



THE DISPATCHER

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Photo by Lewis Wright

Honoring Tacoma Longshore: Mike Jagielski, President of the Local 23 Pensioners Club at the dedication ceremony for the plaque that was placed on the Murray Morgan Bridge honoring 1916 Tacoma longshore strikers.

Honoring the past and passing the torch: 49th Annual PCPA convention convenes in Tacoma

The 49th annual Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) convention met in Tacoma, WA from Sept 12-14. The convention coincided with several events in Tacoma that recognized the important contribution of the longshore labor struggles to the city's working class history. The convention's theme emphasized the need to honor the history and sacrifice of previous generations, to protect the benefits won by past generations and to pass along knowledge and traditions to future generations.

Special events

Two events were schedule on Sunday before the Convention to honor the union's history— an after-

noon ceremony dedicated a plaque on the Murray Morgan Bridge to commemorate the 1916 longshore strike. Later that evening a bronze statue of Harry Bridges was unveiled at the Local 23 hall. On the first evening of the Convention, Local 23 members hosted a celebration of the new Philip Martin Lelli Memorial Highway, dedicated in honor of Local 23's former longtime President.

"Fate and history smiled on Tacoma during the PCPA convention," said Mike Jagielski, President of the Local 23 Pensioners Club and Chair of the convention's 2016 planning committee, who was pleased that so many special events were held during the Convention week.

Large turnout

A total of 207 registered attendees came to this year's convention—making it one of the largest PCPA events in recent years. Fraternal guests included the ILWU International titled officers:

International President Robert McEllrath, Vice President Ray Familathe, and Secretary Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams. Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams also attended as did the local union President's from Longshore locals up and down the coast. Like previous Conventions, this one was dedicated to the memory of ILWU pensioners who have passed during the previous year.

Remembering the 1916 Strike

On September 11, several hundred ILWU members and pensioners marched across the Eleventh Street Bridge (now known as the Murray Morgan Bridge) to the spot where striker Alexander Laidlaw was fatally shot 100 years before. The bridge was the main conduit between downtown Tacoma and the Port; it became the focus of many confrontations between striking longshoremen

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Pet coke transport workers vote to join ILWU

JBA Transport workers who haul petroleum coke from California oil refineries to storage facilities and docks voted overwhelmingly to join the ILWU on September 1.

Teamster-company deal rejected

In the same vote, workers soundly rejected a representation bid from the Teamsters Union that managed to win only 2 votes from the 23 JBA employees, despite aggressive campaigning that came with obvious management support.

“We wanted a strong, independent union that would give us a voice – not a union that was already in bed with the company,” said longtime JBA driver Humberto Alvarez.

Nearly all the drivers work out of JBA’s headquarters in Wilmington, CA. Two two drivers who service Bay Area refineries are based in Pittsburgh, CA.

Performing a vital task

The JBA workers perform a vital task by removing petroleum coke – a by-product of the oil-refining process that constantly accumulates inside refineries when crude oil is “cracked” into a wide range of products, from gasoline and other fuels to tar for paving roads.

A different kind of Coke

Petroleum coke is a hard, grey material that contains much more carbon than coal. JBA drivers haul away this “pet coke” using a fleet of 29 tractors and 75 double-trailers that deliver the material to different facilities – including the massive Oxbow terminal on Pier G at the Port of Long Beach which is staffed by ILWU members. The Oxbow workers store and manage millions of tons of coke each year that is eventually

loaded by longshore workers onto bulk carrier vessels heading for Asia where most of the carbon-rich material is burned to fuel power plants and cement kilns, or used as a critical additive for making iron and steel.

Supply chain support

A group of 58 Oxbow workers went through their own struggle to join the ILWU back in 2005 when they voted to join Local 13’s Allied Division. Since then they have successfully negotiated contracts with Oxbow – privately owned by billionaire William Koch who controls much of America’s pet coke industry.

Solidarity makes a difference

“We already knew the guys at JBA because they come here all the time,” said Steve Cannon who’s worked at Oxbow for more than a decade. “It was natural for us to help them out because we were once in their shoes, before we organized to join the ILWU.”

JBA workers responded positively to advice from Oxbow workers. “They told us what to expect from management when it was crunch time just before the vote, and their predictions were 100% accurate,” said JBA driver Humberto Alvarez.

Begging for one more chance

One of the predictions was an 11th hour appeal by management for “just one more chance to make things right.” Such pleas are common anti-union tactics that management uses to sway workers in the final days on a union organizing campaign – usually with an emotional appeal, often include “tears” shed by sobbing executives who appears sincere, full of remorse for past “mistakes,” willing to “listen” and offering heartfelt promises to “make things right” – if the union isn’t involved.

We are with the ILWU



On August 31st, we will be voting for the ILWU because we want a democratic union that will give us a voice on the job.

Let’s send a clear message that we are united with the ILWU.

It’s time to stand together and start fighting for our own contract!

Their message was unity: This organizing flyer was used by JBA workers to build a united campaign and strong vote to join the ILWU.

Not fooled by tears

With workers primed to expect just such a performance, few were fooled when JBA official met with workers to beg for “one more chance” without the ILWU. Instead of falling for the tearful routine, JBA workers stuck with their plan and voted overwhelmingly to join the ILWU.

No to the company union

A simultaneous bid by the Teamsters Union to win the union election fizzled badly despite a show featuring big Teamster trucks with giant billboards, lots of Teamster jackets and dozens of flyers. The cozy relationship between company managers who invited the Teamsters to get involved after workers expressed support for the ILWU, doomed that effort in the eyes of most workers.

“It was obvious to everyone that the Teamsters were the company’s union, and we didn’t want that,” said JBA driver John Soto.

Getting a good contract

“Now it’s all about helping these workers get a good first contract,” said ILWU Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, who oversees the ILWU’s organizing campaigns. Familathe complimented the workers for

their unity and determination to join the ILWU, despite many obstacles that were thrown into their path.

“It’s always a struggle to get this far, but these guys pulled together and got it done,” he said.

Familathe noted that JBA has provided transportation services to the petroleum industry for over 30 years, and said their parent company, Bragg, is a successful operation with union contracts that cover many employees.

“Everyone at our end is prepared and ready to do their part, so we’re looking forward to negotiating a fair contract with JBA,” said Familathe.

Issues of concern

Some of the concerns that led JBA drivers to join the ILWU include a lack of respect, scheduling problems, unfair work distribution, long and sometime unpaid wait times, and the use of independent subcontractors.

“There are problems at JBA that need to be fixed, but all of us feel better now that we have a union,” said Angel Jauregui. “Having support from ILWU union brothers at Oxbow and others around the harbor area is really important to us. We’re glad to be part of the ILWU.”



Strategic cargo: Truckers at JBA who recently voted to join the ILWU, perform the essential task of removing petroleum coke from oil refineries.

DISPATCHER

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Sakuma workers win union vote with ILWU help

Over three-hundred workers at the Sakuma Brothers Farm in Northwest Washington State made history on the evening of September 12 by voting overwhelmingly to create their own independent farmworker union.

Organizing in the fields

The 377 workers who pick berries an hour north of Seattle in the fertile Skagit Valley have been supported by the ILWU and other unions since 2013, but they still had to overcome a bitter anti-union campaign in which many workers were fired and threatened. The Sakuma workers triumphed in their union vote because they built solidarity in the fields – and sought support from unions and consumers who backed a boycott of Driscoll’s Berries – the giant marketing brand that distributes berries from Sakuma and other growers that is no longer being boycotted.

Difficult years

ILWU members were among the first to help Sakuma workers when they began organizing in the summer of 2013, under the banner “Familias Unidas por la Justicia” or Families United for Justice (FUJ). Sakuma management quickly retaliated by firing leaders, ridiculing worker concerns by saying there was “nothing to negotiate,” and importing “guest workers” from Mexico to serve as company-paid strike-breakers. They also assailed reporters who interviewed workers and described harsh working conditions at Sakuma. ILWU Pensioners and local members visited workers and FUJ leaders in 2013, laying a foundation for further action by the ILWU International Executive Board that came when a \$3500 solidarity donation was authorized in December of 2013. Several months later the Puget Sound District Council sent a letter to Sakuma management, urging them to respect workers and sign a contract with the FUJ.

Boycotting begins

Labor law violations mounted but failed to force Sakuma Brothers to negotiate. Workers decided to ramp-up a consumer boycott – the same tactic used successfully in the 1960’s and 70’s by Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers Union. Boycotts can work, but they require enormous resources to reach consumers and enough time to get results. The ILWU helped the boy-

cott effort in a variety of ways. In June of 2015, the ILWU International Convention in Hawaii unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Sakuma workers and their boycott of Driscoll’s – the world’s largest distributor of fresh berries. In July of the same year, the ILWU provided the FUJ with a detailed corporate strategic research profile compiled by the ILWU Research Department that helped boycotters develop a more effective and strategic approach to their campaign. ILWU members continued supporting Sakuma workers by supporting boycott actions at locations throughout the Northwest.

Pensioners protest

Pensioners organized a dramatic protest at their September 2015 Convention in San Francisco where dozens of delegates joined International President Bob McEllrath, Vice President Ray Familathe and Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr., who marched defiantly into the produce section of a Whole Foods Market in San Francisco where they held an informal rally and fielded questions from friendly shoppers. The store manager eventually joined the dialog and agreed to pass concerns along to her regional manager.

Local 19 solidarity

Seattle dockworkers continued a longstanding tradition in July, 2016, when they expressed their commitment to show solidarity for the Sakuma workers and concern about Driscoll’s Berries – sending a powerful message to Sakuma management that the stakes were being raised – like the ILWU did decades earlier when the United Farmworkers Union needed help in California.

Plan for a big march

By early July of 2016, plans for a major mobilization were underway to bring 250 supporters – including ILWU and IBU members – to march through Sakuma’s berry fields and end with a rally in front of the company headquarters. The same tactic had been used successfully the year before to generate positive media stories, as detailed in the June 2015 issue of *The Dispatcher*.

Mounting legal headaches

In early July a federal judge ordered Sakuma to pay \$250,000 in legal costs for attorneys representing a group of Sakuma workers who sued their employer in a class-action lawsuit. The judge ordered Sakuma to pay



Support for Sakuma workers: ILWU leaders joined with labor and community groups at a march and rally last July to support the Sakuma Brothers berry farm union drive in Washington’s Skagit Valley (L-R): IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast, Local 25 Secretary-Treasurer Tyler Ashbach, Local 19 Dispatcher Dan McKisson, Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr., Coast Committeeman Cameron Williams, Local 9 Secretary-Treasurer Mike Pavelic, Local 9 Shop Steward Michael Kube, Pensioners Rich Austin and Mark Downs.

three times what the company’s attorney wanted. Sakuma avoided a courtroom trial by settling with 408 workers for a total of \$500,000 plus another \$350,000 in legal fees. Earlier this year the company paid \$87,160 to berry pickers after Washington’s Supreme Court ruled that piece-rate workers in 2014 were still entitled to be paid for 10-minute rest breaks, averaging payouts of \$231 per worker. That lawsuit filed by Sakuma workers changed conditions at every farm in Washington State.

Final contact with workers

The weeks leading up to the union vote were tense, given the years of anti-union harassment and propaganda that workers had been forced to endure. At the request of Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr., ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe agreed to assign bi-lingual organizer Jon Brier to help “get-out-the-vote” for the workers’ union. Brier joined the FUJ leaders to visit workers at their homes where it was easier to talk and ask questions.

Company agrees to talk

When Sakuma finally agreed to talk and reach terms on a fair election, things moved quickly. A neutral party was chosen to oversee the election, and when the votes were counted, the results were overwhelming, with only 58 of the 377 workers voting against the union, despite threats, firings, ongoing harassment and vilification of the union.

Company officials took a higher road as the election neared, insisting they would honor the workers’ decision if a majority voted for the union, adding that they were prepared to “sit

down and work out a contract with the workers.” At the vote count, Sakuma CEO Danny Wheeden joined the large number of workers and supporters, perhaps signaling another shift in the company’s perspective. More significantly, the company has agreed to reach a contract by a date certain – or both sides will submit their position to a neutral arbitrator who will choose one of the proposals – a practice known as “baseball arbitration.”

Solidarity at home and beyond

Local 19 President Rich Austin observed that “the Sakuma workers clearly achieved a major victory in their struggle to improve conditions and raise pay to \$15 an hour – and did it by reaching out to members of the ILWU and other unions, with the support of the National Farm Workers Ministry, and by building solidarity with community groups throughout the region.” Because many of Sakuma’s berry pickers originally came from indigenous communities in Mexico, workers also made an effort to support Driscoll’s workers who are organizing to improve terrible conditions at Driscoll’s berry farms in Baja California, clustered around the wind-blown Pacific Coast town of San Quintin, several hours south of Tijuana.

In the Pacific Northwest, thousands of farmworkers in Washington, Oregon and Canada’s Okanagan Valley are still working in miserable conditions and desperately need a union to help them. “Hopefully we can help the FUJ get a good contract and spread the union movement to so many other workers who need it,” said Austin. “They’re off to a great start.”

ILWU officers join Japan dockers’ 70th Anniversary

The All-Japan Dockworkers Union – Zenkowan – celebrated their 70th Anniversary in early September and invited ILWU International President Robert McEllrath and Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado to join almost 300 participants at their Convention. The event was held in the small coastal city of Katsuura, home of a historic fishing fleet and one of Japan’s largest fish markets.

Strong union ties

Zenkowan and the ILWU have longstanding ties and developed a deep solidarity commitment over the years, due partly to efforts by Presidents of both unions to attend each other’s conventions. Zenkowan President Koza Matsumoto attended the ILWU’s 2012 and 2015 ILWU conventions. Both times he came with a “Friendship and Solidarity Statement” that was signed in a public ceremony before hundreds of ILWU delegates.

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Ceremony of solidarity: Leaders and special guests of the All-Japan Dockworkers Union, known as Zenkowan, held a ceremony outside Tokyo to celebrate their 70th Anniversary. ILWU Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado and International President Robert McEllrath (3rd and 4th from right) were among the participants.



Election Recommendations for the Nov. 8th General Election

ILWU Southern California District Council

US PRESIDENT

HILLARY CLINTON

US SENATE

LORETTA SANCHEZ

US CONGRESS

- District 24 **SALUD CARBAJAL**
- District 25 **BRYAN CAFORIO**
- District 26 **JULIA BROWNLEY**
- District 27 **JUDY CHU**
- District 28 **ADAM SCHIFF**
- District 29 **RICHARD ALARCON**
or **TONY CARDENAS**
- District 30 **BRAD SHERMAN**
- District 31 **PETE AGUILAR**
- District 32 **ROGER HERNANDEZ**
or **GRACE NAPOLITANO**
- District 33 **TED LIEU**
- District 34 **XAVIER BECERRA**
- District 35 **NORMA TORRES**
- District 36 **RAUL RUIZ**
- District 37 **KAREN BASS**
- District 38 **LINDA SANCHEZ**
- District 39 **BRETT MURDOCK**
- District 40 **LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**
- District 41 **MARK TAKANO**
- District 42 **TIM SHERIDAN**
- District 43 **MAXINE WATERS**
- District 44 **ISADORE HALL**
- District 45 **RON VARASTEH**
- District 46 **NO RECOMMENDATION**
- District 47 **ALAN LOWENTHAL**
- District 48 **SUZANNE SAVERY**
- District 49 **DOUG APPELEGATE**

- District 50 **PATRICK MALLOY**
- District 51 **JUAN VARGAS**
- District 52 **SCOTT PETERS**
- District 53 **SUSAN DAVIS**

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

- District 25 **ANTHONY PORTANTINO**
- District 27 **HENRY STERN**
- District 29 **JOSH NEWMAN**
- District 31 **RICHARD ROTH**
- District 33 **RICARDO LARA**
- District 35 **STEVE BRADFORD**
- District 37 **ARI GRAYSON**
- District 39 **TONI ATKINS**

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

- District 32 **RUDY SALAS**
- District 33 **PETER MARKOVICH**
- District 34 **PERRIN SWANLUNG**
- District 35 **DAWN ORTIZ-LEGG**
- District 36 **STEVE FOX**
- District 37 **MONIQUE LIMON**
- District 38 **CHRISTY SMITH**
- District 39 **PATTY LOPEZ**
- District 40 **ABIGAIL MEDINA**
- District 41 **CHRIS HOLDEN**
- District 42 **GREG RODRIGUEZ**
- District 43 **LAURA FRIEDMAN** or **ARDY KASSAKHIANM**
- District 44 **JACQUI IRWIN**
- District 45 **MATT DABABNEH**
- District 46 **ADRIN NAZARIAN**
- District 47 **ELOISE REYES** or **CHERYL BROWN**
- District 48 **BLANCA RUBIO**
- District 49 **ED CHAU**
- District 50 **RICHARD BLOOM**
- District 51 **JIMMY GOMEZ**

- District 52 **FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ**
- District 53 **MIGUEL SANTIAGO**
- District 54 **SEBASTIAN RIDLEY-THOMAS**
- District 55 **GREG FRICHEL**
- District 56 **EDUARDO GARCIA**
- District 57 **IAN CALDERON**
- District 58 **CRISTINA GARCIA**
- District 59 **REGGIE JONES-SAWYER**
- District 60 **SABRINA CERVANTES**
- District 61 **JOSE MEDINA**
- District 62 **AUTUMN BURKE**
- District 63 **ANTHONY RENDON**
- District 64 **MIKE GIPSON**
- District 65 **SHARON QUIRK-SILVA**
- District 66 **AL MURATSUCHI**
- District 67 **JORGE LOPEZ**
- District 68 **SEAN JAY PANAHI**
- District 69 **TOM DALY**
- District 70 **PATRICK O'DONNELL**
- District 71 **NO RECOMMENDATION**
- District 72 **LENORE SHERIDAN**
- District 73 **NO RECOMMENDATION**
- District 74 **KARINA ONOFRE**
- District 75 **ANDREW MASIEL SR.**
- District 76 **NO RECOMMENDATION**
- District 77 **MELINDA VASQUEZ**
- District 78 **TODD GLORIA**
- District 79 **SHIRLEY WEBER**
- District 80 **LORENA GONZALEZ**

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS AND MEASURES

- Meas M...LA Traffic Improvement Plan Yes
- Prop 51 .School Bonds..... No
- Prop 52.State Fees on Hospitals.. No
- Prop 53.Revenue Bonds..... No
- Prop 54.Legislature & Proceedings No
- Prop 55.Tax Extension Yes
- Prop 56.Cigarette Tax Yes
- Prop 57.Criminal Sentences .Neutral
- Prop 58.English Language education Yes
- Prop 59.Campaign Finance Yes
- Prop 60.Adult Films Yes
- Prop 61 .State Prescription Drug Purchases. Yes
- Prop 62.Death PenaltyNeutral
- Prop 63 .Firearms & Ammunition Sales . Neutral
- Prop 64.Marijuana Legalization.. Yes
- Prop 65.Carryout Bags..... Yes
- Prop 66.Death Penalty Procedures ... Neutral
- Prop 67.Overturn Ban on Bags... Yes

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR - 4TH DISTRICT

JANICE HAHN

OXNARD HARBOR DISTRICT HARBOR COMMISSIONER

LAURA GALLARDO

OREGON AREA DISTRICT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Oregon State Measure 98** Yes **Multnomah County Commission**
Eric Zimmerman
- Oregon Secretary of State**
Brad Avakian
- Oregon State Representative**
House District 42-Rob Nosse
- Chair of Clackamas County Commission**
Jim Bernard
- Oregon State Senate**
Senate District 22- Lew Frederick
- Oregon State Representative**
House District 18-Tom Kane
House District 31-Brad Witt
House District 42-Rob Nosse
House District 45-Barbara Smith

PUGET SOUND DISTRICT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Washington State Governor**
Jay Insee
- United States Congress**
Suzan DelBene (1st CD)
Rick Larson (2nd CD)
Jim Moeller (3rd CD)***
Derek Kilmer (6th CD)
Pramilla Jayapal (7th CD)
Adam Smith (9th CD)
Danny Heck (10th CD)
- Local 19 recommendations:**
- Washington State Representative**
Gael Tarleton (WA, 36th District)
- United States Congress**
Pramilla Jayapal (7th CD)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Continued

Statewide Propositions

- Prop 51 School Bonds Yes
- Prop 52 Medi-Cal Hospital Fee Yes
- Prop 53 Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter No
- Prop 54 Legislation and Proceedings No
- Prop 55 Tax Extension Yes
- Prop 56 Cigarette Tax Yes
- Prop 57 Criminal Sentences Yes
- Prop 58 English Proficiency Yes
- Prop 59 Corporations & Political Spending Yes
- Prop 60 Adult Films, Condoms & Health No recommendation
- Prop 61 State Prescription Drug Purchases Yes
- Prop 62 Death Penalty Yes
- Prop 63 Firearms, Ammunition Sales No recommendation
- Prop 64 Marijuana Legalization No recommendation
- Prop 65 Carryout Bags Charges No recommendation
- Prop 66 Death Penalty, procedures No
- Prop 67 Ban on Single-use plastic bags Yes

San Francisco Supervisors

- Dist. 1 Sandra Fewer
- Dist. 3 Aaron Peskin
- Dist. 5 London Breed
- Dist. 7 Norman Yee
- Dist. 9 Hillary Ronen
- Dist. 11 Ahsha Safai

San Francisco Board of Education

- Rachel Norton
- Stevon Cook
- Matt Haney
- Mark Sanchez

San Francisco City College Trustees

- Alex Randolph
- Rafael Mandalman
- Tom Temprano
- Shanell Williams

San Francisco Measures

- A** School Bonds Yes
- B** City College Parcel Tax Yes
- C** Loans to Finance Acquisition Yes
- D** Vacancy Appointments Yes
- E** Responsibility for Maintaining Trees Yes
- F** Youth Voting in Local Elections No
- G** Police Oversight No recommendation
- H** Public Advocate Yes
- I** Funding for Seniors and Adults Yes
- J** Funding for Homelessness & Trans Yes
- K** General Sales Tax No recommendation
- L** MTA Appointments & Budget Yes
- M** Housing & Development Comm. Yes
- N** Non-citizen voting in School Board No recommendation
- O** Office Development in Hunters Point Yes
- P** Competitive Bidding for Housing Project No
- Q** Prohibiting Tents on Sidewalks Yes
- R** Neighborhood Crime Unit No recommendation
- S** Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds Yes
- T** Restricting Gifts from Lobbyists Yes
- U** Affordable Housing Requirements No
- V** Soda Tax No recommendation
- W** Real Estate Transfer Tax on \$5 mil Yes
- X** Space for Neighborhood Arts Yes
- RR** BART Safety Yes



Honoring the past and passing the torch: 49th Annual PCPA convention convenes in Tacoma



Solidarity: (From left to right): MUA Veteran Jim Donovan, Local 23 Pensioner Jim Norton and PCPA President Greg Mitre officially unveil the signed solidarity agreement between the ILWU PCPA and the MUA Veterans.

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and scabs during the late 1800's into the 1930's. One-hundred years later, marchers sang union songs and carried signs bearing slogans from the 1916 struggle in order to re-create the spirit of that strike.

Re-creating history

A brief street theater performance helped to re-create Tacoma's labor history, thanks to current members and pensioners who portrayed key figures in Local 23's early struggles. Mike Jagielski portrayed Charles Trench, founder of the Tacoma longshore local; International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams portrayed Alexander Laidlaw, a striker in the 1916 battle; Local 23 pensioner Eddie McGrath played Martin Fredrickson, a striker from the 1934 west coast waterfront strike; and Local 23 member Brian Skiffington represented "Everyman" of the current workforce. Each actor told about their struggles and sacrifices, hopes and dreams that built the union during more than a century of conflict.

Plaque honors ILWU martyr

A special memorial honoring the 1916 strikers began with the laying of a flower wreath in the Thea Foss Waterway, where special recognition was given to Alexander Laidlaw. Then a plaque was dedicated on the 11th Street Bridge to honor his death during 1916 strike. It was noted that today's Tacoma City Council had recently passed a resolution recognizing the 1916 strike and authorizing the permanent placement of the plaque.

Credit to young workers

Pensioners also credited members of Local 23's Young Workers Committee, who came up with the idea for a plaque on the bridge to honor the 1916 strikers, while attending joint meetings with the Tacoma pensioners.

"Tacoma is a gritty, working-class city and it's appropriate that we have this tribute to these workers. It's an important part of the history of the city," said Jagielski, one of the event organizers and chair of the Convention Host Committee.

Local 23 President Dean McGrath said the bridge remains an important symbol. "You will always have a conflict between capital and labor. This is a reminder of what can happen when we don't work out our differences."

Harry Bridges statue

On the evening of September 11, a bronze statue of Harry Bridges was unveiled at the Local 23 Hall, honoring one of the ILWU's most celebrated founders.

Contribution from a quiet member

The idea for a statue was a final wish of Local 23 pensioner Emil Korjan who passed away in 2015 at the age of 92, and left \$25,000 to help fund the statue. Korjan was a Local 23 member who played an important role in the Local's history by introducing the motion in 1958 that led to the local union leaving the ILA and affiliating instead with the ILWU.

"Korjan never ran for office and wasn't the kind of person who wanted to be in the limelight, but he was active in the union and proud to have introduced the motion that brought this local into the ILWU," Jagielski said.

Fundraising to finish the job

Local 23's Pensioner Club raised the remaining funds for the statue with generous contributions from Local 23 active members and pensioners. A critical donation of \$35,000 from the Coast Longshore Division at the recent longshore caucus in San Francisco plus a donation from the Southern California Pensioners Group put the fundraising effort over the top.

Unveiling ceremony

The unveiling ceremony drew a packed house at the hall from Local 23 members, pensioners, International officers and community members.

Local President Dean McGrath welcomed guests and introduced International President Bob McEllrath who spoke about Bridges' central role in the formation of the ILWU, his lifelong commitment to Civil Rights, and dedication to fighting for the working class. When McEllrath finished, he signaled to McGrath who unveiled the sculpture that triggered an enthusiastic round of applause. Bridges' daughter, Cathy, also spoke at the event and thanked the union for continuing her father's effort to build a union by and for labor and the working class.

Striking figure

The statue portrays Bridges larger at 6'-4" than he actually was, at about 5'-6," but sculptor Paul Michaels said

he deliberately took artistic license with Bridges' height in order to capture the labor leader's oversized role in America's working class history. The efforts of artist Paul Michaels were recognized during the ceremony and received a standing ovation. The sculpture is based on film footage of Bridges, captured during a 1986 visit to Tacoma when he commemorated the Local's 100th anniversary.

Finding a permanent home

The sculpture will be displayed temporarily at the Local 23 hall until a permanent home for the statue is secured. Emil Korjan had wanted it displayed at a place of learning where students would see it. Possible permanent locations for the statue include the University of Washington Tacoma campus or Bates Technical College.

Last minute details

Jagielski, who spearheaded the effort to make Korjan's dream a reality, said he wasn't sure the statue unveiling could actually happen until just days before the event. He said that spot welding and grinding work on the statue went late in the night before it was transported to the hall on Friday. A whole team of volunteers from Local 23, the Federated Auxiliary, pensioners and family members all chipped-in to make the Sunday night unveiling a success.

Welcome from Tacoma's Mayor

Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland welcomed the PCPA Convention attendees on the first day. She highlighted the importance of the longshore industry and the ILWU to Tacoma's economy, history and culture. She also cited the many events during the PCPA Convention that memorialize and celebrate that history.

"It really speaks to who we are as a city," said Strickland. "The City of Tacoma is an international waterfront city and blue collar work is a part of our DNA. We have to remember where we came from. And while we are here to celebrate and thank you for the work that you've done in the past, understand that what we are talking about is not just about history, it's about the future. What future opportunities will young people have to make family wage jobs?"

New PCPA charter

The convention welcomed the Alaska Pensioners Club with a new charter from the PCPA. President McEllrath presented the charter to Alaska pensioner Pee Wee Smith.

"The PCPA is growing and will continue to grow," said PCPA President Greg Mitre. He noted that representatives from the Panama Pensioners had planned to attend, but were unable to because of pressing issues at home that required attention. "I can guarantee you that next year there will be representatives from Panama at our convention in Southern California," Mitre said.

President's report

Mitre updated the convention on his activities during the past year,

including his attendance at the recent Longshore Caucuses in Panama and San Francisco. He also attended a meeting to discuss proposals for long term care insurance that might cover longshore members and possibly pensioners.

Automation & bankruptcy

Mitre touched on some new challenges that longshore workers are now facing, including automated terminals in Southern California and the recent bankruptcy of South Korean shipping company, Hanjin. He said the bankruptcy is the first fallout caused by dramatic decline in prices carriers can charge for transporting containers, due to the surplus capacity in the world shipping fleet.

"Hanjin is the first domino to fall and experts are saying they may not be last. There is going to be a ripple effect through the entire industry," Mitre said. "Where this goes is yet to be seen."

Mitre concluded his report by emphasizing the role of the PCPA in supporting the ILWU's active membership. "I think the role of the PCPA is to support the officers, to be there for them and ask them what they need.

We are fortunate to be included. In most industries, pensioners don't get to play the role that we do. The PCPA's role is to do whatever we can to ensure that the ILWU continues to prosper," Mitre said.

Phil Lelli Highway

On the evening of September 12, the Local 23 hall was filled to capacity again, this time to celebrate the dedication of the Philip Martin Lelli Memorial Highway. The Washington State Transportation Commission adopted Resolution 728 that named a section of State Route 509 in Tacoma after Lelli to honor the man's contribution to the Port and City of Tacoma.

Lelli was elected President of ILWU Local 23 multiple times for nearly two decades, serving from 1966 and 1985. He is credited with bringing greater efficiency to the Port of Tacoma that significantly increased container volumes. He was also recognized for his community service to help those in need at Tacoma's Hospitality Kitchen and various food banks in the South Sound.



Honoring Ron Magden: Dr. Ron Magden (left), honorary member of Local 23, was presented with the Jesse and Lois Stranahan Lifetime Achievement Award by Mike Jagielski (right). The award is given to honor an outstanding labor activist. Magden has written several books on Tacoma longshore history and has spent decades preserving helping to preserve important documents and conducting oral histories of longshoremen.

Young Worker's Committee

The convention took time to hear from members of Young Workers Committees at ILWU locals in Canada and the Pacific Northwest – plus special guests from the Young Workers Committee at the Maritime Union of Australia whose example inspired similar Committees to form in the US and Canada

The presentation began with a short video from the recent Young Workers Conference held in Canada. Attendees from the conference were interviewed about what “solidarity” meant to them. Following the video, young workers from the Maritime Union of Australia, ILWU Canada and ILWU Locals in the Pacific Northwest, talked about their efforts to organize educational forums and communication programs to help inform new workers about the labor movement and their role in developing a strong, democratic labor movement. After their presentation, the young workers received a standing ovation from pensioners. “This is the future of the ILWU right here,” said Mitre.

Youth video artists

Following the Young Workers Committee presentation, the convention screened a video about the 1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike made by three high school juniors from Redmond Middle School in Redmond, WA. Their film features newly-discovered archival footage and won first place in their state competition (See their “Letter to the Editor” in the July/August 2016 issue of *The Dispatcher*).

Solidarity agreement with MUA Veterans

Local 23 Pensioner Jim Norton and MUA veteran Jim Donovan made the official presentation of a signed solidarity agreement between the PCPA and the MUA pensioners. The MUA and ILWU pensioners maintain a close relationship, as do the active memberships of both unions.

Reports from Local Union Presidents

The convention heard from several ILWU local Presidents, including Local 19's Rich Austin Jr, and Local 13's President Bobby Olvera, Jr. Austin talked about the important role that pensioners play at Local 19 for active members, where they are a valuable source of experience and information. He then presented Greg Mitre with a check for \$5,000 from Local 19's membership to the PCPA.

So Cal automation impact

Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr., talked about the new automated terminal in the Port of Long Beach. “Every piece of equipment they are purchasing for these automated facilities is not to become more efficient but to get rid of workers. This will impact not only the ILWU, but the whole community,” Olvera said. “Robots don't give back to the community; they don't buy houses or pay taxes.” Olvera said that Long Beach Container Terminal's automated facility will replace 600 jobs in a 24-hour period when the terminal is operating at full capacity. He noted the irony of seeing the company's robots painted red, white and blue.

Subsidies for robots

“We have to develop an outside game. We are working to make it clear to politicians that you can't provide tax breaks, grants or other public monies from the federal, state or local government to foreign companies that replace American jobs with robots.” He said that Local 13, 63 94 and the Coast Longshore Division recently killed legislation that would have given a tax rebate to companies that buy automated equipment.

Olvera also talked about the new dispatch hall in Southern California which is sitting empty because of ongoing traffic and access issues. “We're not going to move 7,000 men and women into a hiring hall that causes discontent because they have difficulty getting in and out.”

The convention also heard from Local 10 President Ed Ferris, Local 5 President Mike Stanton, Local 63 President Paul Trani, Local 91 President Fred Gilliam and Local 94 President Danny Miranda.

Coast Committee Report

Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams addressed the delegates. Williams delivered the bulk of the report and gave a detailed update on grain negotiations in the Northwest.

Benefits plan

ILWU Coast Benefits Specialist John Castanho joined Benefit Plan Area Directors and coordinators for the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program who provided information to Convention delegates. Also present were representatives of the Benefit Plans Office (BPO). All of these experts made themselves available to answer questions and provide updates about health and pension plans. They reminded pensioners to update their address with the benefits plan office whenever they move in order to prevent any delays in getting checks – and encouraged everyone to sign up for direct deposit at their ILWU Credit Union or other institution. The new ADRP representative for Southern California, Tamiko Love, was introduced and will replace Jackie Cummings who retired earlier this year.

Victory for farmworkers

Pensioner Rich Austin Sr. announced that workers who organized their independent union called “Familias Unidas por la Justicia” (FUJ) won an overwhelming victory in their recent union election at Sakuma Farms. He noted that the ILWU's 2015 International Convention passed a resolution supporting FUJ, said the Washington Area Pensioners and Local 19 have been actively supporting the workers' campaign. At last year's PCPA convention in San Francisco, he recalled that pensioners and active members held a demonstration to support the farmworkers at a nearby Whole Foods market.

President McEllrath

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath spoke on the second day of the convention. He summarized the debate at the recent longshore caucus in San Francisco where delegates voted to explore the concept of discussions



Statue for Bridges: (From Left to Right: Coast Committeemen Cam Williams and Frank Ponce De Leon, ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe, International President Robert McEllrath, and International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams at the unveiling ceremony of the Bridges statue at the Local 23 Hall in Fife, WA.

with the Pacific Maritime Association about early contract talks.

McEllrath also noted the importance of the ILWU hiring halls, and warned that employers are attempting to undermine this important source of strength for longshore workers. He said the PMA had approached him with an idea of using automated dispatch through cell phones to replace the hiring halls. “I told them—‘don't ever bring that up to me again.’” McEllrath said that working out of the hall is a privilege. “Harry Bridges and 1934 strikers fought for that hiring hall and I'll be damned if I'm going to give that up!” he said.

Vice President & Sec. Treasurer

ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe spoke about his early years in the ILWU and being locked-out by rail yard employees when he was a member of the Local 13's Allied Division. “We had guns pointed at us while scabs were escorted across our picket line,” Familathe recalled, and warned that employers may try similar tactics in the future. He updated Convention delegates about the ILWU's ongoing contract campaigns and organizing efforts, including a recent organizing victory by JBA truck drivers in California (see article on page 2 in this issue).

ILWU Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams, who also serves as President of the San Francisco Port Commission, attended the first days of the Convention, but was unable to speak because of a Port Commission meeting in San Francisco.

A host of important speakers

Other speakers at the convention included Northwest Seaport Alliance CEO John Wolfe; Tacoma Mayor Emeritus Bill Baarsma who now serves as President of the Tacoma Historical Society; Washington State Labor Council President Jeff Johnson; Washington State Senator and candidate for the 7th Congressional District, Pramila Jayapal.

PCPA Poet Laureate Jerry Brady read his poem, “The First Tacoma Longshore,” and received a warm welcome for his work. Also speaking at the event was Conor Casey from the University of Washington's Labor Archives. Casey gave an update about the Archives' effort to preserve the history of working people in the Pacific Northwest.

Resolutions

The PCPA Convention delegates passed several resolutions

- Supporting the ILWU Longshore Division;
- Asking the International Union to clarify rights of pensioners as fraternal delegates to submit resolutions and/or make motions at ILWU conventions;
- Allowing the Local 23 Pensioners Club major ports status;
- Creating a Long Term Care committee;
- Reverting back to previous language stating that the PCPA convention will be held “the first Monday after the second Wednesday in September.”
- Adding one Executive Board seat for Alaska and Tacoma.
- Supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all nations opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline;
- Supporting efforts by the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, an organization of incarcerated workers, to end the system of unpaid and underpaid prison labor.

PCPA elections & next Convention

PCPA President Greg Mitre, Vice President Lawrence Thibeaux, Recording Secretary Kenzie Mullen and Treasurer Chris Gordon were elected by acclamation. The next PCPA convention will be held in Long Beach, CA from September 18-20, 2017, at the Maya Hotel.



Remembering Cleophas: Sadie Williams, widow of beloved pensioner Cleophas Williams, thanked the PCPA and the ILWU. The caucus was dedicated to the memory of all the pensioners who have passed since last year's convention.

ILWU officers join Japan dockers' 70th Anniversary

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History of solidarity

President McEllrath addressed the Zenkowan delegates in Katsuura, explaining that he and Vice President Furtado were honored to be guests and humbled by the deep expressions of solidarity that have bound both unions together for decades.

"We deeply appreciate what Zenkowan has done for ILWU members, and we have tried to be helpful as well," said McEllrath.

The ILWU sent contributions to help Zenkowan members in 2011,

some of whom were hit hard by the devastating tsunami that tore apart Fukushima and other coastal cities along Japan's Northeast coast. Zenkowan has supported ILWU members in key labor struggles, including the 2012-2014 lockout involving two Japanese-owned grain companies in the Pacific Northwest.

"Both our unions were built on the principle of solidarity at home and around the world," said McEllrath. "Zenkowan and the ILWU have built a strong foundation, and we intend to keep it that way."

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: John J. Lee; Joseph N. Austin; **Local 13:** James W. Osborne; Rudy N. Wingard; Angel G. Gonzalez; Fernando M. Munoz; Valentin M. Rincon; Salvador Trujillo; John M. Hernandez; Mary Eileen Mcatee; David M. Lian; Bobby L. Barber; **Local 19:** Rick D. Johnson; **Local 23:** Tony V. Goretti; **Local 30:** Gayland Parks; Tony (Jorge) Miranda; William Sivia; Danny Haynes; **Local 40:** Daniel Shalduha; **Local 46:** Alfonso A. Ortiz; **Local 52:** Thomas A. Thompson; **Local 54:** Rene Gama; **Local 63:** Tommie L. Williams; Nelma L. Hernandez; Christine E. Nichols; **Local 94:** Joaquin G. Hernandez; Cecil L. Richardson; **Local 98:** Steven D. Hester;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 7: Guy F. Williams; **Local 8:** Albert H. Schmit (Loretta); Glen R. Embury; Richard A. Gilstrap; Julius C. Moore; Lawrence S. Meier;

Local 10: Conrad Ramponi; Bernard Carrasco; **Local 13:** Patrick J. Barrios (Antonia); F. P. Turrigiano (Gloria); Paul E. Parra (Guadalupe); Joseph E. Darby; Gabriel H. Padron (Hortencia); **Local 19:** Vladimir Dzutsoff; Kenneth Foster; **Local 30:** Richard Dowdy; **Local 34:** Charles E. Clausen; Lewis E. Gibbons; Lee P. Trezos (Irma); **Local 50:** Lewis N. Kelley; **Local 52:** Harold W. Thomas; **Local 63:** Bryan R. Jones (Shirley); Richard C. Denler; **Local 94:** Jack K. Mathlin (Maria);

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Esther L. Crane; Linda Lundervold; **Local 10:** Mary E. Souza; Frances Garnica; Erma L. Stitt; Lenora Riley; **Local 12:** Sharon E. Cottell; **Local 13:** Evelyn O. Lively; **Local 23:** Lois J. Yelovich; **Local 40:** Joean K. Franssen; **Local 63:** Margaret Bozanich; Helen L. Conway; **Local 92:** Helen G. Gardner; **Local 98:** Georgia L. Olson;

Transportistas de coque deciden unirse a ILWU

Los trabajadores de JBA Transport que transportan el coque de petróleo de refinerías en California a instalaciones de almacenamiento y muelles votaron abrumadoramente para unirse al ILWU el 1 de septiembre.

Se rechazó el trato entre los Teamsters y la Compañía

En la misma votación, los trabajadores rechazaron contundentemente la petición de representación del Sindicato de los Teamsters, el cual obtuvo sólo 2 votos de los 23 empleados de JBA, a pesar de que hicieron una campaña agresiva con el apoyo obvio de la gerencia.

"Queríamos un fuerte sindicato independiente, que nos diera una voz - no un sindicato que ya estaba compartiendo la cama con la Compañía," dijo Humberto Alvarez, conductor veterano de JBA.

Casi todos los conductores trabajan fuera de la sede de JBA en Wilmington, CA, aunque dos conductores que hacen recorridos a las refinerías de la Bahía tienen su base en Pittsburgh, CA. Realizan un tarea vital

Los trabajadores de JBA realizan una tarea vital al acarrear el coque, un subproducto del proceso de refinado que constantemente se acumula dentro de las refinerías cuando el petróleo crudo es transformado en una amplia gama de productos, desde la gasolina y otros combustibles hasta brea para pavimentar los caminos.

Un tipo diferente de coque

El coque proveniente del petróleo es un material duro y gris que contiene mucho más grafito que el carbón. Los conductores de JBA acarrearán este "coque de petróleo" usando una flota de 29 tractores y 75 doble

remolques para entregar el material a diferentes instalaciones - incluidos el terminal masivo de Oxbow en el Muelle G en el puerto de Long Beach que es atendido por miembros de ILWU. Los trabajadores de Oxbow almacenan y manejan millones de toneladas de coque cada año que finalmente es cargado por los trabajadores portuarios en buques graneleros que parten para Asia, en donde la mayor parte de este material rico en carbón se quema como combustible para centrales eléctricas y hornos de cemento o como aditivo esencial para hacer el hierro y acero.

Apoyo para la cadena de suministro

Un grupo de 58 trabajadores de Oxbow emprendieron su propia lucha para unirse al ILWU en 2005 cuando votaron para unirse a la División de Ocupaciones Conexas del Local 13. Desde entonces, han negociado con éxito contratos con Oxbow - una empresa del multimillonario William Koch que controla una buena parte del comercio del coque del petróleo en este país.

La solidaridad hace la diferencia

"Nosotros ya conocíamos a los compas de JBA porque vienen aquí todo el tiempo," dijo Steve Cannon, quien ha trabajado en Oxbow durante más de una década. "A nosotros se nos hizo fácil ayudarles porque nosotros también pasamos por los mismos problemas antes de afiliarnos a ILWU."

Los trabajadores de JBA respondieron positivamente a los consejos de los trabajadores de Oxbow. "Ellos nos dijeron lo que iba a hacer la administración a la hora de la verdad justo antes de la votación, y sus predicciones fueron 100% exactas," dijo Humberto Alvarez, conductor de JBA.

Rogaron para se les diera una última oportunidad

Una de las predicciones fue que a última hora la administración iba a rogarles que les "dieran una última oportunidad de hacer las cosas bien". Tales ruegos son tácticas antisindicales comunes que usan las compañías para convencer a los trabajadores en los últimos días de las campañas de organización sindical - generalmente con un llamamiento emocional, que a menudo incluye "lagrimas" derramadas por ejecutivos que aparentan sinceridad, llenos de remordimiento por los "errores" cometidos, dispuestos a "escuchar" y ofreciendo promesas sinceras de "hacer las cosas bien" - si no interviene el sindicato.

No se dejaron engañar por lágrimas

Como los trabajadores ya estaban preparados justo para tal espectáculo, pocos se dejaron engañar cuando un funcionario de JBA se reunió con los trabajadores para rogarles "por una oportunidad más" sin el ILWU. En vez de dejarse llevar por los lloriqueos, los trabajadores de JBA siguieron fielmente con su plan y votaron abrumadoramente a favor de unirse al ILWU.

No al sindicato de empresa

Una campaña simultánea por el Sindicato de los Teamsters para ganar la elección sindical no llegó a nada, a pesar de que armó un espectáculo con grandes camiones con vallas publicitarias enormes, muchas chaquetas de los Teamsters y decenas de volantes. La estrecha relación entre los directores de la empresa que invitaron al Sindicato de los Teamsters a que se involucrara después de que los trabajadores expresaron su apoyo para el ILWU, condenó ese esfuerzo al fracaso a ojos de los trabajadores.

"Era obvio para todos que el Sindicato de los Teamsters era un sindicato controlado por la compañía, y no queríamos eso," dijo John Soto, conductor de JBA.

Para conseguir un buen contrato

"Ahora se trata de ayudar a estos trabajadores a conseguir un buen primer contrato", dijo el Vicepresidente de ILWU (continental) Ray Familathe, que supervisa las campañas de organización del ILWU. Familathe felicitó a los trabajadores por su unidad y decisión de unirse al ILWU, a pesar de los muchos obstáculos que les pusieron en su camino.

"Siempre es una lucha para llegar hasta aquí, pero estos compañeros supieron unirse y lograrlo," dijo.

Familathe señaló que JBA ha prestado servicios de transporte a la industria del petróleo durante más de 30 años, y dijo que su empresa matriz, Bragg, es una empresa exitosa con contratos sindicales que amparan a muchos empleados.

"Estamos preparados y dispuestos a hacer nuestra parte, así que esperamos negociar un contrato justo con JBA," dijo Familathe.

Cuestiones de interés

Algunas de las preocupaciones que motivaron que los conductores de JBA se unieran al ILWU incluyen la falta de respeto, los problemas de programación, la distribución injusta del trabajo, períodos de espera largos y a veces sin pago, y el uso de subcontratistas independientes.

"Hay problemas en JBA que necesitan ser corregidos, pero todos nosotros nos sentimos mejor ahora que tenemos un sindicato," dijo Angel Jáuregui. "El tener el apoyo de compañeros del sindicato ILWU en Oxbow y de otros en la zona del puerto es muy importante para nosotros. Estamos contentos de formar parte de ILWU."