tourism) - during the previous calendar year. The titled officers shall have the authority to suspend or postpone any salary increase to which they are entitled pursuant to Article VI, Section 13 based on the financial situation of the International Union. Further, they shall have the authority to reinstate any or all suspended or postponed increases without retroactivity at any time between Conventions.

This recommendation updates the titled officers' salaries to their current rates as of May 1, 2015.

### STATEMENT OF POLICY ON OFFICERS AND STAFF PENSION PLAN (CP-11)

The ILWU Pension Plan for Officers and Staff employees is a multi-employer plan covering the officers and the administrative and field staff of the International, the officers and administrative staff of the Coast Pro Rata Committee, and the administrative staff of the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plan's Office, including the Welfare Area Directors and the ADRP Coordinators. These three employers each contribute to the Plan, an amount equal to about \$912,000 per year. The International Union's share of this total is about \$215,000 or 24%.

The participants of the Plan are presently accruing benefits at the rate of one hundred and eighty dollars (\$180) per month per year of service, the maximum benefit is \$6,600 per month (\$180 x 37 years); regular retirement age is 62; early retirement is available at age 55; surviving spouses of actives and those who retired on or after July 1, 2008 are entitled to seventy-five percent (75%) of the participant's benefit; surviving spouses of those who

retired prior to July 1, 2008 are entitled to approximately sixty-five percent (65%) of the participant's benefit. While the Plan is administered between Conventions by the International Executive Board, any changes in benefits are subject to Convention action.

It is the policy of the International Union to keep the benefits available under the Officers and Staff Pension Plan in line with those benefits available under the longshore industry pension plan. We, therefore, recommend the following changes to the Officers and Staff Pension Plan to bring it in line with the pension improvements recently negotiated in the longshore industry pension plan.

### Retiree Benefits

We recommend that the benefit for retirees under the Officers and Staff Pension Plan, except for those who retired from terminated-vested status, be increased, over five years, in accordance with Table 1. Note, this phase in schedule is identical to that provided under the recently negotiated longshore contract.

### Surviving Spouses

We recommend that the benefit for surviving spouses be increased in accordance with the schedule listed in Table 2. Again, this recommendation will maintain parity between retirees under the Officers and Staff Pension Plan and the retirees under the longshore industry pension plan.

### Accrual Rate

We recommend that the benefit accrual rate and the maximum monthly benefit under the Officers and Staff Pension Plan be increased from \$180 per month per year of service to \$200 per month per year of service in accordance with the schedule listed in Table 3. Again, this change brings the benefit for active participants in line with those benefits under the longshore industry pension plan.

These improvements will increase minimum required contributions, but they will not increase the actual contributions as the employers are currently contributing more than the minimum required contribution. These improvements will add approximately \$45,000 to the minimum required contribution and \$1,100,000 in liabilities when fully implemented in 2018. The premium the Plan pays to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation will increase by nearly \$25,000 when the benefits are fully implemented; the ILWU's share of which is \$6,000—the balance of the increase is paid by the Coast Longshore Division and the ILWU-PMA Benefits Plans office. This cost increase has been incorporated into the 2015-2017 budget.

**Table 1 Retiree Benefit Increases**

Retiree Group	New Benefit Effective					Total Increase
	07/01/14	07/01/15	07/01/16	07/01/17	07/01/18	
Retired before July 1, 1993	\$89	\$94	\$98	\$98	\$98	\$9
Retired after June 30, 1993 and prior to July 1, 1999	\$92	\$96	\$98	\$98	\$98	\$6
Retired after June 30, 1999 and prior to July 1, 2002	\$106	\$108	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$4
Retired after June 30, 2002 and prior to July 1, 2008	\$153	\$153	\$153	\$153	\$153	\$0
Retired after June 30, 2008 and prior to July 1, 2014	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$0
Retired after June 30, 2014	\$180	\$180	\$190	\$195	\$200	\$20

**Table 2 Surviving Spouse Benefits**

Surviving Spouse Group	New Benefit Effective					Total Increase
	07/01/14	07/01/15	07/01/16	07/01/17	07/01/18	
Retired before July 1, 1993	\$60.85	\$65.80	\$68.60	\$68.60	\$68.60	\$7.75
Retired after June 30, 1993 and prior to July 1, 1999	\$62.80	\$67.20	\$68.60	\$68.60	\$68.60	\$5.80
Retired after June 30, 1999 and prior to July 1, 2002	\$68.90	\$70.20	\$71.50	\$71.50	\$71.50	\$2.60
Retired after June 30, 2002 and prior to July 1, 2008	\$99.45	\$99.45	\$99.45	\$99.45	\$99.45	\$0.00
Retired after June 30, 2008 and prior to July 1, 2014	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$0.00
Retired after June 30, 2014	\$135.00	\$135.00	\$142.50	\$146.25	\$150.00	\$15.00

**Table 3 Active Benefits**

	New Benefit Effective					Total Increase
	07/01/14	07/01/15	07/01/16	01/07/00	07/01/18	
Monthly Accrual Rate	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$190.00	\$195.00	\$200.00	\$20.00
Maximum Monthly Benefit (based on 37 years)	\$6,660.00	\$6,660.00	\$7,030.00	\$7,215.00	\$7,400.00	\$740.00

## Organizing

### OAKLAND ARMY BASE ORGANIZING (CP-13)

RESOLVED: that the ILWU commit to an organizing campaign to organize Oakland Global in the Port of Oakland.

### ORGANIZING MARINE LOGISTICS WORKERS (CP-14)

RESOLVED: that a Multi-Divisional Organizing Committee (MDOC) be created by the International Organizing Department to work in conjunction with the International Organizing Program for the organization of marine logistics workers.

### ORGANIZING NEEDS MORE BOOTS ON THE GROUND (CP-15)

RESOLVED: the National Organizing Committee, in addition to external and internal organizing efforts, whenever and wherever possible, also provide support to community organizing efforts that are in harmony with ILWU principles and politics; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: the National Organizing Committee reach out and work with all locals within the geographical areas to develop a three pronged approach (internal, external and community) that makes strategic sense for their areas and will accomplish the goal of building the ILWU; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: the National Organizing Committee work in conjunction in each area to consider increasing the number of on the ground organizing department staff to support the organizing goals identified by each area.

### SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED (R-18)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union calls on ILWU members to support the organizing program by identifying potential targets and talking to potential new members about the benefits of ILWU rank and file unionism.

## Tending our Traditions

### PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE ILWU HISTORY (R-1)

RESOLVED: the 2015 ILWU International Convention salutes the successful partnership between the ILWU and the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco and hereby endorses the development of ILWU partnerships with community and campus organizations and businesses to promote and commemorate the events and principles of ILWU history.

### HONORING THE WORK OF BROTHER LEROY KING (R-21)

WHEREAS: Brother LeRoy King is unable to attend the ILWU 36th International Convention; and

WHEREAS: Brother King has participated in every ILWU Convention prior to our current gathering; and

WHEREAS: his voice and presence have always expressed the unity and optimism of the ILWU; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: ILWU 36th Convention carry on the positive, progressive ILWU program Brother King embodies and wishes for his ILWU family.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DON WATSON (R-23)

WHEREAS: Brother Don Watson passed away earlier this year; and

WHEREAS: Brother Watson served the Union selflessly for 60 years with great dedication and distinction; and

WHEREAS: he was the Secretary of the Local 34 members' Executive committee for 19 of the 24 years he served on this committee; and

WHEREAS: Don served on the Northern California District Council for over 40 years, before and after he retired from the waterfront in 1997, working as the legislative representative for the council. He coordinated ILWU Northern and Southern California joint legislative conferences, state candidate interviews, lobby days in Sacramento, and helped ILWU Locals navigate the legislature.

WHEREAS: Don fought McCarthyism on behalf of seamen who unfairly lost their jobs because they were "screened" and discriminated against in the 1950's for their political views; and

WHEREAS: Brother Watson worked tirelessly with the United Farmworkers Union in the 60's and the 70's, helping to organize workers, babysitting Delores Huerta's children so she could organize farmworkers, and more. He marched in 1966 with Cesar Chavez, Delores Huerta, Bobby Kennedy and many more on a 300-mile pilgrimage from Delano to the California state capitol, and played a great role in preventing grapes from being offloaded at ports around the world during the grape boycott; and

WHEREAS: Brother Watson served the labor movement for many years as an active member of the Southwest Labor and History Association, and as cofounder of the Bay Area Labor History Workshop. He was secretary of the Copra Crane Labor Landmark Association which is working to preserve a historic crane on the San Francisco waterfront as a labor monument to all workers; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that this 36th Convention honor Don Watson's lifetime of selfless dedication to workers, their struggles and their history.

#### REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS AND WATERING NEW ONES (R-26)

RESOLVED: that the delegates to the 36th ILWU Convention take personal responsibility to go back to our locals and seek out young members to mentor, teach and empower, so as to pass the torch of our shared legacies to a new generation of ILWU members.

#### #OUTREACH (R-29)

RESOLVED: that the ILWU place a high priority on drastically increasing the ILWU's official online presence, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the ILWU ensure there is an official online presence on social media sites of cultural significance; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the ILWU create and publish regular and frequent content (the more the better!) for social media sites on which it has a presence.

## Helping our Brothers and Sisters

#### AFFIRMING SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR LOCAL 20'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH RIO TINTO (R-2)

RESOLVED: that Local 20 members and leaders will take the necessary and appropriate steps, beginning now, to prepare a contract campaign plan; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that Local 20 can count on the support and solidarity from ILWU Locals and the International Union.

#### SUPPORT THE PANAMA CANAL PILOTS UNION IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH A FAIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY (R-3)

RESOLVED: that the International Longshore & Warehouse Union will continue to support the Panama Canal Pilots' Union in their effort to reach a collective bargaining agreement with the Panama Canal Authority that provides for fair wages and benefits for their members.

#### RURAL HOSPITAL ACCESS ACT OF 2015 (R-5)

RESOLVED: that the International Union support this legislation and encourage all members, affiliates, pension clubs and auxiliaries to contact their representatives in Washington DC to also support this legislation.

#### SUPPORT FOR LOCAL 30 (R-6)

RESOLVED: that we, the rank and file of Local 30, petition the ILWU for the following: The International provides support in all forms necessary, be it international representation, and legal as well as research assistance in our upcoming 2016 contract negotiations.

#### SUPPORTING LOCAL 200, UNIT 2201 BARGAINING WITH BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL (R-7)

RESOLVED: that the ILWU will support Local 200, Unit 2201 should the tentative agreement be reopened.

#### SUPPORT OF HC&S AND ITS WORKERS (R-9)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union strongly supports continued sugarcane production and Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company—the last sugar plantation in Hawaii—and the good union jobs that it provides for our brothers and sisters.

#### SUPPORT THE US SUGAR PROGRAM (R-10)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union calls upon all Locals to urge their congressional delegations to support an increase in price supports and amend the North American Free Trade Agreement to again be able to limit sugar imports to prevent unfair dumping by Mexico.

#### SUPPORT HAWAII'S ILWU PINEAPPLE WORKERS (R-12)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, urges family, friends, and ILWU members to buy fresh pineapples under the Maui Gold® and Dole Foods "yellow colored" labels at the supermarkets and fresh food stores.

#### SUPPORT ILWU HOTEL WORKERS (R-14)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union salutes the hotel members, their units and unit officers in improving the lives of thousands of hotel members and to stand in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in these hotels; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union encourages family, friends and ILWU members on their post-convention stay or future visits to Hawaii to check the ILWU Local 142 Hotel Guide online and patronize the hotels where your brothers and sisters work.

#### CELEBRATING PACIFIC BEACH HOTEL WORKERS' UNION SOLIDARITY AND CONTRACT VICTORY (R-16)

RESOLVED: that this Convention urges Pacific Beach Hotel workers to remain dedicated members of the ILWU, and wishes them success in building their unit into a strong and active part of the union for many years to come.

#### SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE WORKERS (R-17)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union strongly supports our brothers and sisters in the agriculture and related industries by urging delegates and their families, to bring a little bit of Hawaii home, by buying ILWU union grown products.

#### IN SUPPORT OF 2017 NORTHERN CA WAREHOUSE NEGOTIATIONS (R-22)

RESOLVED: the ILWU support efforts to achieve security in the pension negotiated as part of the Northern CA Warehouse Master Contract, and to advocate for legislation and regulation that provides secure retirements for all.

#### SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATING CONTRACTS IN ALASKA (R-27)

RESOLVED: the ILWU supports the honoring of contracts negotiated by the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature's funding of those contracts to preserve basic integrity and good faith in the contract bargaining process.

#### SUPPORT SINTRAPORSPA, THE AFFILIATED DOCKWORKERS OF THE ILWU IN THE MAIN TERMINAL PORTS OF BALBOA AND CRISTOBAL IN PANAMA (R-28)

RESOLVED: that the ILWU supports Sintraporspa in their fight against Panama Ports Co. in the outsourcing and potential bidding to any company to perform their traditional and contractually agreed upon work.

## Solidarity at Home and Abroad

#### SUPPORT FAMILIAS UNIDAS POR LA JUSTICIA (FAMILIES UNITED FOR JUSTICE) FARMWORKER DEMANDS AT SAKUMA BROTHERS FARMS (R-8)

RESOLVED: that the ILWU calls upon other labor organizations, and legislators and congressional delegations to support a boycott of Sakuma Brothers Farms, Haagen-Dazs, and Driscoll's Berries until the demands of Familias Unidas Por La Justicia are met.

#### COMBATING THE 'RIGHT-TO-WORK' MOVEMENT (R-11)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union calls upon all locals to implement an aggressive program to register all members and family members who are eligible to vote and to get them out to the polling places for the 2016 elections; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the ILWU and its Locals will work with our labor and community allies to oppose candidates who support anti-labor legislation, such as so-called "right-to-work" legislation; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the 36th International Longshore and Warehouse Convention calls upon all members to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund.

#### OPPOSING THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (T-PP) TRADE AGREEMENT (R-13)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union reaffirm the Union's opposition of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the ILWU calls on its members, their families, and our friends and allies to contact our Senators and Representatives to oppose T-PP.

#### SUPPORT OF THE JONES ACT (R-15)

RESOLVED: that the 36th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union continues to strongly support the Jones Act; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the ILWU, its Locals and members will continue to oppose any anti-Jones Act legislation that may be proposed.

#### SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID (R-19)

RESOLVED: by the ILWU, that the Union urges the President and the Congress of the United States to exclude Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from being part of any legislation to reduce the federal deficit; and BE IT

RESOLVED: that the ILWU goes on record as opposing cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and calls for representatives in Washington to vote against such; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the ILWU opposes cuts not only to Social Security retirement and survivors benefits, but also to Social Security disability benefits; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the ILWU goes on record as supporting Social Security revenue and benefit increases, and calls for representatives in Washington to give considerations to improving these systems in ways that will expand their protections.

#### RECOGNIZING JOE HILL R-20

RESOLVED: that this ILWU Convention go on the record to support the 100-year dedication of Joe Hill's monument in San Pedro, CA.

#### ALLOW THE ENTIRE ILWU TO UNITE AND DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR OTHERS (R-24)

RESOLVED: the 2015 Convention will invite all Divisions of the ILWU that so choose to join with the Longshore Division and allow interested locals to work as one ILWU Walk the Coast and join the effort to help those in need.



PROTECT AND PRESERVE UNION PENSION PLANS (R-25)

RESOLVED: that we join with existing like-minded unions, pensioners and other grassroots movements to make a difference in all U.S. geographical areas; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that we demand the elimination of the PPA; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that we demand the MRPA, written in secret behind closed doors, be repealed; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that this ILWU Convention go on the record opposing the MRPA, because we shall not be divided and because an injury to one is an injury to all.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR MEDICARE'S 50TH BIRTHDAY (R-30)

RESOLVED: the 36th International Longshore & Warehouse Union Convention as part of the national campaign, will educate and mobilize the membership for the national Day of Action 7/30/15, and work to protect, improve, and expand Medicare so that Medicare for all (Single payer) creates true, universal healthcare for all Americans.

CHINA'S DE FACTO CONTROL OF TERRITORIAL WATERS (R-31)

RESOLVED: that the International Longshore and Warehouse Union go on record to condemn the actions of the Chinese government through political channels in Washington and with Chinese trade unionists about the need for free trade through open and safe waterways and to inform the Administration of our Union's unwavering support to keep the Chinese government from staking claim in International waters; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that the ILWU extend our concern and support to the Philippine, Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Taiwan governments through the international tribunal of Southeast Asian countries and to further the workers' cause through the ITF for safeguarding workers' rights and safe passage on routes through the South China Sea for the purpose of international trade.

# Hawaii Longshore Unit unanimously approve new 5-year contract

**H**ONOLULU – Unit 4201 Longshore workers on Oahu voted unanimously to ratify a tentative contract agreement reached on April 2, 2015.

Members at neighbor island ports began voting on the agreement earlier in the week of May 18-22, 2015. With the Oahu vote, members of the Hawaii Longshore Division (HLSL) unanimously approved the new 5-year agreement that will expire on July 1, 2019.

Longshore employers will continue to provide fully paid medical and dental benefits for active workers and retirees. The agreement increases

wages by \$6.50 an hour over the life of the contract. Wage differentials for skilled classifications with increase by an additional \$2.00 per hour effective July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016.

Significant improvements were made in pension benefits to future and past retirees. Also the unreduced surviving spouses benefit increased from 50% to 70% for retirees prior to June 30, 1999 and 50% to 65% for retirees from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2008.

Members that retired after July 1, 2008 and into the future will see the unreduced surviving spouses benefits increase from 60% to 75%.

Other gains included strong language incorporated into the contract

which addresses current practices, job safety protections, and regaining and maintaining job jurisdiction.

Overall HLSL Chairman Elgin Calles credited the hard-working negotiating committee, the Longshore Executive Board and more importantly the solidarity of the workers on the docks in achieving the settlement.

Members of the negotiating committee were: International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado, Longshore Division Director Nate Lum, Overall HLSL Chairman Elgin Calles, Overall HLSL Vice-Chairman Dustin Dawson, HLSL Vice-Director William Haole IV, HLSL Secretary/Treasurer Drake Delaforce, Unit 1201 Big

Island Stevedores Chairperson (HSI) Ronald Auwae Sr., Unit 3201 Nawiliwili Stevedores Chairman Nelson Rita, Unit 2201 Kahului Stevedores Chairman Samuel Kaaihue, Unit 4201 HSI Vice-Chairman Christian West, Unit 4201 McCabe, Hamilton & Renny Vice-Chairman Curt Kalama, Business Agent Dennis Morton and Business Agent Tyrone Tahara

Tentative agreements have been reached with the Wharf Clerks, CY/CFS and Maintenance units.

Negotiations are still ongoing with Matson Clericals, Bulk Sugar and Young Brothers.



**Hawaii Longshore Division Negotiating Committee:** *Sitting (l-r): Secretary/Treasurer Drake Delaforce, Division Director Nate Lum, Overall HLSL Chairman Elgin Calles, Overall HLSL Vice-Chairman Dustin Dawson, International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado, Business Agent Dennis Morton, Unit 1201 Big Island Stevedores Chairperson (HSI) Ronald Auwae Sr., Unit 3201 Nawiliwili Stevedores Chairman Nelson Rita, Unit 2201 Kahului Stevedores Chairman Samuel Kaaihue, Unit 4201 HSI Vice-Chairman Christian West, McCabe, Hamilton & Renny Vice-Chairman Curt Kalama, HLSL Executive Secretary Lynette Mau, HLSL Vice-Director William Haole IV, and Business Agent Tyrone Tahara.*



*Horizon Lines (HIS) Josue Orpilla asking for a point of clarification during the presentation of the Memorandum of Agreement.*



*Members of the Hawaii Longshore unit raise their hands to approve a Memorandum of Agreement that maintains excellent health benefits and job safety protections, and increases pension benefits for past and future retirees.*

# 36th International



**Convention snapshot:** The ILWU 36th convention attendees.



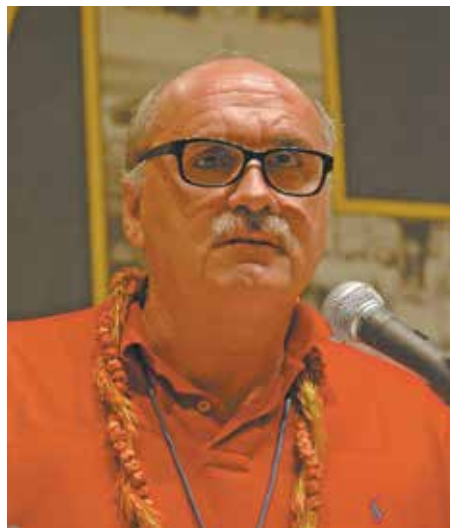
**Docker podcast:** Members of ILWU Canada who run the Dockers Podcast interviewed ITF President Paddy Crumlin (right).



**Commemorative surfboards:** Australia's convention delegation arrived in the islands with a set of 3 beautiful, custom designed surfboards to commemorate the 2015 convention in Hawaii. Two of the boards were replicas of the "Hawaiian gun" design that legendary surfboard maker Barry Bennett shaped for the 1962 Makaha Beach world championships. Bennett, now 83, hadn't shaped surfboards for many years until making this special commemorative set for the ILWU convention. Son Greg Bennett attended the convention to represent his father and pay homage to their family's link with Hawaii. The boards feature photos of the international solidarity actions by the ILWU, MUA, ITF along with photos of Harry Bridges, Bloody Thursday, and other solidarity campaigns including President Bob McEllrath and ITF President and MUA Secretary Paddy Crumlin on union picket lines during the Longview and Patrick disputes. Other photos featured on the boards include surfing legends who shaped boards for Bennett over the years, including renowned Hawaiian surfers Gerry Lopez and Barry Kanaiaupuni (who's nephew is now an ILWU longshoreman) and Aussie surfing greats Midget Farelly, Nat Young, and Bob McTavish.



Local 63 Marine Clerks delegate Cathy Familathe rose to update the convention on the status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.



Marc Loridan, Federal Secretary for the Ports of Belgium Transport Workers Union

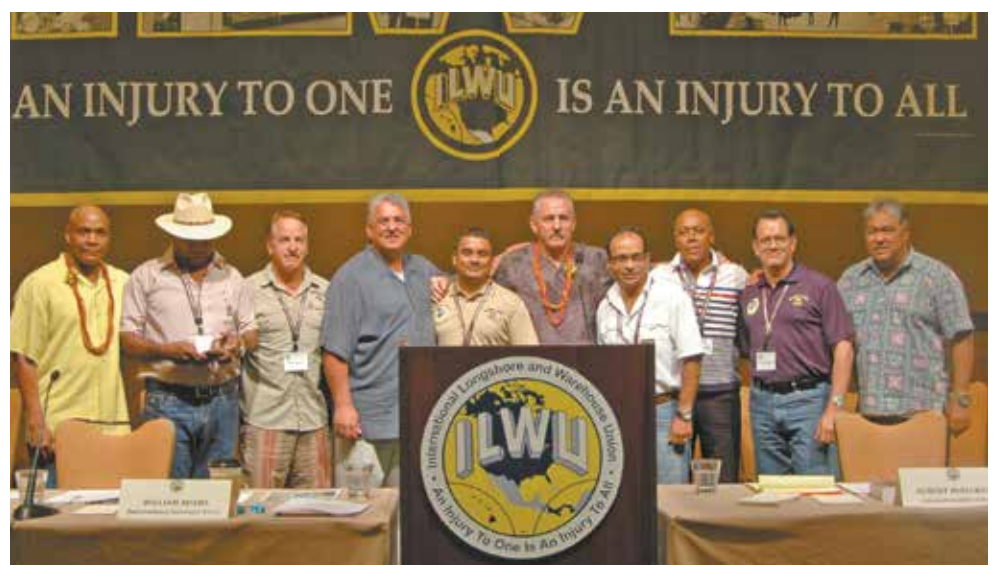
# Annual Convention



Convention had 360 delegates and 35 fraternal delegates.



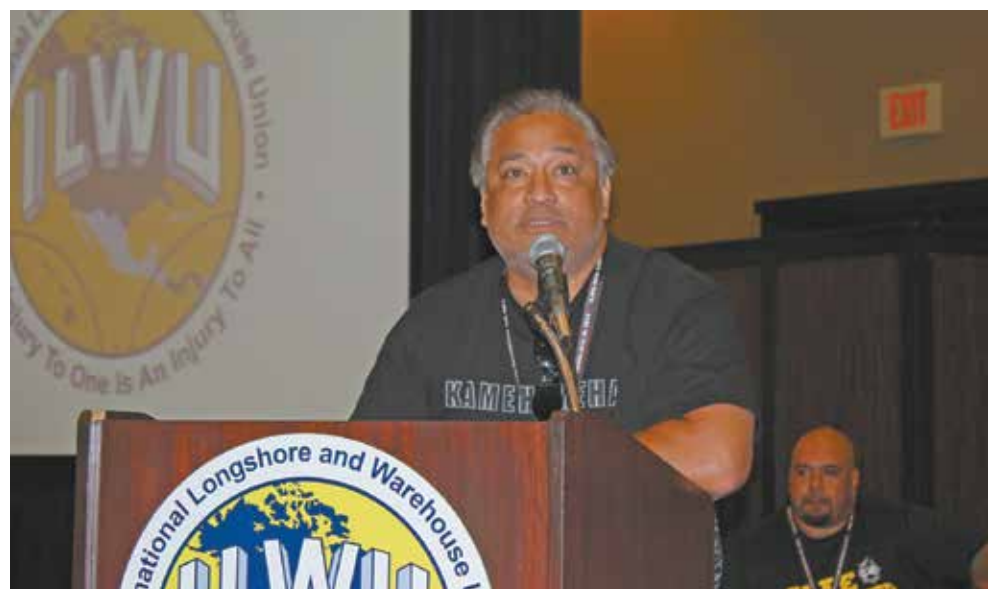
**Honors for King:** Local 14 President Damian Moody at the microphone speaking in support of a resolution honoring the work of ILWU pensioner LeRoy King. Behind him stand scores of other delegates waiting their turn to speak in favor of the resolution.



**Panama power grows:** Convention delegates welcomed the recent affiliation of 2,580 members from the SINTRAPORSPA Panamanian dockworkers union into the ILWU's Panama Canal Division, where they joined members from the Panama Canal Pilots Union.



Local 142's pre-convention caucus.



**Thanks for the support:** Unit 4526 Chairperson Keith "Kapena" Kanaiaupuni recalled the difficulties of organizing and prolonged contract negotiations at the Pacific Beach Hotel. He also thanked the various unions, including the ITF and Japanese unions and ILWU Locals for their support in finally getting a first contract.

# CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT



**Robert "Big Bob" McEllrath, Local 4**  
Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU:

First of all, I thank all the members that have supported me during my term as Coast Committee, my two terms as Vice President and now, for my fourth term as President. My goal has been, and will continue to be to keep our union fiercely strong, to find creative approaches to the challenges that constantly confront us while staying true to our Union principals.

I have worked on PCLCD contracts from 1993-2014, led numerous grain contract negotiations since the 1980's, worked on the Boron contract lockout, assisted with the OCU contracts, Local 5 Powell Books, Alaska longshore contracts, and several other contracts in our ILWU family. I have always held the principal that the majority of the membership decides our direction. I lead, but I have always sought input from our membership.

In this, my last term as International President, I will have completed 49 years in the industry. In 1969 when I first went on the waterfront and boarded a ship we had wooden hatch covers and steam winches and everything was loaded by hand. Today we have 14,000 containers on one vessel and fully automated equipment. What challenges will the next 49 years bring to all our jobs – mining, books, longshore, maritime, hotel/agriculture?

The attack against workers never ceases. We must constantly be on guard to maintain our jurisdiction, our working conditions, and our contract agreements. Today, more than ever, we are battling legislation that will protect foreign owned, multi-national companies while stripping away union rights – American workers rights – to strike or protest against those companies. Where are the workers rights? Where are your rights? Laws are being created to severely cripple any rights we have to collectively bargain. We are fighting the bills and legislature being promoted as you read this issue of the *Dispatcher*.

## MAINLAND VICE-PRESIDENT



**Ray A. Familathe, Local 13**

I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as your International Vice President (Mainland) since 2009 and will be asking for your vote again for this same position. The last three years as Vice President (Mainland) our union experienced extreme challenges none bigger than the 2014 Longshore Contract Negotiations which as a member of the negotiating committee for 10 long months reached a tentative agreement that was successfully ratified by the members of the Longshore Division. Our Warehouse Division & IBU Marine Division & Alaska & Hawaii Local #142 & Hawaii Longshore Division including ILWU Canada and the Panama Canal Division are all areas and divisions that I will continue to support and work with to improve our efforts with organizing, education, collective bargaining and other important areas of work to strengthen the ILWU and improve the lives of our members and their families.

I have led our organizing department with our field organizers to assist Warehouse Local #6 with contract campaigns for recycling workers in the SF bay area, achieving living wages jobs and medical benefits to improve on the job health & safety along with the successful organizing of new recycling workers to add to the ranks of Local #6. I have worked closely with the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) leadership and provided boots on the ground organizing support in Alaska to organize new workers in the tug & barge industries and fuel depot operations. We will continue our organizing efforts in Alaska to provide union jobs to maritime workers seeking union representation with the ILWU & IBU. I am committed to the ongoing support and organizing of all divisions of our union but will work closely with the warehouse division and marine division to continue efforts to expand their ranks.

I am very proud to continue work in the area of International Organizing that I started back in 2002 which led to the successful organizing of the Panama Canal Pilots Union and establishment of the Panama Canal Division of the ILWU that was approved by the ILWU Convention in San Diego in 2012. Continuing with my commitment to expand the ranks of the Panama Canal Division along with the International President, I traveled to Panama several times working closely with Panama Canal Pilots. On December 26, 2014 traveled to Panama and on December 30, 2014 signed the affiliation agreement successfully organizing 2580 dockworkers from the union SINTRAPORSPA in the Ports of Balboa & Cristobal Panama into the Panama Canal Division bringing the membership to nearly 3,000 members in the Panama Canal Division of the ILWU.

I am prepared to aggressively move our agenda forward over the next three years to improve communications to the rank n file and to defend collective bargaining rights including expanding organizing efforts throughout our union to all divisions. With your support and your vote for International Vice President (Mainland) I am looking forward to this opportunity.

## HAWAII VICE-PRESIDENT



**Wesley Furtado, Local 142**

My name is Wesley Furtado and I am seeking re-election as ILWU International Vice President-Hawaii.

The ILWU is a rank-and-file union, and the victories we've had this past term could not have been won without the Union's leadership and membership working together. I want to thank the membership for standing united in the face of the many challenges we've faced and urge everyone to continue to get involved – because there are many more challenges ahead.

Education will be key to taking on these fights, as the Union needs to involve and cultivate future generations of leadership in all areas of our work – including organizing, negotiations, and political action.

In Hawaii, where we have members from five industrial groupings represented by more than 200 collective bargaining agreements, our Union needs to pay attention to developing strategies and a plan for negotiations in each of these groupings. There are different conditions in different industries, but every ILWU member deserves the best possible contract.

In organizing, we need to adapt to the changes in the workplace. The ILWU organizing program in Hawaii will always rely on worker-to-worker, one-to-one contact, but we will continue to incorporate new technologies and new methods to adapt to the changing conditions.

While the focus for ILWU organizing will be building strength by expanding in industries where our members are, Hawaii will also continue to organize targets, "hot shops", residual units, and other groups of workers looking for the dignity and respect that only comes with a union contract.

ILWU Political Action will continue to be important. The outcome of elections for President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House will greatly affect the conditions for the labor movement in the coming years. In Hawaii, we need to keep our Congressional delegation pro-labor.

The ILWU must continue to focus on global solidarity among unions and workers, building worldwide unity as well as concrete working relationships.

We need to continue to educate, involve, and mobilize our membership. We have to continue to organize the unorganized and make sure that elected officials respect the interests of working families. The International will also work with the Locals when needed. We will continue to build global solidarity.

We must take on all of these tasks so that our Union continues to be a leader in the fight for our members, our families, and for workers worldwide.

It's a big challenge, but I am committed and look forward to the opportunity to serve as ILWU International Vice President-Hawaii. I would appreciate your support.

In Solidarity,  
Wesley Furtado

## SECRETARY-TREASURER



**Willie Adams, Local 23**

Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU,

At our June 12th International Convention in Hawaii, I stood to announce that I'm seeking my fifth term as International-Secretary Treasurer of this great working class union. It's a great privilege and high honor, and I'm looking forward to talking with members as I hit the campaign trail.

Our union has been through some difficult struggles during the past few years, as we have faced one challenge after another. With your support, I hope to continue working with International President Robert McEllrath and the titled officers - and with the rank and file members of our union, who are the salt of the earth.

My varied ILWU experience includes: Longshore Caucus delegate for 16 years, Convention Delegate at 6 conventions, Chairman of the Coast Jurisdiction Committee, member of the Coast Legislative Action Committee with 16 years of service in Washington, DC, a member of the International Executive Board and an International Executive Board trustee. For the last 12 years, I've been serving as your International Secretary-Treasurer.

Besides my work overseeing the financial health of our union, I am concerned about supporting other parts of our union that are also important for the future, including:

- How can we approach organizing and grow different sectors of our union?
- How can we build relations at the international and local levels?
- How can we play a bigger role in local, state and national politics?
- How can we consistently raise millions a year for our Political Action Fund?
- How can we encourage more members to attend union meetings and vote in all elections?

If elected, I intend to work with your support to tackle these and other challenges. I can't promise you quick or easy answers, but I can promise you that I will do my best and give everything I have to help our union survive and grow in the challenging years ahead.

William E. Adams  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## LONGSHORE DIVISION

### Coast Committee California



**Frank Ponce De Leon, Local 13**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU Longshore Division,

It was a great honor to be nominated for the Office of Coast Committeeman at the recent concluded ILWU Longshore Division Caucus in Hawaii. It will be a greater honor, once elected, to serve as your representative on the Coast Committee! This can only be accomplished through your support and your vote.

I am a third generation longshoreman and was registered in January 1982 and have been a member of

Local 13 since September 1984. During my time as a Local 13 member, I have been elected to the serve the Local in many positions. I have held the following offices: Night Flex Dispatcher, Executive Board Member, Picket Captain, Convention Delegate, Caucus Delegate and Local 13 Secretary/Treasurer. I have also served the Southern California Area as its International Executive Board (IEB) representative and IEB Trustee.

Our history reveals that the ILWU emerged from the great depression era of the 1930's and has been a model for labor and unions nationally, as well as unions worldwide. It is imperative that we continue to protect the working class as we have in the past and maintain the ILWU tradition – it is our obligation and responsibility to those who came before us! We have been tested time and time again not only by our employer groups but by the government and legislation as well. This is nothing new. The key to our successes in the past has been the ILWU's ability to STAND STRONG and STAY UNITED. This once more will be the key in moving forward into the future!

The ILWU Longshore Division has just faced the 2014-15 challenges of contract bargaining negotiations but will now face the difficulties of implementation. Also, moving our industry forward with the employer's appetite for new technology and more efficient methods to keep our West Coast Ports a vital player in the transportation chain will be challenging. We must remain vigilant in protecting our contract documents (PCL&CA).

I look forward to working with the Coast Committee Officers in achieving contract bargaining changes while maintaining the standards and values of the ILWU Longshore Division. Through hard work and dedication, it will be an honor and privilege to be elected as a Coast Committeeman and continue to fight and uphold the very principles that makes the ILWU strong!

Again, this can only be accomplished through YOUR SUPPORT and YOUR VOTE. Thank you – STAND STRONG and STAY UNITED!

In Solidarity,  
Frank "PDL" Ponce De Leon

### Coast Committee Northwest



**Leal "Leo" Sundet, Local 8**

I am honored to be nominated by the Coast Longshore Division Caucus to serve another term as your Northwest Coast Committeeman. I have served in this capacity since 2006 when I had the good fortune of starting work on the Coast Committee with California Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz who was a seasoned and experienced Coast Committeeman. Though I had served several terms as Local 8's President, spent years on Local 8's LRC, served as Local 53's Secretary-Treasurer, and had experience on numerous Caucus Committees involving jurisdiction, nothing fully prepared me for the rigors and politics of the Coast Committee.

As a Coast Committeeman, you must develop policy for the greater good of the Division, often when locals have differing opinions. You must manage multiple outside law firms, handling dozens of NLRB cases and lawsuits, making decisions on direction and resolution, and being deposed regularly and testifying in court as an expert on the PCL&CA. You must serve as a Trustee to our benefit plans in an atmosphere of PMA aggression and against a treacherous legal backdrop. You must manage

# CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS

a budget, oversee and collaborate with multiple Caucus Committees, interact with state and federal legislators to advance and protect the Division's interests, supervise a staff of six, bargain contracts with the various staff unions, and arbitrate PCL&CA disagreements, the outcome of which impacts every local on the Coast.

When I became a Coast Committeeman in 2006, I needed Ray to guide me and he did. Ray is retiring from the Coast Committee and Local 13's Frank Ponce De Leon will replace him. If reelected, I look forward to working with Frank and providing the initial stability and insight that Ray provided to me.

Today is a critical time for our union. We are under assault by politicians and big business like at no other time in our history. The PMA is already renegeing on implementation of many elements of the 2014 agreement. Now is the time for experience on the Coast Committee. I provide that and will work tirelessly, as I have since becoming a member of the ILWU, to advance the Institution for its greater good.

Vote Work Ethic and Experience

- Northwest Coast Committeeman 2006 to Present
- Coast Negotiating Committee 2008 and 2014
- President, Local 8 Portland
- Chairman, Oregon Area LRC
- Chairman, Local 8 LRC
- Executive Board, Local 8
- Secretary-Treasurer, Local 53
- Executive Board, Oregon AFL-CIO

In Solidarity,  
Leal Sundet, 86075  
Local 8 Portland



**Cameron Williams, Local 19**

I am honored to be nominated for the Pacific Northwest Coast Committee position at the 2015 ILWU Convention & Longshore Caucus in Honolulu, HI.

I will bring renewed strength, conviction, dedication and experience to fight the challenges the ILWU will face coming out of the 2014 contract negotiations. It was a long fight, but the battle will continue on Health and Welfare Benefits, Automation Technology, and M&R Jurisdiction. Port authorities continue to circumvent our traditional Jurisdiction, and I will be vigilant in our defense. I will rise to the challenge of the maritime industry lobbying our legislators to roll back our hard won gains. I will also refocus the ILWU on the importance of our relationships with the media and the broader community in our struggles. Moving ahead, we can't afford to go it alone.

My experience with letting the rank and file lead is what will define my service on the Coast Committee. Communicating, delegating, and getting the rank and file to take ownership of our union and the fight for our jobs has been a crucial part of my commitment to our Guiding Principles of the ILWU. Leadership is derived from our membership, and this has made us strong as our union founders intended.

My hard work, dedication and experience includes:

- President, Local 19 Seattle 2011 - Present
- Negotiating Committee, Longshore & Clerks 2014 - 2015
- International Executive Board Member 2012 - 2015
- Northwest Grain Negotiating Committee 2012 - 2014
- Executive Board Member Local 19 Seattle 2007 - 2015
- Delegate to Convention and Caucus Local 19 Seattle 2009, 2012, 2015

- Coast Safety Committee, Longshore Division 2007 - 2014
- Labor Relations Committee, Local 19 Seattle 2009, 2011 - present
- PCMSC Negotiating Committee 2008

Thank you for your support in my commitment, and tireless effort to defend and uphold our great union. I would be honored with your vote.

In Solidarity,  
Cam Williams

## INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Washington/Puget Sound



**Max Vekich, Jr., Local 52**

No statement submitted.



**Dean McGrath, Local 23**

We find ourselves directly in the center of a very pivotal point in American history in regards to labor and the survival of unions. I believe that how we proceed now, will determine the outcome for working class people throughout the next 30 years.

Global corporations have picked up their collective swords and are coming after any benefits or wages they can get from the working class.

We also stand at a pivotal time within our union. There is a natural generational shift taking place. It is time for leaders to step forward and carry the torch that our founders and forefathers have kept burning for so many years.

I am stepping forward to proudly carry the fight forward as an International Executive Board Member of the ILWU, if you elect me.

The fight is the fight. Nothing has changed. What has changed is the world around us. How we fight will be the key to our success moving forward.

I believe that communication will be our most valued tool moving forward.

We need to find new and better ways to communicate to our membership. We are strongest when we are together. Solidarity is so vital to our endeavors moving forward. We can only move forward as a true union when everyone has had the opportunity to be part of our collective process. I also believe our communications with the "outside" world will be crucial.

We are not in a union "friendly" environment right now to say the least. Other unions are not respecting our jurisdiction. The government is working on legislation against us. I want to push us to self promote. "We are the ILWU". People must know who we are, what we do, and what it means to our communities.

I will work to promote solidarity within our ranks and to those who can work with us for the common good. We must be progressive and lead the way. As we evolve and operate in a complicated and changing industry, I believe we can succeed if we hold true to our guiding principles that have earned us what we have today.

I truly value the strength of our bottom up organization and have fully participated as a "rank and filer" from the beginning of my registration in 1999. As a member I always attended meetings. I believe in community action and have been a key player in

ILWU Local 23's Paint Tacoma Beautiful program for ten years. I have been a local 23 E-board member for most of my A career. I have served as a local 23 LRC rep and LRC Chair. It has been my greatest honor to be the president of Local 23 during our challenging struggle with the grain companies, and our fierce fight to secure a master contract for 2014.

If elected to the International Executive Board, I will always make decisions that serve the whole of the Union, whether popular or not, without fear but smart; "bring it".

Dean McGrath local 23



**Rich Austin, Jr., Local 19**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
My name is Rich Austin Jr. and I ask for your vote to the International Executive Board. (I.E.B.)

When Elected I will bring a wealth of experience having served my local in the following capacities:

- Joint Port Labor Relations Committee
- Washington Area Labor Relations Committee
- Executive Board
- Caucus/Convention Delegate
- Shop Steward Chair
- Vice President

Additionally I have served the Longshore Division as:

- Washington Area Chairman and Recording Secretary
- Co-Chair Northwest Grain
- Longshore Division Education Committee

Also I have answered the call when other locals have needed assistance with organizing and /or negotiations, keeping true to the motto "An injury to one is an injury to all".

I firmly believe that in order to maintain a healthy union we must have on-going educational programs (knowledge is power), put a priority on organizing (strength in numbers) and put mechanisms in place that will facilitate participation (the membership is the union).

When elected I will advocate for all of the above.

In addition to educating, organizing and cultivating participation we must be diligent in requiring our employers to "live up" to what they agreed to in negotiations. We must zealously defend our Jurisdiction, demand training when necessary and confront automation with innovative programs that will ensure our relevance. Our memberships deserve no less!

As a candidate with a proven track record and reputation for saying what needs to be said, I will continue to defend our proud heritage in order to pass it along to future generations as it was passed along to me.

My roots go all the way back to the "Big Strike". I am 3rd generation Longshore and ILWU member. "Remembering our roots" was the theme of our recent ILWU Convention. My roots are firmly planted in the ILWU!

Finally Brothers and Sisters, it's your union, let your voice be heard and vote, and when you do vote Rich Austin Jr.

In Solidarity,  
Rich Austin Jr.

## Oregon/Columbia River



**James D. Daw, Local 8**

I James Daw have been proud to represent the Oregon Columbia River Area as one of your International Executive Board members for the last two terms. I was honored to be one of four members elected as a Trustee from the IEB to oversee the finances of the International in both terms. I was afforded the opportunity to be co-chair of the constitution committee and co-parliamentarian at the ILWU convention in San Diego. This convention in Hawaii I co-chaired the resolutions committee and was also co-parliamentarian again. I have assisted locals in the area with difficult issues they were confronted with. I would like to continue to represent the Oregon Columbia River Area as International Executive Board member for a third term.

During my 36 years as a ILWU Local 8 Longshoreman I have held many local offices, worked in every job category. I have served on many Coast Committee sub committees. One such committee was the Port Security committee and through that association I gained a seat on the United States Coast Guard's Columbia River Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) which I remain on today. I was a member of the 2008 & 2014 ILWU Longshore and Clerks Contract negotiation committee. At the last caucus in Hawaii I was elected by the Longshore division caucus delegates as chairman. I have worked with Jobs With Justice in the Portland community for the benefit of all workers. I will continue to serve the ILWU and help the workers in my community. I ask the ILWU members of the Oregon Columbia River Area for your support and your vote for International Executive Board.

James D. Daw



**Jeff Davis, Local 21**

Sisters and Brothers

It is a proud honor to be nominated to the International Executive Board and it would be a distinct privilege to be the first Local 21 member elected to the IEB in over 65 years.

As a third generation longshoreman I was taught at a young age the meaning of unionism and hard work. With this knowledge came an appreciation that we must fight for what we have in order maintain a better way a living. All union members have a better life because workers took a stand for themselves and what they believe was fair and just. It is unfortunate that we still have to fight for these beliefs today.

Many of you know that Local 21 understands struggle and how to prevail in adversity and history shows that there will be conflicts ahead that require battles to be fought on all fronts. From getting the right message out to both our members and to the public, to sitting down with our elected officials so that they may understand the issues, to taking the fight to the job site, all battles require a plan, good communication and historical knowledge. I will bring these qualities to you as your IEB representative.

My goals as an IEB member are to

work collaboratively with you and your local by listening to your concerns and being a strong voice for your message on the IEB. I will follow up by reporting to you what was discussed and decided at the meetings. I stand committed to working with local 5 and local 28 in their continued and upcoming issues.

I will further strive to bring new members into our ILWU family by expand organizing efforts so that workers that are looking for a better living will have our support. Lastly and perhaps most importantly, I will work diligently to protect what we have fought so hard to get.

My career to date has been dedicated to giving back just as much as I take from this great union as seen by my elected positions and public service. I served on the Puget Sound District Council for over ten years as both President and Secretary/treasurer. I have used my Political Science degree to lobby in both Washingtons and continue to represent our issues today. I was elected as a Port Commissioner and served on many regional committees while being a strong voice for labor against those that wanted to dismantle us. I have stood as the voice for workers and will continue to do so in well into the future.

The ILWU has given me and my family everything we have and I am looking forward to giving back as your IEB representative. Together we can win. I ask for your vote.

In solidarity,  
Jeff Davis



**Dane Jones Local 40**

No statement submitted.



**Gene Ray Sundet, Local 12**

I am honored to be nominated to the office of International Executive Board (IEB) of this great Union, the ILWU. From an early age my father indoctrinated myself and my siblings with Unionism. He was a Linemen and in my early years the family traveled the construction circuit from State to State and hiring hall to hiring hall. We grew up on Union meat and potatoes and my father never let us forget it.

As an early elementary student I engaged in my first political fight with another student. It was over the election of Nixon. The slogan at the time was Herbert Humphrey is our man, throw Richard Nixon in the can." That kid probably ended up working long hours for some anti-union company and I have been fortunate to have become a member of the ILWU - the greatest Union on the face of the earth. If elected I will devote my father's teachings into being the best representative for the ILWU that I can be. I am passionate about the ILWU and am dedicated to our Union. As a member of Local 12 I have held numerous offices over the years and am currently serving as the Local's Secretary-Treasurer. Your vote would be greatly appreciated.

In Solidarity,  
Gene Ray Sundet  
Local 12  
North Bend/Coos Bay Oregon

*continued on page 14*

# CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS

continued from page 13

## Southern California



**Luisa Gratz, Local 26**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We must prepare together to strengthen our union, to protect our jobs and union contracts in all ILWU Divisions. We must protect the rights of our members and families against employer and corporate assaults. Outsourcing and technology has caused loss of work opportunity, great suffering to our members and their families, and our communities. We must work hard to secure our future by protecting our work opportunity and accomplishments today. No one will do it for us. We must come together to protect our future work opportunity for all, and also protect our retirees and our children, and fight all attempts that force us to choose between them.

I am currently serving our union on the International Executive Board as one of three representatives from the Southern California area. I am also serving ILWU membership as president of Local 26, a position I have been elected to since 1984. I have also served as a steward, chief steward, conducted leadership and labor law classes for our members as president of our Stewards' Council, and serve as Business Agent for Local 26 ILWU.

As president of Local 26 I negotiate contracts, handle grievances and conduct arbitrations. I have organized new members into the ILWU, and prepared Unfair Labor Practice charges and testified before the NLRB. As a past president of the ILWU Southern California District Council (SCDC) I have lobbied, prepared legislation, conducted State of Calif. and Congressional hearings, and testified on behalf of the ILWU on plant closings, workplace health & safety issues, Cal-OSHA heat standards and other issues of concern to our membership.

I am also currently Secretary-Treasurer of the SCDC. Working for our union is constantly challenging. Working peoples' voices must be heard loud and clear. We must organize on our jobs and in our communities to make positive changes for our collective future. An injury to one is an injury to all.

It has been an honor to serve our union and members over the years and I look forward to continuing to do so. In solidarity and fraternally,  
Luisa Gratz



**Bobby Olvera, Jr., Local 13**

Brothers and Sisters:

I am a candidate running for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Executive Board and would like to ask for your support in the upcoming election.

Each of us has our own viewpoints, based on what Local we are members of, of where we live and what we do. I will represent everyone, each member, in every Local. By working closely together, we will lay the foundations for future cooperation on a broader and more significant scale. That is why I am seeking the posi-

tion as International Executive Board member.

I have worked in every capacity as a union member. The Rank and File of Local 13 has elected me to Executive Board, Membership Committee, Political Action Committee and Grievance Committee. The membership has instilled its trust in me numerous times, electing me as a Business Agent, Dispatcher, Trustee, Vice President and I am currently in my second term as President of Local 13. During my 26 years in the ILWU I have worked in nearly a dozen ports, established relationships with the members and officers in ILWU Locals both in and out of the Longshore Division. I have represented the ILWU from the capitol of Madison Wisconsin to the streets of Auckland New Zealand. I have for years and will continue to represent every level of member in every Local and every category and classification.

I am running for International Executive Board because I have grown increasingly concerned about the course of events and the reactivity that has plagued our Union, these events were especially transparent in the recent Contract negotiations. More than ever the government at all levels and International conglomerates and Corporate America have become intrusive into our Unions and our rights to collectively bargain. We must remove government obstacles and we must oppose legislation that restricts our rights as union members. We must raise the awareness and education of our membership if we are to survive these attacks.

We have also been affected by internal conflict. These conflicts have created division in locals and among them. I cannot and will not stand by and see this great Union destroy itself. Our Union provides a better life for its members. Together we are going to create jobs, and provide a legacy for the future. All things are possible; none of them will be easy, however, if we are to survive and go forward, things must change.

For those of you, who share my belief in our struggle to maintain all that has been provided to us and the passion to sustain our rights and jobs and most of all the commitment to move the ILWU forward into the next generation, I ask for your support and for your vote

Robert "Bobby" Olvera Jr.  
International Executive Board.  
In Solidarity  
Bobby Olvera Jr  
ILWU Local 13



**John L. Fageaux Jr., Local 63 Office Clerical Unit**

Dear ILWU Brothers and Sisters,

My name is John L. Fageaux Jr. and I am running for a position on the International Executive Board representing Southern California. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

I am currently serving my 14th consecutive term as President of ILWU Local 63 OCU. As President of the OCU I am the chief contract negotiator and have negotiated dozens of contracts on behalf of the ILWU Local 63 OCU membership. With the help and support of the entire ILWU family, we have been very successful in negotiating contracts that have resulted in substantial gains in wages, health & welfare, pensions and most importantly JOB SECURITY! Under my leadership the OCU membership has increased by nearly 80% and we have organized many new company's

into the ILWU including COSCO Shipping, Hanjin Shipping, Hapag Lloyd, China Shipping and Inchcape to name a few. I have been very fortunate to receive a great deal of industry related training and executive education that has played a pivotal roll in our success. The following is a partial list of that education and training:

- 2002 Harvard University, (Negotiating Labor Contracts)
- 2003/2004 Labor Law and Arbitration
- 2005 University of Michigan Ross School of Business, (Negotiating and Administering Labor Contracts)
- 2007 through 2015 International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans annual training
- 2014 Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, (Investment portfolio concepts and management)
- 2015 Harvard Law School, Program on Negotiations (Master Class)

I believe the International Executive Board would benefit greatly from my experience and education and I ask for your support by voting for John L. Fageaux Jr. in the upcoming ILWU International Election.

Fraternally,  
John L. Fageaux Jr.



**Michael A. Podue, Local 63 Marine Clerks**

My name is Michael A. Podue and I respectfully seek your vote for the office of International Executive Board (IEB) for a second term.

I have been a proud member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union for over 33 years, including my years as a Longshoreman in Local 13 and a Marine Clerk in Local 63 and have served the rank-and-file as a member of the International Executive Board (IEB) for these past three years.

Throughout my career, I have served various elected positions in Local 63 including President, Vice President, Executive Board, Labor Relations Committee Representative, and Convention/Caucus Delegate. I recently participated in the 2014-2019 contract negotiations as Vice Chair of the Coast Safety Committee and will continue in that position for the duration of the contract. Additionally, I currently serve as Local 63 Labor Relations Committee Representative, Convention/Caucus delegate, and member of the Coast Clerks' Technology and Legislative Committees.

As an IEB member, it is critical to understand the struggles our Union and its members have been through in order to properly evaluate and understand the ever-changing environment and challenges we currently face and will face over the next 25 years.

On the political front, the ILWU must remain vigilant in opposing Republican and corporate-sponsored legislation that would harm Labor, the ILWU in particular.

To do so, the ILWU leadership including International Executive Board members, must monitor pending legislation in Washington D.C. and in the state capitols and be proactive on beneficial legislation. We must also maintain and continue building our clout in the political arena through our Political Action Fund, our positive relationships with elected officials and facilitating the appointment of ILWU members to key political positions such as the Harbor Commission.

Jurisdictionally, it is critical that we understand that what worked in the past is not necessarily the template of the future. While the ILWU comprises different divisions with distinct jurisdictions, those dividing lines are occasionally less distinct as the employers implement new technologies in the name of "efficiencies" and "cost savings," i.e., reduction of manpower. In the face of this challenge, we need to clearly define the common interests of the ILWU membership as a whole.

Another challenge facing the ILWU is the employers' mergers, acquisitions, and creation of alter-ego companies, along with vessel sharing agreements and alliances. Many of these "business decisions" result in labor relations challenges for the Union as we seek to protect our jurisdiction and manning. As a Union, we must remain focused on maintaining our west coast market share and hence man hours that will pay for our welfare and pension benefits that we have earned, bargained for, and benefited from for over 75 years.

It would be my honor to serve my fellow ILWU Brothers and Sisters for another three years in this most important position so that I can continue to offer my vision and fight for all divisions and members of the ILWU.

In solidarity, Michael A. Podue.



**Sean Farley, Local 34**

No statement submitted.

## Alaska



**Debbie "Mouse" Manowski, RN, Local 200**

I'm a Full-Time Registered Nurse, Union Officer, and currently serve on the International Executive Board (IEB). I have been an ILWU member of unit 2201 since 1988. I have been involved in all but the very first contract negotiations and either an officer or steward since 1990. Having been involved with such a diversified unit (representing pharmacists, nursing, physical/occupational and respiratory therapists, radiology, clerical, laboratory, dietary, and environmental services staff) I feel that I could represent the diversity of Alaska. I'm asking you to vote for me again for another term.



**Chuck Wendt  
Alaska Longshore Division**

No statement submitted.



**Mark Gordienko, Local 500**

No statement submitted.

## IBU



**Alan Coté, IBU**

No statement submitted.

## Panama Canal Division



**Rainiero Salas  
Panama Canal Pilots**

No statement submitted.

## Desert Southern California



**Darrell Nichols, Local 30**

No statement submitted.

## Northern California



**Melvin Mackay, Local 10**

No statement submitted.



**Fred Pecker, Local 6**

No statement submitted.

# CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS

## Hawaii



**Lynden Koerter, Local 142  
(General Trades)**

No statement submitted.



**Nelson K. Rita, Local 142  
(Longshore)**

No statement submitted.



**Douglas K. Cabading, Local 142  
(Pineapple)**

No statement submitted.



**Kelly Ruidas, Local 142  
(Sugar)**

No statement submitted.



**Michael B. Dela Cruz, Local 142  
(Tourism)**

Aloha and Mabuhay my Brothers and Sisters of this fine organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of ILWU local 142 and the Hawaii Division along with our members in the Tourism Industry for nominating me as your International Elected Board (IEB). My name is Michael B Dela Cruz (Unit 1517) from the Big Island of Hawaii. I'm currently employed at the beautiful Hilton Waikoloa Village for the past 10 years and been a member of the ILWU for 14 years. I've held positions as a shop steward, vice chair, grievance chair of my unit, been a Temp Business Agent for the past 8 months and sat in many negotiations from General Trades and also in the Hotel industry. I'm eager to further my experiences in this organization. Being employed at a hotel and second generation employee in my family, I believe in educating the membership. It's my generation's responsibility to observe the values of our forefathers who built this organization. I've seen struggles and hardship in getting a fair contract and wages and seen hotels struggles with low occupancy, cut backs and layoffs. As you know most of our members of ILWU local 142 are in the tourism industry and I will fight to keep our members working. I'm willing to work hard to make sure visitors from all over the world see the importance of our members as we stand strong and work together for a bright and healthy future for our kids and so, I humbly ask for your support in this up-coming election. Mahalo and Salamat Po,  
Michael B Dela Cruz



**Mary Rillanos, Local 142  
(Tourism)**

Going back to the basics of ABC's (ABILITY, BELIEF and COMMITMENT)

I want to show you I will work diligently to protect the rights and benefits of our rank and file. It is also important for me to be visible, trusted and well versed.

As a forty one (41) year employee at the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, I continue to be an involved and active member. During the years, I have had various positions such as Unit Secretary-Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, sat down during many Grievance Meetings and participated in many negotiations. I have also been nominated as a Delegate to our International and Local Conventions. I am presently serving as the Hawaii Division Trustee which mandates that we review all Unit Finance Policies for accurate accounting, following Budget guidelines and programs set forth in our Constitution.

The ILWU organization is recognized throughout the world and has many committed officers who provide and represent our brothers and sisters with quality and reliable services. My focus is to be honest and fair to each and every member and resolve the problem to the best of my ability.

I humbly ask for your VOTE and promise to do my best in serving you. Mahalo and Aloha –  
Mary "Swanee" Rillanos

# LeRoy King: ILWU leader and local political figure passes at 91

Flags at San Francisco City Hall flew at half-mast to honor of the June 12 passing of LeRoy King, a major figure in the ILWU and San Francisco politics for more than seven decades.

A relentless optimist who remained deeply connected to the union he loved, King passed peacefully while sleeping in his San Francisco home, just three months short of his 92nd birthday, concluding an active life that included his participation in many seminal events of the 20th and 21st Century: the Great Depression and New Deal, explosion of union organizing, the Second World War, Civil Rights Movement, urban redevelopment, and the election of America's first African-American president.

King's ILWU service included stints as an International Representative and Organizer for the ILWU International Union, Northern California Regional Director and elected positions, including Trustee and Secretary-Treasurer at Local 6, Northern California's largest warehouse union, which grew steadily after longshoremen established a beach head on the docks, and continued the "march inland," following supply chains which eventually organized 20,000 warehouse and factory workers.

## California segregation

King was born in Fresno, CA, from a family background he described as African-American, Cherokee and Irish. That meant growing up on the west side of town where the Southern Pacific train tracks created a rigid color line for blacks and Mexicans. King also recalled Fresno's segregated schools and movie theaters, and a success-

ful effort by him and his brothers to desegregate a public swimming pool in Bakersfield during their early teens. In 1941, King left the Central Valley for San Francisco – where segregation was also a fact of life. As a newly-arrived young man in the big city, he lived in the predominantly African-American Fillmore neighborhood where some nearby attractions were off-limits, just as they had been in Fresno.

"They talk about the South, but we had the South right here in San Francisco," said King, recalling that a nearby bowling alley and theater had been for whites only.

## Separate unions

His first experience with a union was also marred by segregation. After learning how to weld and work as a boilermaker at the Kaiser shipyard in Richmond, CA, King joined a segregated Boilermakers Union local, working at both Marin City and Richmond shipyards. It was at those jobs that he encountered thousands of newly-arrived African-Americans – part of the "Great Migration" – who had recently travelled from the South in search of better-paying industrial jobs and a life without Jim Crow.

## Military discrimination

When the Second World War broke out, King was drafted into the army and assigned to a racially integrated troop train that travelled east across the country. But when the train arrived in Texas, King and other non-whites were forced to eat in separate areas and move to the back of the train. After basic training, he was placed in a segregated unit of African-Americans who were assigned the dangerous job of handling ammunition that put him

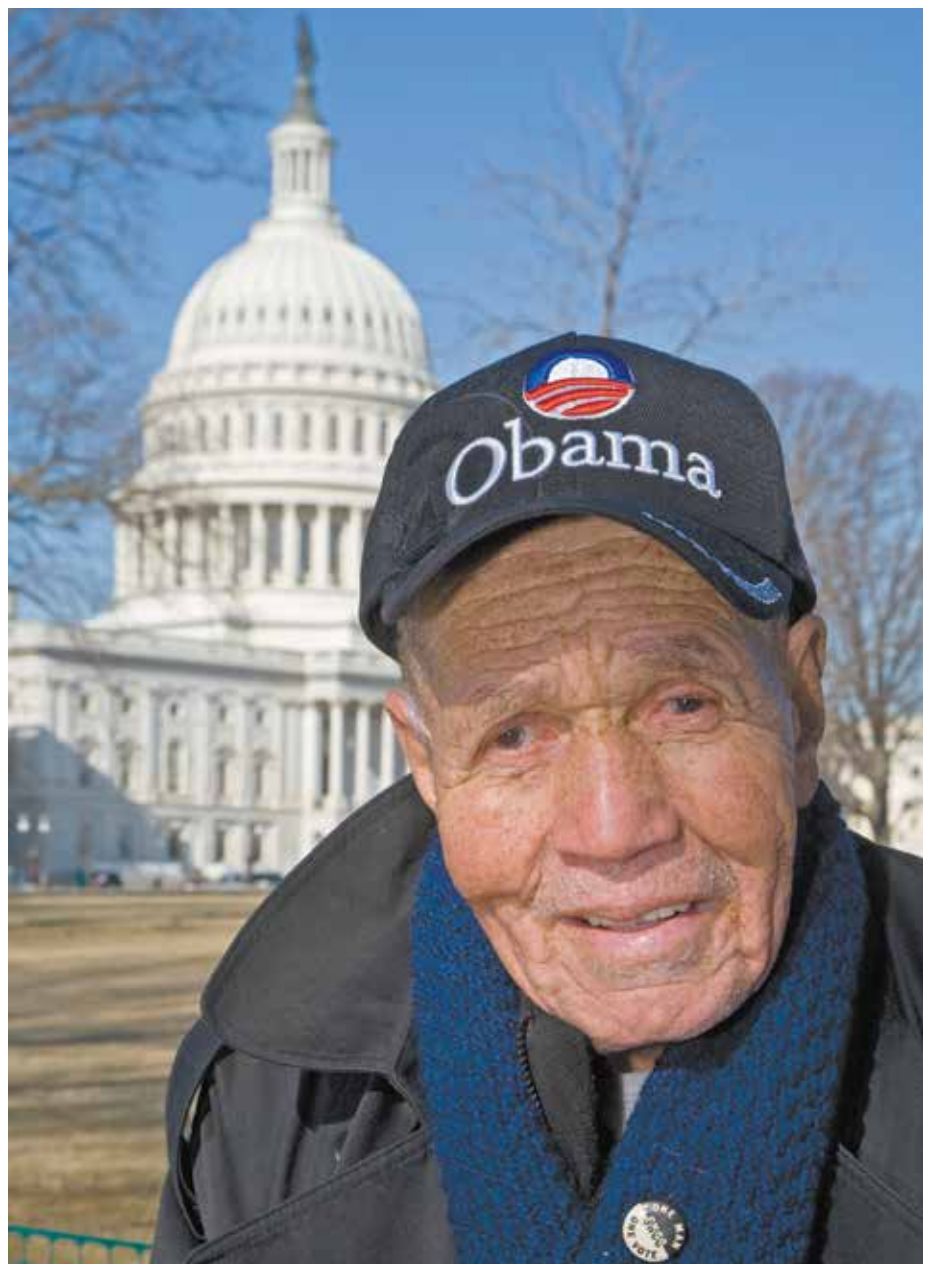


Photo by David Bacon

**Witness to history:** LeRoy King travelled to Washington, D.C. in January of 2009 to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama. Upon returning, he told *The Dispatcher*, "I've seen plenty of changes in my life, and some of the changes were hard to imagine when I was young, but the election of Barack Obama was just amazing."

and others near the front lines where German bombers made them frequent targets. He recalled that their unit wasn't trusted enough by white officers to be issued rifles to defend themselves from Nazi attacks.

## New hopes and demands

As the war ended, King and other young blacks left the military and expected a better life when they returned home – but instead he witnessed racial conflict as troops were discharged back into civilian life, noting fights between black and white soldiers sometimes occurred on a daily basis.

He returned to San Francisco and

joined other black veterans who were inspired to challenge segregation and discrimination on their home turf.

"We had demonstrations on Fillmore Street and along Auto Row on Van Ness Avenue. All that was led by these young black soldiers who came back. They felt like me – I served my country; I did everything I could to try to make this a decent place and make sure we got rid of fascism. So when we came back home, we figured there'd be some change."

## Radical influence

King quickly met a recruiter for the ILWU who provided him with a warehouse job handling 100-pound sacks of coffee at a Local 6 shop. He joined the union in 1946 and met radical union members who explained how to organize job actions and win improvements. He and other African-American members were encouraged by the radicals to get more involved in union affairs and take leadership roles, eventually participating in a brief strike involving 400 co-workers who demanded that the coffee roasting company deal with a backlog of grievances.

The radicals King met had recently established the California Labor School that operated under the direction of ILWU member Dave Jenkins, to train a new generation of union activists. King joined hundreds of former GI's and thousands of other students who enrolled in classes that included labor history, organizing, racial politics, economics, psychology, drama, and the arts. King said he learned a great deal at the School – and it was through connections there that he met Local 6 leaders Clarence and Eugene Paton, who introduced him to his future wife, Julia (Judy) Huggins. King said later

*continued on page 16*



**Passionate about politics:** LeRoy King (center) maintained a keen interest in politics from his younger days in the union, as seen in this photo taken nearly six decades ago in 1957 during a joint meeting of the Northern and Southern California District Councils, where the ILWU's political strategy was coordinated.



that Local 6 President Eugene Paton helped him get “really involved” in the union. Anti-Communist witch hunters soon labeled the School as “subversive” and forced it to close in 1955, but by then King and thousands of others had received training, connections and new leadership opportunities.

### FBI, politics & churches

The Cold War and anti-communism were in full-swing by the early 1950’s when King was determined to get more involved in San Francisco politics. That meant contending with teams of FBI agents who followed him and other ILWU members suspected of being subversives.

“Those bastards from the FBI used to park out in front of my house and follow us around,” he said, explaining how the Bureau’s harassment and intimidation became a routine but upsetting part of life for him and his family. The ILWU became a special target because it was one of only a few unions that refused to require their leaders to sign “loyalty” oaths – part of the Taft-Hartley law passed in 1947 to weaken unions and remove radicals from the ranks and leadership. The ILWU Constitution specifically guarantees membership regardless of political affiliation, and courts later ruled that the loyalty oaths were unconstitutional.

It was during these challenging times that LeRoy King joined an effort by Local 10 leader Bill Chester to launch a visionary community organizing campaign that built alliances with black churches. King helped by organizing concerts at the churches featuring Paul Robeson, the talented black singer and actor who was under constant attack for being a Communist and critic of racism in America. As the anti-communist hysteria increased against the ILWU and President Harry Bridges, the Teamsters union launched an attack against the ILWU – approaching employers and members to undermine contracts and cut ties with what they claimed was a “dangerous” union led by “reds.” King became an ILWU International Union Organizer responsible for shoring-up support in warehouses against the Teamster attacks.

### Trouble at home

After LeRoy and Judy were married, they encountered a new round of racism and discrimination. When San Francisco landlords learned of the couple’s interracial marriage, they evicted them. After being evicted nine times in a year, they finally found an apartment owned by Vincent Hallinan – the left-wing attorney who helped defend Harry Bridges from government threats of deportation. King became Northern California Chair of the Committee to Defend Bridges and other ILWU officials from the growing witch hunts.

### Local 6 breakthroughs

Local 6 members were a diverse lot and their shops were mostly integrated, but the local’s leadership was not. King responded by joining a group of young blacks including Curtis McClain, Revels Clayton and Leon Cooper who founded a caucus they called the “Frontiersmen.” The caucus pushed for reforms and King was elected to serve on the Local 6 Board of Trustees, beginning in the 1950’s, for the next 15 years. By 1960, Curtis McClain was elected to become the

first African-American Business Agent at Local 6, and the following year King was appointed to be an International Representative.

### Affordable housing

In the early 1960’s, King worked with ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt and Dave Jenkins on an innovative housing project that created 299 housing units in the Fillmore neighborhood. The ILWU formally sponsored the St. Francis Square Cooperative with financing from ILWU-PMA pension funds that were repaid over time to create permanent, affordable, racially-integrated housing for working families – especially blacks in the Fillmore who lost thousands of housing units during the first wave of redevelopment. King and his family moved there in 1963 where he served on the elected Board of Directors for 12 terms, and remained a resident until his death.

### Meeting MLK

While much of the Civil Rights Movement remained focused on ending segregation in the South, LeRoy King joined local protests in the Bay Area that were organized against racist businesses. Car dealerships that refused to hire African-Americans became targets, as did restaurants and retailers. When Martin Luther King, Jr., visited the Bay Area in 1967, he spoke at Local 10 in San Francisco, and then attended an Oakland event with Harry Belafonte that was organized by Bill Chester, LeRoy King and others.

### S.F. political player

King became part of a small group of ILWU leaders who kept pushing for a bigger role in San Francisco politics. Bill Chester, Revels Clayton, Dave Jenkins and King met with Joe Alioto before he became Mayor in 1968, extracting a promise that African-Americans would finally be appointed to City commissions and other positions. After the election, Revels Clayton was quickly appointed Deputy Mayor and other African-American appointments followed, including ILWU member Wilbur Hamilton, who was placed on the City’s powerful Redevelopment Agency.

“Alioto finally broke the color line,” said King, who declined any Commission appointments himself during the next ten years, explaining, “I liked working out in the community and in the union.” In 1978, he was appointed by Mayor George Moscone to the City’s Economic Development Advisory Council. When Dianne Feinstein became Mayor after Moscone’s assassination, she appointed King to the Redevelopment Commission in 1980 where he remained for the next 32 years.

### Redevelopment controversy

Breaking San Francisco’s color line came with a price for King and other ILWU leaders who became part of the City’s power structure. The most controversial issue was redevelopment, which critics said was destroying African-American neighborhoods including the Fillmore, and pushing residents out of San Francisco. King and other ILWU leaders generally supported redevelopment, arguing that the neighborhoods were blighted slums that urgently needed new modern housing. But when the City moved to bulldoze



**Friends & allies:** LeRoy King established an impressive roster of friends and political allies (along with a few enemies) during his seven decades of union and community activism. King came from the rank-and-file of Local 6, once a powerhouse in the ILWU’s Warehouse Division with nearly 20,000 members. He is shown here in 1990 with Luisa Gratz who heads the large Warehouse Division Local 26 in Southern California.

the Yerba Buena neighborhood in San Francisco’s South of Market area, ILWU pensioners in the area helped organize a group called Tenants and Owners in Opposition to Redevelopment. King stepped in as a new Redevelopment Commissioner to question the use of eminent domain to evict residents and pushed for more affordable housing. But the project – based around a lavish convention center – went forward with many residents never returning to their former neighborhood. The debate continued to dog King during his three decades on the Redevelopment Commission. However, he remained confident that he had done his best, and City officials lauded him with praise. In 2014, the merry-go-round at Yerba Buena Gardens was christened the “LeRoy King Carousel,” and in 2011 a bronze bust of King was unveiled at the Jazz Heritage Center in the Fillmore neighborhood.

### Organizing & runaways

Inside the ILWU, King remained a force within the ILWU Warehouse Division. In 1969 he became Northern California Regional Director, a position he held until retirement in 1992, that required traveling, he said, “from Bakersfield to the Oregon border.” One of his more challenging tasks involved chasing runaway shops that began fleeing the waterfront and Bay Area during the 1970’s in search of cheap land and low-cost, non-union labor in California’s inland valleys. He was initially successful in organizing workers at two large plants that fled to Salinas in the 1970’s, but the trend of runaway shops – including some that fled across the border with Mexico following passage of the NAFTA agreement – proved to be a daunting challenge.

### Staying political

King devoted decades of work to the ILWU’s Northern California District Council – the union’s regional coordinating body for political and legislative work. Beginning in the 1980’s, King played a prominent role in the NCDC, helping ILWU members and workers in other unions. He recalled assisting the Inlandboatmen’s Union get bet-

ter legislation from Assembly Speaker Willie Brown to protect ferry workers, and he relished the process and power of making political endorsements. He attended endless political meetings, including the California State AFL-CIO where he recalled attending an event with fellow NCDC Secretary-Treasurer Don Watson, where they explained the ILWU’s opposition to the Vietnam War to skeptical leaders from other unions.

Seeing Barack Obama elected President and attending the inauguration was a proud moment toward the end of King’s life. He made a special effort to personally attend, with help from his family and assistance from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who praised King in life and upon his passing, as did San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and former Mayor Art Agnos.

### Final Tribute

King received an important final honor just days before he died, when delegates to the ILWU’s 36th Convention in Hawaii praised the 91 year-old leader in a unanimously-adopted resolution, noting that King had attended every convention during his seven decades in the ILWU, until this year when he was too weak to endure the five-hour flight to Hawaii.

The resolution stated that “whereas LeRoy King’s voice and presence have always expressed the unity and optimism of the ILWU, therefore be it resolved that the ILWU 36th Convention carry on the positive, progressive ILWU program Brother King embodies and wishes for his ILWU family.”

After the resolution was adopted, Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker called King to tell him about the honors bestowed by the convention. Twenty-four hours later, King passed away quietly in the night.

King’s survivors include his daughters Rebecca King Morrow and Carolyn Samoa of San Francisco; his son, LeRoy King Jr. of El Sobrante; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces and their families. His wife, Judy King, died in 2000, one month before their 50th anniversary.

# 36th Convention delegates choose unity again



**New leaders:** Local 5 delegate Amy Wren was among the younger leaders who participated in the ILWU's 36th International Convention in Honolulu. She urged delegates to support training, leadership development and the wise use of new technology to improve communication with members.

continued from page 5

**Steve Todd**, National Secretary of Britain's Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers' Union (RMT), assumed his post last year, following the untimely death of Bob Crow, the dynamic militant leader who died suddenly at the age of 52. Now Todd is leading efforts to help British union members in a challenging environment where anti-union politicians are increasingly common.

Each of the special guests was presented with a bronze sculpture of an ILWU cargo hook, hand-crafted by the talented artist and Local 19 pensioner Ron Gustin. He has exhibited work in galleries up and down the coast, and produced 16 sculptures that were presented at the convention, each requiring more than a dozen steps to complete the unique works of art.

## Panama Division

Global solidarity within the ILWU's own ranks was demonstrated with exciting growth in the new Panama Division. International Vice President Ray Familathe explained how the connections between the ILWU and Panama Canal Pilots Union were first established during the 2002 lockout, when the ILWU longshore negotiating committee was seeking international support and met Londor Rankin of the Panama Canal Pilots Union. During the years that followed, Familathe and President McEllrath encouraged discussions of a possible alliance, and in September of 2011 the Panama Canal Pilots voted to affiliate with the

ILWU and the new Panama Division was established.

The Pilots are now trying to negotiate a new contract with the Panama Canal Authority, which has been resisting a fair settlement. Members of the Pilots Union, including Secretary-General Raniero Salas, explained their contract struggle to convention delegates who responded with a strong showing of support by unanimously adopting a solidarity resolution.

The Panama Division has also been busy building solidarity at home by assisting dockworkers employed by Panama Ports. These dockworkers finally succeeded in forming their own independent union after rejecting a "yellow union" imposed by their employer. Dockworkers had to first win a long fight to hold an election, then found the voting process was rigged in favor of the company's yellow union. That's when ILWU leaders joined with the Panama Division to support an honest and open election process. When that finally happened, dockworkers at Panama Ports voted for their own independent SINTRAPORSPA union led by Secretary-General Alberto Ochoa. On December 30, 2014, SINTRAPORSPA and the ILWU signed an affiliation agreement welcoming 2850 dockworkers into the Panama Division.

After explaining this background, Vice President Familathe provided a warm introduction for SINTRAPORSPA Secretary-General Alberto Ochoa,

who delivered his remarks in Spanish that were translated by Secretary-General Raniero Salas of the Pilots Union.

Ochoa said he brought greetings from his fellow dockworkers in Panama who just won their first independent union contract that will raise pay by 35% over the next four years, crediting the ILWU Panama Division for helping to make it possible. He noted that Panama Ports, owned by Hong Kong based Hutchinson Port Holdings, had been trying to outsource jobs which will require continued vigilance and support in order to maintain the new union's jurisdiction.

"The ILWU has been instrumental in growing our union in Panama. We are grateful for the support you have provided us and hope to continue receiving your help which has given us great results," said Ochoa.

## Surfing challenge

During a break in the convention schedule, a good-natured surfing contest was held between MUA President Paddy Crumlin and ILWU President Bob McEllrath, who both waded into the water at beautiful Waikiki and paddled out to the surf line. They returned after both caught waves and each incurred minor foot injuries from the sharp coral that makes Waikiki waves break so smoothly over the reef. After some debate, Crumlin was declared the contest winner but immediately donated his board to ILWU Local 142 members.

## New organizing challenges

Convention delegates heard two detailed organizing reports, one for Hawaii and the other covering the mainland, with both emphasizing the challenges involved with organizing new workers.

International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado delivered the Hawaii organizing report, explaining that 85% of their union campaigns have resulted in a first contract. He also noted that employers are changing tactics to make organizing more difficult by hiring workers online instead of conducting open interviews for new hotels. In the past, union organizers could go to interview sites with clipboards where they met with new workers, spoke

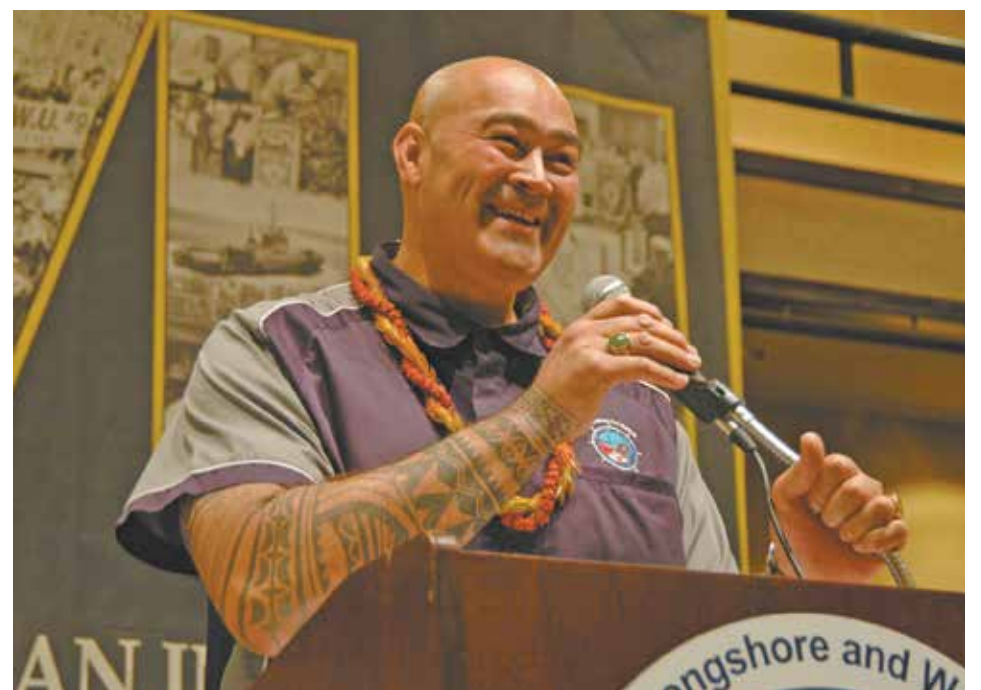
"one-on-one," and had union authorization cards ready for workers to sign. Now the union must rely more on family and friends to contact hotel workers who are hired online. Furtado said organizers try to sign up at least 70-80% of the workers in a new shop, to ensure a safe margin and overcome the employer's anti-union campaigning. He concluded by recognizing the staff and member organizers of Local 142 who he said have been doing an excellent job.

International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe also praised his International organizing team for their hard work and dedication. He noted several recent campaigns that illustrate the challenges and opportunities facing ILWU organizing efforts on the mainland, beginning with a strategic campaign to help recycling industry workers in Alameda County win industry-leading wages and benefits. He said the effort began with a campaign to improve existing contracts covering more than 200 Local 6 workers, and has now expanded to help non-union workers at Alameda County Industries organize and join the union. All the campaigns required lengthy, difficult fights with multiple strikes and dozens of job actions, but workers have now secured wages that will soon pay almost \$21 an hour with excellent benefits.

Familathe also pointed to joint organizing projects with the Inland-boatmen's Union, involving strategic targets such as the first successful tugboat organizing campaign on the west coast in 20 years, and an ongoing campaign to help fuel dock workers organize in Dutch Harbor Alaska. Even campaigns to help small units, such as the Port of Anacortes or workers at Harbor Dental, frequently involve lengthy, complex campaigns to win recognition and first contracts. He noted the recent effort to help workers organize at Catalina Express, where a strong union campaign effort was overwhelmed by aggressive anti-union consultants, concluding that these efforts frequently require multiple campaigns over many years to succeed.



**Democratic process:** Longtime Local 13 leader Joe Cortez conferred with fellow delegates concerning one of the 46 resolutions that were debated at the convention.



Joe Fleetwood, General Secretary of the Maritime Union of New Zealand.



**New voice:** Secretary-General Albert Ochoa of SINTRAPORSPA, the Panamanian dockworkers union that recently affiliated with the ILWU's Panama Canal Division.



**Veteran delegate:** Inlandboatmen's Union Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast spoke in support of resolutions to encourage more organizing and member involvement. The IBU has been supporting workers from Alaska to California who want to join the union.

**King honored**

Convention delegates continued debating policy resolutions throughout the remaining hours, but one of the more poignant proposals to reach the floor celebrated seven decades of union service by ILWU member LeRoy King. This was the first convention since the 1940's that King was unable to attend, so many speakers noted his exceptional absence and praised his lifelong commitment to the union. The resolution honoring King passed unanimously after many heartfelt testimonials, including one from San Francisco IBU Regional Director Marina Secchitano who was unable to hold back tears as she described King's role as her mentor who taught her about the union that he loved so much. After the resolution passed, King was informed by telephone of the resolution honoring his lifetime of service, while resting in his San Francisco home. The news gave him great comfort and joy, according to Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker, who placed the call just one day before King passed peacefully in his sleep.

**Pensioners & Auxiliary**

After all the resolutions had been heard, Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams called Pacific Coast Pensioner President Rich Austin, Jr. to the podium, followed by Auxiliary President Ida Taylor. Adams praised both for their leadership and important organizational roles.

Austin, Jr. invited everyone to the upcoming Pensioners Convention in

San Francisco on September 7-9, and finished his remarks with a reminder.

"There are a whole lot of people in this world who work hard, but don't have the ILWU to support them. And that's our challenge. We're supposed to organize the unorganized. That's what we do with our good fortune. We pensioners stand ready, to be of service whenever called upon. Pupukahi holomua – united we progress!"

Ida Taylor thanked the officers and delegates for hosting the convention, and conveyed warm regards from past Auxiliary President Carolyn Williams who was unable to attend this year's convention. She also thanked everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the beautiful ILWU quilt assembled by Auxiliary volunteers up and down the coast that was raffled on July 5 in Coos Bay Oregon. Taylor said that Auxiliary members will be organizing and educating in the months and years ahead, and encouraged all delegates to "bring your families and have them join our Auxiliary!"

**Officers nominated**

The process of nominating candidates for International office was next on the agenda, with President Robert McEllrath, Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe and Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado, all being nominated without opposition. Candidates were also nominated for the International Executive Board and Trustee positions.

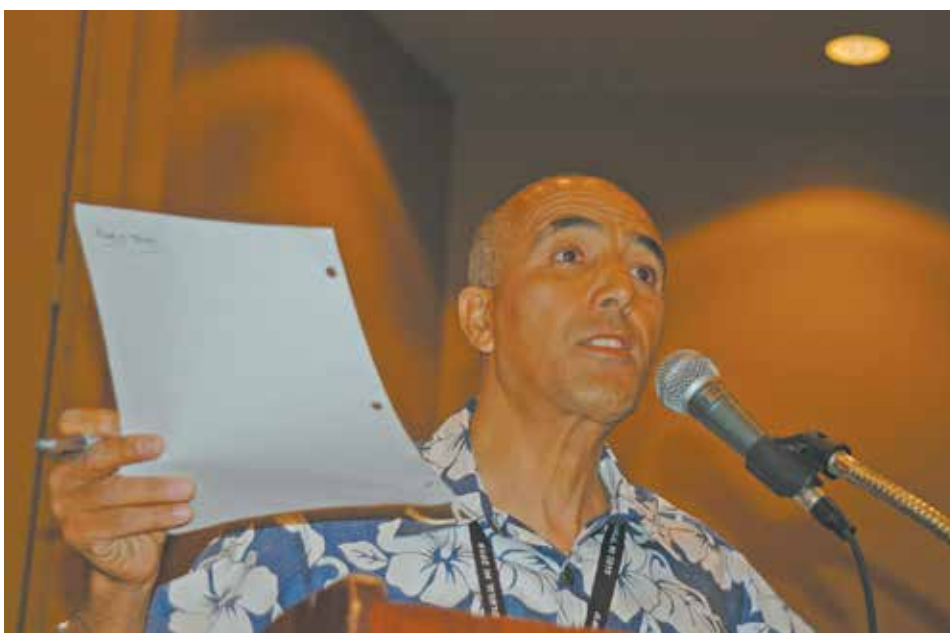
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President of the Panama Canal Pilots Rainero Salas



Local 13 delegate George Lujan



Local 26 delegate Abdelaziz Habibi



Paddy Crumlin, President of the International Transport Workers Federation and National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia.

# 36th Convention delegates choose unity again



Local 19 delegate Dan McKisson

continued from page 19

All candidates will appear on a ballot being mailed to members on July 27.

## Final remarks

The final round of comments from the floor included words of appreciation from ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko. He noted that ILWU Canada members will be celebrating their 80th anniversary of the 1935 strike at Ballantyne Pier on June 18. He reminded delegates that the strike itself was broken, but workers went on to form their union and join the ILWU 12 years later. He also said it had been a pleasure to work with the International officers during his term on the Execu-

tive Board. He concluded by thanking Local 142 President Donna Domingo and all Local 142 members on behalf of the entire Canadian delegation, saying, “thank you very much for how well you treated us here. It’s been a great Convention!”

Domingo responded by recognizing John Bush from Local 200 in Alaska, who with members of Local 514 in British Columbia, donated salmon that fed almost 1000 delegates and guests at a BBQ dinner earlier in the week. “With all people coming together, Local 142 was very happy with how the convention turned out,” she said.

## Last words

As President McEllrath rose to the podium for the last time, he thanked the Hawaii delegation once more for doing such a fine job of planning all the details that made the convention enjoyable, including a memorable banquet, BBQ dinner and cultural evening – plus sightseeing events for spouses. He also called up the staff and volunteers from Local 142 and the International Union to the front of the room where they were recognized for making the convention run smoothly.

“Staying here in Hawaii has been gorgeous,” said McEllrath, “and I’d like to leave you with a couple of thoughts. It’s the ILWU way that we sometimes get upset at each other. If anybody’s feelings were hurt, I apologize. But, this is why we’re tough, why we’re the ILWU. We fight it out here, then we go home. And when we go home, we’re united. We’re united right now. We’re going to stay united. So thank you brothers and sisters. This has been a hell of a week. The next convention will be in Portland, Oregon in 2018.”



Bay Area Pensioners President George Cobbs

## ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

### BOOKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### VIDEOS

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

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

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

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