Maritime Labor Alliance convenes leadership summit

Residents and top elected officials from key maritime unions met in Washington, DC on October 14 to establish common ground for the looming labor struggles ahead.

“This meeting was important because maritime unions are coming under attack and we need to be united in order to fight back,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, who led the ILWU delegation with International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado, IBU President Alan Coté, Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, Local 34 President Sean Farley, President John Redcliffe of the American Radio Association and ARA Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Walker.

Key unions involved

The semi-annual meeting of the Maritime Labor Alliance included the ILWU, the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) which represents dockworkers at east coast, gulf and great lakes ports, the Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association (MEBA); the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (IOMM&P), and two ILWU affiliates: the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) and American Radio Association.

Anti-union laws discussed

The first subject tackled at the meeting was the anti-worker bills being proposed in Congress that target maritime workers. The anti-union bills fell into three categories. Several would strip maritime union members of their right to engage in “self-help,” a fundamental right protected 80 years ago by the National Labor Relations Act, a law passed in the aftermath of bloody struggles by west coast maritime workers in 1934. A second set of laws would impose government oversight, monitoring and meddling in maritime workplaces. A third group of bills would erode provisions of the Jones Act, a law passed to protect America’s merchant marine fleet and provide crew members with decent pay and working conditions. And finally, another round of “free trade” agreements are being pushed by corporate interests over objections from unions, environmental groups and a majority of the American people.

Pledge of unity

Maritime Labor Alliance members pledged to promote solidarity and work together on Capitol Hill as well as on the waterfront. The goal is to prevent employers from using “divide and conquer” tactics to create division within the industry. Also discussed was the need to work cooperatively on organizing strategies that reach out to non-union workers in the maritime industry.

MLA officers elected

A slate of executive officers was elected and an Executive Director was chosen to coordinate activities. IOMM&P President Don Marcus was re-elected to serve as President of the Alliance. MEBA Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo was elected to serve as MLA Secretary-Treasurer, and Dr. Thomas J Mackell, Jr. will serve as MLA’s Executive Director.
LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

My thanks to The Dispatcher for covering our Pensioners Convention in the September 2015 issue. After serving for a decade as President, I was happy to step down and glad to see the very capable Greg Mitre of the Southern California Pensioners Group unanimously elected to serve as our new President.

I was also looking forward to a short vacation with Mona. We decided to explore a 72-mile long bicycle trail in Idaho called the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes that runs from Mullan to Plummer. It turned out to be a vacation that included a lot of history.

As we traveled east through Washington State, we followed the Columbia River part way, and recalled stories of the Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams that were built almost 80 years ago by 3,000 unemployed workers who were thrilled to get jobs paying 50 cents an hour during the Great Depression. Those jobs were created because union organizers and radicals mobilized millions of unemployed men and women who pressured Franklin Roosevelt. The president responded with his New Deal programs that put people to work by building things society needed, things that private industry ignored; housing, schools, libraries, parks and massive public works projects.

The Columbia River dams provided irrigation water for farmers; electricity and lights for rural farm families; and massive energy for the aluminum smelters that produced metal for airplanes to defeat Hitler and Hirohito during WWII. The mega-watts of electric power also powered the secret site along the river at Hanford where nuclear fuel was produced for the first atomic bomb and the 60,000 nuclear weapons that followed during the Cold War.

Today the aftermath of Hanford’s contamination provides thousands of mostly union jobs. An unnecessarily prolonged project in America’s largest toxic waste site with a million gallons of radioactive water moving underground toward the Columbia River – is costing taxpayers $150 billion to clean up. It should be noted that private companies, including DuPont and General Electric, who profited so handsomely from operating these facilities, have avoided paying their share of the clean-up costs.

When we reached the bike trail and began our 72-mile long journey, we learned about the history of Native Americans – mostly from the Nez Perce tribe - who were pushed out of their homelands to make way for mining companies that wanted the silver, gold and lead that ran in rich veins throughout the mountains.

Later, miners – typically immigrant workers – fought fierce battles in these hills during the 1890’s, for better pay, and a better chance of coming home safely after grueling 10-12 hour days digging hard rock tunnels that stretched for hundreds of miles. The mighty Western Federation of Miners was born here in 1892, during bloody gunfights initiated by the owners who hired Pinkertons to spy, blacklist and kill union leaders.

Before it was over, state and federal troops were called and martial law was declared to put down the miners’ demands for workplace justice. But the experience sparked a new wave of union organizing and created leaders like Big Bill Haywood and other “Wobblies” – members of the Industrial Workers of the World - who coined the slogan, “an injury to one is an injury to all.”

Today, a few mines like the Hecla Silver mine in Mullan are still active, and overall there are about 2,500 miners in the entire state. Sadly, a Right to Work law was passed in 1985, and today jobs are union.

We stopped along the trail at several waysides bearing historical descriptions of import, each with a present day warning to not drink the river water or stray from the trail onto the contaminated soil. Here too, the toxic tailings from now silent mines continue to leave their noxious footprint. One such place was at Big Creek where a memorial to the 91 miners who were killed in the Sunshine Mine disaster of 1972 was erected.

Our vacation spent bicycling through these old mining towns reminded us that the struggles have moved on to other locations and now involve new generations, but the basic issues remain the same – including for our union. In the early years “Wobblies” understood the need to “educate, agitate, and organize.” Today workers must continue in that proud tradition. Armchair activism won’t get the job done. We must all attend our respective union meetings and volunteer our services for the good of our union and for the good of this and future generations.

Rich Austin – Member, Everett Pensioners
Mt. Vernon, WA

Dear Editor,

The Southern California Pensioners recently lost one of our own, Hugh Hunter.

Hugh was born in Coogee Bay, Sydney, Australia. Hugh started working as a Merchant Marine in 1940 until 1953. His ship was torpedoed off the coast of Cape Lookout, North Carolina during the Second World War.

In late 1942, he joined onto an American ship. After a couple of trips out along the Atlantic Coast, he made his way to the West Coast, where he continued shipping out and met the love of his life, Evangelina Bernal. They married in January 1948. Hugh helped raise her 2 sons, Frank Mendoza and Richard Leyva, and then had 3 sons together, Hugh Hunter Jr. and twins, Steven and Michael Hunter.

Hugh started working as a longshoreman and became member of the ILU. He said that those were the best years of his life.

After retirement, he joined the ILWU Southern California Pensioners Group and spent his retirement with Pensioners until his death. He would go down to the Dispatch Hall to have coffee with friends, weekly meetings and participated in whatever needed his help.

He was married for 62 years to Evangelina until her death in 2010. He was devoted to his wife. His sons, Frank, Richard, Steven and Hugh predeceased him. Hugh is survived by his son, Michael Hunter, who took care of him.

Jerry Garretson, Local 13 Pensioner
San Pedro, CA

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

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Liverpool dockers celebrate 20 years of struggle

In 1995, the sacking of five union members at the port of Liverpool triggered a job action by 500 dock workers that lasted 850 days and ended with all 500 workers being sacked. The bitter two-and-a-half year struggle resulted in a defeat with a silver lining: the dockers' fight became a symbol of working-class resistance to pro-business/anti-union policies that were growing in Britain and abroad.

No official support

The dockworkers who took action in Liverpool were represented by the Transport and General Workers Union (T&G), led by conservatives who refused to support their 1945 strike that created the "Dock Labour Scheme" or the 1984 strike. Both actions were considered "wildcat strikes" led by rank-and-file members without official union support. Fortunately, other unions at home and around the world supported the Liverpool campaign – including the ILWU – and joined forces to create the International Dockworkers Council.

Neptune Jade Action

On September 28, 1997, a picket line appeared at the port of Oakland when a ship loaded in Liverpool by non-union workers was scheduled to arrive. For three days, longshore workers refused to cross the picket line and unload the Neptune Jade.

ILWU Library launches new website

The ILWU Library is now online after a mass digitization project. The new site: http://archive.ilwu.org hosts digitized issues of The Dispatcher plus two other ILWU-related publications: the Voice of the Federation and the Waterfront Worker. The site contains close to 2,000 documents, plus a handful of selected images from the ILWU Library's collection of over 20,000 photographs.

Each of the papers features on the new site chronicles the union's history during important phases in its organization. The first of the publications, The Waterfront Worker, began in the months before the 1934 strike. An anonymous group of rank and file longshore workers closely associated with Harry Bridges produced the simple, mimeographed newsletter and disseminated it to workers in secret by stashing it aboard ships to reach ports throughout the coast. Featuring frank language and simple line drawings, it helped inform people of key issues in the unionization struggle.

The second publication, the Voice of the Federation began shortly after the 1934 strike. In the strike's aftermath, longshore workers banded together with other unionized maritime workers to form a group called the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. This organization sought to strengthen union recognition throughout the maritime trades and to expand many of the gains that longshore workers achieved in the strike to other unions.

The Voice of the Federation, the Maritime Federation's organ, carried news from all the unions involved in the consortium, including the Pacific Coast District of the International Longshoremen's Association, later the ILWU. The Maritime Federation succeeded in expanding the 1934 gains to other unions in subsequent actions but the organization was short-lived due to internal conflicts among its member unions.

With the demise of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, the ILWU leadership realized the need for a paper of its own. At the end of 1942, the union began publishing The Dispatcher. The ILWU was less than a decade old at the time of The Dispatcher's first issue, but the union's need to establish its own means of communications was clear. The ILWU faced rapid changes: its ranks were expanding and growing more diverse as millions of Americans moved out to the western states to work in wartime industries; meanwhile, the union was under continued attack from employers, and ILWU President Harry Bridges faced ongoing deportation threats. The Dispatcher provided a trustworthy source of worker-focused reporting to ILWU members, covering news from the locals, stories of interest to the labor movement, and featuring columns from officers.

When assembled together, these three publications cover the ILWU's entire history from 1934 to the present. The website now offers an excellent resource for those interested in how the union addressed key issues throughout its history—from early organization opposing the brutalization of workers that lasted 850 days and ended with all 500 workers being sacked. The bitter two-and-a-half year struggle resulted in a defeat with a silver lining: the dockers' fight became a symbol of working-class resistance to pro-business/anti-union policies that were growing in Britain and abroad.

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When assembled together, these three publications cover the ILWU's entire history from 1934 to the present. The website now offers an excellent resource for those interested in how the union addressed key issues throughout its history—from early organization opposing the brutal shape-up hiring practices before the 1934 strike to more recent struggles and victories. Although the website’s content represents only a small fraction of the material in the library, having these three pivotal publications available online greatly expands access and facilitates research on the union.

The website also helps address some of the library’s concerns over preserving original documents. Some of the earlier issues of the papers are over 80 years old, and it is difficult to balance the need for preserving them with the union’s desire to make them available to people with an interest in ILWU history. In some cases, access to the original documents must be restricted due to the fragility of the paper.

In the future, the library hopes to offer more digital content on the website.
Liverpool dockers celebrate 20 years of resistance

continued from page 3

He noted that the dockers went beyond organizing traditional labor support to involve environmental groups and newer organizations, including "Women of the Waterfront" and "Reclaim the Streets."

Speakers at the anniversary celebration included Familathe, UNITE General Secretary Len McCluskey who leads Britain’s most militant labor union, ITF President Paddy Crumlin who also heads the Maritime Union of Australia, General Coordinator Jordi Araguende of the International Dockworkers Council, MUA Western Branch Secretary Chris Cain and Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson.

Building institutions

Speakers noted that the dockers created new institutions and works of art – including several films – that continue to inspire and educate.

In 1996, acclaimed British filmmaker Ken Loach released a documentary film about the dispute called The Flickering Flame. In 1999, group of dockers honed their storytelling skills and contributed material used by writers Jimmy McGovern and Irvine Welsh to create a television drama that was broadcast on national TV. The team contributed fees from that project of $150,000 to buy an old building on "Hope" Street that was converted into a non-profit pub and community center, called "La Casa."

In addition to hosting the 20th anniversary celebration, La Casa now serves as a social hub for diverse community and cultural events ranging from comedy, poetry, weddings and hard-rock. It's also a place where workers can go to get help with a wide range of problems, including trouble at work, difficulties with landlords or help from government agencies.

Their struggle continues

Keeping their working-class cultural institution alive hasn’t been easy, but the former dockers have kept the doors open with help from musicians and other artists who have rallied to the cause with a series of benefits. The most recent benefit was this past spring and filled 1500 seats at Liverpool’s symphony hall.

In late September, the activists announced the release of a new documentary film about their two-decade struggle and creation of their cultural center on Hope Street, called "Viva La Casa.” their goal was to create "a film supporting Liverpool’s radical stimulation and social justice.

“The Liverpool docker fight wasn’t in vain – it ignited a global struggle and helped prepare us for critical actions that followed, including the Patrick’s Dispute and 2002 employer lockout against the ILWU,” said Familathe.

Staying strong in Washington: ILWU longshore leaders Dawn DesBrisay (R) and Mike Podue (2nd from left) are serving on the Longshore Legislative Committee and sharing responsibility for contacting members of Congress to protect the rights of union members. They met with Congressmember Janice Hahn and State Senator Isadore Hall. Hahn is stepping down to run for LA County Supervisor and Hall is running to fill her Congressional seat. ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin is pictures on left.

Maintaining contact: ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams met recently with U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez. They discussed a wide range of issues of concern to ILWU members. Perez was involved in the settlement reached in February between longshore workers and Pacific maritime Association.
Carol Cuénod, former ILWU Librarian, passes

A life in labor movement history beyond the confines of the ILWU.

Carol Cuénod was the former, beloved ILWU Librarian, passing away on August 18, 2015 at the age of 86. She was an ILWU Local 23 Benefit Plans office member who worked in the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office and later served as the ILWU Librarian.

Born in San Francisco in 1929, Carol’s life was unconventional from the beginning. She spent her youth in Switzerland, San Francisco, and a family ranch in Southern California. Carol’s family lived humbly during the Depression years, and her mother was frequently away in search of work. Her father succumbed to an infection caused by a farm equipment accident when Carol was 12. Carol’s commitment to the labor movement had its roots in her family tree. Her mother was an outspoken political progressive who had young Carol accompany her to political lectures by Archie Brown and other stalwarts of the Bay Area Left. Carol’s older brother David was active in the Independent Progressive Party and worked on Henry Wallace’s 1948 presidential campaign, which had support from Harry Bridges and other ILWU leaders. It was through David that Carol was introduced to the California Labor School, a progressive social and educational center and a hub for political activity in San Francisco. She took classes, and was particularly inspired by the work of the Labor School Cho-rus. She soon signed up to sing in the chorus, performing in union halls, political meetings, and in the 1949 Local 6 strike. It was during this time that Carol also became active in the Communist Party, joining the Party’s Youth Section and, later, the Labor Youth League.

In 1963, Carol took a job at the ILWU Benefit Plans Office, thus beginning 23 years of service to the ILWU. A few years later, she applied for the Assistant Librarian position in the ILWU Library where she worked under ILWU Head Librarian Margery Canright and Research Directors Linc Fairley and Barry Silverman. While at the ILWU, Carol served on the negotiating committee for the clerical workers at the ILWU offices. In her service as the ILWU Librarian, Carol provided valuable research support to several historians of the union. These included Sanford Saltzburg, who wrote A Spark is Struck, a biography of Jack Hall, Chuck Larson, who wrote Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor; Howard Kimeldorf, who wrote Reds or Racket; Bruce Nelson, who wrote Workers on the Waterfront; and Harvey Schwartz, curator of the ILWU’s oral history collection. Carol’s work for the union was highly regarded. Upon her retirement, ILWU President Jimmy Herman commented that "Carol is truly a symbol of the ILWU’s commitment to preserving and learning from history.”

After she retired, Carol remained an active participant in Bay Area labor history circles. She worked at the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University, where she was a mentor to many students of labor history. She was also a prominent member of the Bay Area Labor History workshop. Carol was deeply respected for her kindness and her willingness to assist those with an interest in workers’ history.

At the time of her death, Carol resided at St. Francis Square, a 299-unit cooperative affordable housing development in San Francisco’s Western Addition neighborhood that was built with funds from the ILWU-PMA Pension Plan. Carol was among the development’s first residents, served on the community board of directors, and organized its archives. Carol is survived by her three children: Rita Alderucci, Anna Fuller (Paul Fuller), and Bill Schwartz (Kristen Schwartz), and three grandchildren.

Carol Cuénod (left) with ILWU Librarian Marge Canright holding a plaque dedicating the library to the ILWU’s first librarian, Anne Rand.

Paul “Shanghai” Jaschina passes

Paul “Shanghai” Jaschina led a life full of adventure and service to mankind before passing on June 3rd at 86. Carol Cuénod, former ILWU Librarian, passes away on August 18, 2015. Born in San Francisco in 1917 and raised in Portland, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1934 and was sent to China in 1917 and raised in Portland, passing on August 18, 2015.

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ILWU Local 23 lost one such member with the passing of Emil Korjan, who died peacefully in his sleep on December 12, 1937.

The labor movement is full of members whose quiet dedication sustains the point been hostile to the union led by Harry Bridges. Korjan himself was impressed by Bridges’ devotion to racial integration on the waterfront and Bridges’ mission to secure a “fair shake” for workers. Upon his death, Korjan honored Bridges further by leaving a portion of his estate to the UW Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies.

He was preceded in death by his wife Gladys.

— UW Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies

Local 23 member Emil Korjan (1921-2015)

Korjan was a longtime member of the ILWU, who served on the gunboat USS to help rescue Americans caught in 1934 and was sent to China in 1917 and raised in Portland, passing on August 18, 2015. Born in San Francisco in 1929, Carol’s life was unconventional from the beginning. She spent her youth in Switzerland, San Francisco, and a family ranch in Southern California. Carol’s family lived humbly during the Depression years, and her mother was frequently away in search of work. Her father succumbed to an infection caused by a farm equipment accident when Carol was 12.

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At the time of her death, Carol resided at St. Francis Square, a 299-unit cooperative affordable housing development in San Francisco’s Western Addition neighborhood that was built with funds from the ILWU-PMA Pension Plan. Carol was among the development’s first residents, served on the community board of directors, and organized its archives.

Carol is survived by her three children: Rita Alderucci, Anna Fuller (Paul Fuller), and Bill Schwartz (Kristen Schwartz), and three grandchildren.

Carol Cuénod (left) with ILWU Librarian Marge Canright holding a plaque dedicating the library to the ILWU’s first librarian, Anne Rand.
### INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

#### Southern California

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**Subtotals:**
- 763
- 719
- 724
- 750

#### Puget Sound

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**Subtotals:**
- 763
- 719
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- 750

#### Alaska

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**Subtotals:**
- 110
- 106
- 101
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#### Canada

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**Subtotals:**
- 281
- 256
- 260
- 263

#### IBA-Marine Division

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**Subtotals:**
- 273
- 278
- 280
- 282

#### Hawaii

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**Subtotals:**
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- 767
- 879
- 789

#### Panama Division

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**GRAND TOTALS:**
- 5835
- 6064
- 5997
- 5895

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**Note:** The election results published in the September 2015 issue of the Dispatcher regrettably contained several errors; the results below are final and accurate.
### COAST COMMITTEE

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<th>WRITE-IN</th>
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<th>OLVERA</th>
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### INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Note:
The election results published in the September 2015 issue of The Dispatcher regretfully contained several errors; the results below are final and accurate.
ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS

A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii. By Sanford Zaltman. 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 travelling 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 Larroixe. 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.

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

“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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___ copies of The Legacy of 1934 @ two for $5 = $_____
___ copies of Harry Bridges @ $10 ea. = $_____
___ copies of ILWU Story @ $5 ea. = $_____
___ copies of The Big Strike @ $9.00 ea. = $_____
___ copies of The Union Makes Us Strong @ $20 ea. = $_____
___ copies of The March Island @ $9 ea. = $_____
___ copies of Eye of the Storm DVD @ $5 ea. = $_____
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Total Enclosed $_____

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Donnie Schwendeman

3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503

Tacoma, WA 98424

(253) 922-8913

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia

John Felicella

3655 Kingsway, Ste 300

Vancouver, BC, V5R SWR

(604) 254-7311

ILWU SOUTHERN DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California

Jackie Cummings

50 South Figueroa St. #400

Los Angeles, CA 90291

(310) 652-5000

ADRP—Northern California

Hunny Powell

HPowell1965@Ehotmail.com

400 North Point

San Francisco, CA 94133

(415) 766-8363

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Oakland, CA 94621

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ADRP—Oregon

Brian Harvey

5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207

Portland, OR 97221

(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Washington

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3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503

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