Donald Trump stunned the political establishment on November 8 with a knockout blow to conventional wisdom and corporate liberalism, delivered by angry working-class voters.

“America’s working class has been frozen out or falling behind for three decades while the upper crust has been partying with Washington insiders and Wall Streeters from both parties,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath. “Trump tapped into that anger while his opponent stood for the establishment.”

Would Bernie have done better?

The ILWU backed Bernie Sanders during the primaries because he spoke honestly about working class anger, the loss of good jobs and corruption of the political process. And unlike Trump, Sanders also offered specific proposals to make things better, including Medicare for All, free tuition at public colleges, and ending the corrupt campaign finance system. He made his appeals without the scapegoating, racism and threats of violence that Trump used to manipulate media coverage and tap into dangerous hate politics. Nobody can say for sure whether Sanders would have prevailed over Trump if he were running instead of Clinton, but he did prove it was possible to win big support from working class and independent voters in Michigan and Wisconsin who embraced Sanders over Clinton in both primary elections.

The only vote that counts

The final results show that Clinton won the overall “popular” vote, but she failed to win according to America’s peculiar Electoral College system that gave Donald Trump the White House after winning the decisive “rust-belt battleground” states where working class voters, including current and former union members, chose Trump as their change agent in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Voters were hurting

“I kept meeting people at their homes around Cleveland who told me about the good jobs they used to have that were gone now because of NAFTA,” said Local 6 member Victor Pamiroyan who travelled to Ohio with Erik Ferrel of the IBU and Local 5’s Mark Sailor and Ron Solomon. The quartet hoped to win support for pro-union Senate candidate Ted Strickland, but quickly came to realize how hard their task was to reach voters who had been hammered by decades of job losses. “Seeing all those empty factories as I drove into town from the airport was really shocking,” said Pamiroyan.

ILWU helps in six states

The ILWU sent small teams of union members to six key states during the final two weeks of the election: Florida, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Missouri. After arriving, each team connected with other union members who were part of a coordinated campaign effort to contact union households and encourage them to vote for pro-union candidates. Each of the six states had a competitive U.S. Senate race where union-friendly candidates continued on page 2.
Trump stuns the establishment; union members face challenges

continued from page 1

were hoping to defeat anti-union incumbents or challengers. Hoping to tip the balance

The hope was that winning U.S. Senate races in four or five states could change the balance of power in the Senate, to prevent Congress from passing more anti-union legislation. That effort to elect four new pro-union senators failed, giving Trump a better chance to pass anti-union laws that will hurt working families and union members.

Anti-union history

Trump managed to win most of the working class votes – estimated to be 40% of the total – despite his clear record of anti-union behavior.

“Trump’s view about unions is pretty clear,” said President McEllrath. “There were picket lines in front of Trump’s hotel in Las Vegas because workers inside couldn’t get him to negotiate and the National Labor Relations Board just filed charges ordering him to recognize and negotiate a contract. He also exploited immigrant workers on his construction jobs, sent jobs overseas for his clothing line, and told workers here in the U.S. to cut pay and benefits if they want jobs – while promising bigger tax breaks for corporations and the super-rich.”

Turning workers against each other

Trump wasn’t the first anti-union candidate to win working class votes in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio. All three states were once full of union members, and politicians were dependably pro-union until factotum started closing and moving overseas in the 1970’s. The families who remained after losing their jobs and benefits became fertile ground for anti-union politicians who constantly blamed unions for “driving away jobs” while promising to put more money in people’s pockets by cutting taxes, and calling for tax cuts for corporations and the super-rich.

Fertile ground for Trump

By the time Trump arrived in Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio, each state had been pounded for decades by runaway shops and anti-union corporations and the super-rich. “I’m an Alaska native from the Tongit nation, so travelling to Florida was a long way from home and it was so much hotter there,” said James “Andy” Jackson. “We knocked on doors and talked with people about voting, I didn’t even realize we’d be doing that when I signed up, but it was fun and worthwhile.” Pensioner W.C. “Pee Wee” Smith was also from Ketchikan, Alaska, and had a twisted ankle, so he navigated and drove Local 19 team leader Todd Weeks and Andy Jack- son to each house on their route. They were warmly welcomed by most resi-
dents in the predominantly immigrant neighborhoods of Kendall near Miami. “Many didn’t speak much English, but their faces really lit up when they saw who we were supporting,” said Jack- son. On a quick road trip they took farther south of Miami, they noticed a lot more Trump signs. Senate challenger Patrick Murphy was soundly defeated by anti-union incumbent Marco Rubio, who won by almost 8% and 700,000 votes. “It was amazing to meet all the immigrants from so many different countries, and most of them were supportive,” said Todd Weeks. “It was a good experience and I would definitely do it again.”

Getting out the vote in Ohio

Ohio team leader Erik Ferrel’s group included Mark Sailor from Local 5 and Victor Pamiroyan from Local 6. He said their group was warmly greeted by other union members when they arrived at the North Shore AFL-CIO office in Cleveland. “They were excited to see us and said they had missed our help during the past few years,” he said. “We spent days knocking on doors and getting commitments to vote early.” Despite the hard work by ILWU members and other union volunteers, pro-union Senate candidate and former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland was crushed by anti-union incumbent Rob Portman, who won by 21 percent and over a million votes.

Wondering about Wisconsin

ILWU Legislative Assistant Blanca Bloomquist and Local 13’s Christine Agurrre both went to Wisconsin feel- ing hopeful because polls showed pro-union candidate Russ Feingold was expected to win his race against anti-union incumbent Senator Ron John- son. When it was over, Johnson, who defeated Feingold six years earlier, was able to keep his seat, winning by 3 per- cent and almost 100,000 votes. “After our visit we could see there was lots of work ahead if we want to win back working class voters in Wisconsin, and now after the election results are in, it’s even more true,” said Bloomquist.

Pushing hard in Pennsylvania

“After we were welcomed into the union campaign headquarters in Phil- adelphia by a big group of our union brothers and sisters, we got right into the door-to-door light in the neighbor- hoods,” said team leader Dane Fredericks of Local 5. The PA team included ILWU member Gary Rudinshaw and Local 19 member Aleksandra Vekich. The Senate race pitted anti-union incumb- ent Senator Pat Toomey against union supporter Katie McGinty, who was up in the polls at one point, but lost on election day by 2 percent and 100,000 votes. “We spent our days talking to union members, their families and neighbors. The reception was mixed, as we expected, but it was heartening to see there trying to make a difference in this important election,” said Fredericks.

Moving votes in Missouri

Missouri team leader Brent Bissett of Local 8 went to the “Show Me” state with Local 5 member Ron Solomon, and Local 10’s Melvin Mackay. Bissett said he was excited to see a new city and immediately went to see the giant

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Baldado (not in photo).

Leader Regina Shore of Local 19, along with Local 19 members Steve Labbe and Kevin The ILWU quartet included Keith Madding of the IBU San Francisco Region, Team voters surrounding Las Vegas in Clark County, where most of the state’s voters live. Among the 17 ballot propositions, voters extended an income tax boost for the richest residents, legalized marijuana, made it easier to get parole, continued the death penalty and speeded up the appeal process, required background checks for ammunition purchases and prohibited high-capacity magazines, modified bi-lingual education, expressed opposition to the Citizens United case allowing unlimited political spending by corporations, and rejected a plan to lower prescription drug prices that big pharma spent an estimated $100 million to defeat.

In Washington State, Seattle voters elected strongly pro-union advocate Pramila Jayapal to fill the Congressional seat held for 26 years by longtime union advocate Jim McDermott who is retiring. She easily defeated her corporate-friendly challenger. Other House seats remained relatively unchanged, as did the state house and senate.

Voters approved several ballot initiatives, including ones to raise the minimum wage, express opposition to Citizens United, build 82 miles of light-rail, oppose a state carbon tax and temporarily limit guns for those who pose an immediate danger to themselves or others.

Oregon voters saw few changes in their election, with one exception: an open seat for Secretary of State was won by conservative Dennis Richardson who defeated pro-labor candidate Brad Avakian. Despite the loss, Avakian will continue serving in another post as State Labor Commissioner. Progressive Portland City Council candidate Chloe Eudaly won a seat on the City Council. Local 8 Secretary-Treasurer Shanti Levallen ran for U.S. Senate as a member of the Working Families Party and won 59,000 votes (3 percent) – but he also secured future ballot appearances for the pro-labor WFP. Statewide ballot measures included more funding for affordable housing and defeat of a corporate tax increase.

Hawaii is one of the most pro-worker states in the nation, and that remained unchanged after the 2016 general election. U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, and Congresswoman-elect Colleen Hanabusa all won their races with larger than two-to-one margins over anti-union opposition. Hanabusa also won the special election to fill the remaining portion of the late Congressman Mark Takai’s term. Including Senator Mazie Hirono, Hawaii has an entirely labor-friendly congressional delegation. The Hawaii State SenateMargins over anti-union opposition. Hanabusa also won the special election to fill the remaining portion of the late Congressman Mark Takai’s term. Including Senator Mazie Hirono, Hawaii has an entirely labor-friendly congressional delegation. The Hawaii State Senate became the only all-Democrat legislative body in the nation when Honolulu City Councilman Stanley Chang defeated twenty-year incumbent Sam Slom. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell won his third term, prevailing over conservative Republican former Congressman Charles Djou who easily defeated Loretta Sanchez, despite backing from ILWU member Gary Bucknum.
New books reveal important truths and lessons about Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers Union

For more than 50 years, Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers Union have been rightly regarded as giants of the great Civil Rights and social justice movements of the 1960s and ’70s. Because of the ILWU’s progressive political tradition, many union leaders and members were closely connected to Chavez, and provided important support to the Farmworkers Union – along with thousands of other activists and institutions who contributed time and energy to what was called “la causa.”

Several authors – all deeply sympathetic to the cause – have recently taken a closer look at Chavez and the UFW, in an effort to give a fuller and more honest picture of the man. Veteran ILWU members who supported the UFW are likely to find answers in these books to questions they encountered but could not answer then: Why did the consumer grape and lettuce boycotts come to dominate the organization – at the expense of union’s membership that faded away in the fields? Why were so many dedicated rank-and-file leaders and staff volunteers banished from the union? Why were so many bad decisions made at the top without more questions or challenges from the membership?

Younger ILWU members today may find wisdom in these pages that will help them take greater responsibility in their local union.

Nobody who was alive then will forget the vicious attacks against the UFW that came from growers, their political allies and collaborators – sadly including leaders of the Teamsters Union. That opposition explains some – but not all – of the challenges that UFW members faced every day. These books add other important details that have been missing until now.

Trampling Out the Vintage: Cesar Chavez and the Two Souls of the United Farm Workers

by Frank Bardacke

Bardacke was a Berkeley college student who left his classes in the 1960’s to join farmworkers in the Salinas and Pajaro Valleys of California where much of the nation’s fresh vegetables are still grown with migrant labor. He worked in those fields, learned to speak Spanish and came to discover the long legacy of farmworker struggles that existed before, during and after the UFW’s peak. Bardacke explains how workers sometimes used solidarity and cunning to win raises, improve conditions and exercise a degree of control over their work – without a union. His focus on the workers perspective is central to Bardacke’s “bottom-up” view of the UFW history, and it contrasts with many other accounts that emphasize the role of Chavez as great leader – often at the expense of other workers and leaders.

Bardacke’s book is beautifully written, beginning with his first chapter that describes the Salinas Valley landscape with eloquence comparable to John Steinbeck’s work 80 years earlier. He covers Chavez and the UFW in great detail, but begins with background about the workers, their industry and many struggles that came before the UFW was formed – including contributions by ILWU Cannery Workers Union Local 37 organizer Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz and other Filipino radicals who organized farm workers and led historic grape strikes in the Salinas Valley during the summer of 1965, which Chavez reluctantly agreed to support. Itliong and Chavez soon joined forces to form the UFW.

At over 800 pages, this book covers the rise and fall of the UFW using many internal documents and extensive interviews with key players – especially farm workers – who had the most to win and faced the greatest risks. He also includes material from ILWU members and attorneys. But for all his focus on internal union conflicts, Bardacke never fails to pay heed to the immense power wielded against the union by growers, their politicians and willing partners in law enforcement and the Teamsters. After finishing his book, Bardacke met with former UFW leaders and stayed with them for a year, and during that time he shared his thoughts and invited others to do the same. The 20 years devoted by Bardacke to write this book have yielded a rich and important history about the UFW’s historic struggle that sparked a broader movement for immigrant rights in America.
Alinsky came of age during the Great Depression and was inspired by labor activists and radicals who led massive union organizing campaigns during the 1930’s that helped steelworkers, autoworkers, and West Coast dockworkers and other workers under the banner of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). Alinsky saw how those efforts transformed power relations in America between the rich and poor — then used some of those same ideas along with his own to build “people’s” organizations in working-class neighborhoods. Alinsky started in Chicago’s “Back of the Yards” neighborhood that was surrounded by stockyards and slaughterhouses. He was strongly influenced by the labor organizer Herb March of the United Packinghouse Workers of America who was a public member of the Communist Party, which was then gaining popularity among workers. Alinsky managed to build a surprising coalition of neighborhood residents, labor radicals, Catholic Church leaders and small business owners in “Back of the Yards” that he used as a model in other efforts. The result of that organizing in the decades that followed have yielded some impressive victories along with stunning failures and disappointments, but Alinsky and his ideas remain important for anyone interested in the promise and pitfalls of organizing for power, and this book is an excellent source.

**America’s Social Arsonist: Fred Ross and Grassroots Organizing in the Twentieth Century**

By Gabriel Thompson

Teachers and mentors are important for everyone, including Cesar Chavez, who met Fred Ross on a summer evening in 1952 in San Jose, an experience that Chavez later said, “changed my life.” This encounter began a remarkable journey for both men; providing Chavez with a teacher and tools to help him organize the UFW, while Ross was able to apply and refine his philosophy and craft of organizing. Together, they built organizations that changed history and inspired social movements.

Ross, who died in 1992, spent time growing up on San Pedro’s Beach Street where his grandfather ran a hotel during the 1920’s. A poor student who managed to attend college, Ross had trouble finding work during the Great Depression until landing a job with Franklin Roosevelt’s Farm Security Administration that provided relief programs for farm workers. He ran a government farm labor camp in the Central Valley that inspired the later “Grapes of Wrath.” At the camp, he met workers and hungry families — along with radical labor organizers and Communists who taught him essential organizing skills: how to learn by listening, how to identify leaders and how to bolster worker confidence with small steps that eventually moved people to action. After WWII, Ross helped build California’s Civil Rights movement led by Mexican-Americans who fought to end school segregation, improve services and register voters. He met influential radicals and activists, including ILWU Local 26 President Bert Corona, and the outspoken “troublemaker” Saul Alinsky, who supported efforts to build the “Community Security Organization” (CSO) and taught him the importance of organizing with Mexican-American families to defend their rights, register to vote and improve living conditions. Ross met, recruited and trained Cesar Chavez to become a CSO leader — although Chavez was already a respected young neighbor and church leader in 1952. Ross continued building the CSO in the 1950’s, when he found and trained other talented leaders including Dolores Huerta and Gilbert Padilla who played key roles in the new farmworker union that Chavez started organizing in 1958. Ross used hundreds of “house meetings” as the foundation to build the CSO, an approach used and refined by the Farmworkers Union to recruit thousands of workers and community volunteers.

Ross remained close to Chavez and the UFW during the next 30 years, playing an important role in organizing the powerful consumer boycotts that pressured growers to negotiate union contracts. Ross was interested in following systems and keeping records; some of his techniques are still considered the ‘gold standard’ for successful organizing today. Devoting so much time to “la causa” took a toll on his family, and Ross was also unwilling to challenge interpersonal relationships and power structures. Ross died in 2015, and grew increasingly concerned about Chavez and the union’s leadership. Before he died in 2015, Watson told The Dispatcher of his deep disappointment at the UFW’s anti-democratic practices and his disappointment with the union’s strike by lettuce workers in Salinas that scored some victories despite opposition from Chavez. He was also concerned about the UFW’s lack of democracy and was troubled by signs that Chavez seemed drawn to personal martyrdom. Fortunately, Pawel and Bardacke provide valuable background to help explain the origins of these traits, including the influence of conservative Catholic traditions, fear of left-wing organizers, and a desire to maintain total control over the smallest details. The result is a more accurate and honest account of a famous labor leader who was more flawed and human than the mythic figure in previous accounts.

**People Power: The Community Organizing Tradition of Saul Alinsky**

by Aaron Schutt and Mike Milner

Saul Alinsky (1909-1972) was America’s best known community organizer who proposed a path for the powerless to gain power through democratizing organizations and militant tactics that embraced conflict. His ideas about strategy have influenced many important organizers in the 20th Century including Fred Ross, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Gil Padilla of the United Farmworkers Union — plus thousands of lesser-known leaders who have built organizations using Alinsky’s ideas.

“People Power” is a comprehensive collection of short articles, analyses and excerpts that explain Alinsky’s ideas on how he got them and why those ideas continue to interest activists and organizers today.
ILWU solidarity helps Hanjin seafarers defend their right to shore leave

Crewmembers on foreign-flagged vessels arriving at West Coast ports have frequently sought help from ILWU members and International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) inspectors.

“Sometimes we discover that crewmembers haven’t been paid correctly, or other times they report abusive working conditions, but sometimes it comes down to respecting their right to shore leave after working weeks or months at sea,” said ITF Coordinator Jeff Engels in Seattle.

This history of helping seafarers explains how a brief, spontaneous solidarity action by ILWU members at the Port of Seattle on the evening of September 26, helped crewmembers aboard the Hanjin vessel Marine who were denied shore leave by officials at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Spontaneous solidarity

“The solidarity action on September 26 was a spontaneous response by ILWU members who saw the frustration of those crew members who were locked aboard their ship for several weeks,” said Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr.

ILWU members responded quickly to the sight of crewmembers aboard the Marine who dangled a homemade banner emblazoned with the words, “We deserve shore leave” and “Thank you ILWU.” Dozens of ILWU members who were working on the Seattle dock briefly cheered for the crew and blew horns on vehicles that were operating alongside the container vessel around 6pm.

Support from ITF officials

The solidarity action won praise from leaders of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), who said the refusal to grant shore leave to seafarers on Hanjin ships calls for concern about conditions aboard. ILWU International President Bob McEllrath who added, “all of us have a responsibility to keep that tradition alive.”

ITF First Vice Chair and ILWU Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe said, “ Preventing these seafarers from going ashore denies them a basic right, especially after they’ve been on a ship for weeks or months.” Familathe said the ILWU urged the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to review decisions made by some regional officials who enacted the lockdown against seafarers. Familathe, who previously served as an Inspector/Coordinator for the ITF, added, “members of Congress asked CBP for an explanation and change of policy.”

Customs officials said the shore leave was denied because of fears that Hanjin’s recent bankruptcy might encourage some seafarers to jump ship. Those fears haven’t been realized and the ILWU solidarity action and follow-up work appears to have encouraged CBP officials to reconsider their blanket prohibition against shore leave – confirmed when crewmembers on the next Hanjin vessel that docked in Seattle on October 14 were allowed shore leave.

Monitoring conditions

ITF West Coast Coordinator Jeff Engels and ITF Inspector Stefan Mueller closely monitored working conditions aboard Hanjin vessels after the company declared bankruptcy on August 31. ITF officials also worked closely with the Federation of Korean Seafarers’ Unions and Korean Shipowners’ Association, who formed a joint taskforce to ensure that food, water and other provisions were put aboard, along with special insurance coverage to see that wages and pension benefits would be guaranteed for seafarers.

Weeks without shore leave

“We want to ensure that crewmembers are being paid fairly and served good food, which has been the case on every Hanjin vessel we’ve inspected so far, ” Engels said. He was, however, concerned about conditions aboard the Hanjin Marine in September, because that vessel had been waiting offshore for several weeks before it docked in Seattle. To make matters worse, crewmembers aboard the Marine and other Hanjin vessels had been previously stranded offshore in Southern California and denied shore leave there.

Change for the better

“When Customs officials changed course by allowing crewmembers aboard the Hanjin Vessel Seattle to go ashore on October 14, it signaled that the agency was open to a more flexible and compassionate approach,” said Engels, who believes that ILWU solidarity and support from lawmakers in Washington played an important role in encouraging the change in shore leave.

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“When I came up the gangway to do my inspection, five crewmembers were already heading down with their shore leave,” he said. Mueller completed a thorough inspection and interviewed the Captain and crew, which allowed him to verify that all hands were paid up and fresh provisions had recently been put aboard.

Both Engels and Mueller agree that it’s too early to know if the CBP policy on shore leave for Hanjin crewmembers will continue, so both plan to monitor the issue.

Tradition of solidarity

The ILWU was founded on a tradition of solidarity for all workers, especially those in the maritime industry. Sailors had already organized unions aboard vessels long before dockworkers succeeded in doing so. In 1934, longshore workers were day-laborers without rights and subject to terrible abuse. The West Coast Waterfront Strike in the summer of 1934 sought to improve conditions for all maritime workers, including seafarers as well and longshore workers.

“The ILWU’s history is based on solidarity and when we say an injury to one is an injury to all, we mean it,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath who added, “all of us have a responsibility to keep that tradition alive.”
Radio station KUCB is a relatively small operation compared to her big-city sisters in the Lower 48, but she provides a vital lifeline of news and information for thousands of residents living around the small town of Unalaska and the Port of Dutch Harbor, located in the Aleutian Islands, hundreds miles from Alaska's mainland on the edge of the fish-rich but notoriously deadly Bering Sea.

Falling oil prices have been hard on Alaska's state and local budgets – resulting in 50 percent less state funding for KUCB. "We were really concerned about our budget this year because of the funding cuts, but the ILWU and other groups really came through for us," said station manager Lauren Adams. The station held a one-day pledge drive on October 14 with a $20,000 goal – but ended up raising a record-breaking $30,000.

Over $3,000 of those dollars came from ILWU members who responded to a challenge from longshore worker Juliet Vries, who volunteers each year during the pledge drive. A total of 25 ILWU members stepped forward to help the cause.

"The ILWU is strongly invested in helping the cause. ILWU members stepped forward to a challenge from longshore worker Juliet Vries, who volunteers each year during the pledge drive. A total of 25 ILWU members stepped forward to help the cause."

Calling Alaska Pensioners! ILWU pensioners are beginning to get organized in Alaska. It started this past September at the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association Convention where ILWU President Bob McEllrath and Pacific Coast Pensioners President Greg Mitre presented a new charter authorizing formation of the All Alaska Pensioners Group. Coordinating the effort is W.C. "Pee Wee" Smith of Ketchikan, shown in the lower photo, receiving the official charter document. He's counting on help from many pensioners to overcome the large distances and travel expenses involved with organizing a network in Alaska. Important help was recently provided with a donation from active members of the Alaska Longshore Division who donated $5000 to help jump start the Pensioner's treasury plus a $5000 annual donation to the group's travel fund. Smith says the contributions are a big help and much appreciated. Appearing in the top photo are (L-R) former Local 200 President John Bush from Juneau, Ardith and husband W.C. "Pee Wee" Smith of Ketchikan who is President of the All Alaska Pensioners Group, Past President of Kodiak Unit John Kennedy who also served as past Secretary-Treasurer of the Alaska Longshore Division, Gene and Maggie Fennimore of Wrangell, Alaska.

ILWU delivers for the community: Longshore member Juliet Vries (L) encouraged co-workers to support their public radio station in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor which resulted in record-setting contributions.

Young voices: Radio station KUCB provides essential news and information for a diverse community in a remote part of Alaska where natives, newcomers and Filipino immigrant families work in the maritime and fishing industry.
Keeping labor history alive: Local 23’s Vance Lelli reviews his collection of Labor History calendars that the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association (PNHA) has produced since 1978. The PNHA Labor History calendar is the only one of its kind available in the US. It included historical dates plus photos of union events that took place in Washington, Oregon & British Columbia. It’s a great holiday gift idea or good way to say “thank you” to friends and relatives. Single calendars are $15.00 which includes postage; discounts available for larger orders. Order at their website www.pnha.org or contact Ross Rieder at rossr241@aol.com.

A Helping Hand...
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HUNDREDS OF LONGSHORE WORKERS, SEAFARERS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER UNION MEMBERS JOINED TOGETHER TO MARCH FROM CANADA PLACE TO THE OFFICES OF TRANSPORT CANADA IN DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA. MARCHERS GATHERED TO PROTEST THE THREAT TO CANADIAN SEAFARER JOBS DUE TO A NEWLY-SIGNED “FREE TRADE” AGREEMENT, COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA) BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. PART OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD REMOVE THE CABOTAGE PROVISIONS IN THE CANADIAN MARINE ACT THAT PROTECT CANADIAN MARITIME JOBS IN CANADIAN WATERS.

Cabotage regulations require that any transportation of goods or persons inside Canada be done by Canadian companies with Canadian equipment and Canadian workers. These regulations also include tariffs on bringing in foreign built vessels and equipment.

Speakers at the rally included Canada President Rob Ashton, ILWU Local 400 President Terry Engler, Seafarers International Union President Jim Goven, and Vancouver District Labour Council President Joey Hartman.

The speakers brought a message of unity and solidarity and a need to fight for regulations that protect workers’ rights. They reminded supporters of the importance of sticking together and sending a clear message to Transport Canada to stop eroding regulations that protect Canadian jobs and our coastlines.

New Zealand Maritime Union met before big quake: Members of the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) held their 5th Conference on November 8-11 at the port town of Wellington, that ended five days before a powerful 7.5 quake killed several, stranded thousands and damaged several ports on the island nation. MUNZ delegates approved their four national officials who ran unopposed in national elections. ILWU International President Bob McEllrath was honored at the podium by MUNZ National President Carl Findlay (L) and on his right by National Secretary Joe Fleetwood, Assistant National Secretary Ray Ife, and National Vice President Selwyn Russell. Other unions attending included the Maritime Union of Australia, International Longshoremen’s Association, Samoa FIRST, Britain’s Rail Maritime and Transport workers (RMT), AVC Transcom union from Belgium, CFMEU and Electrical Trades from Australia, All Japan Dockworkers’ Union, International Transport Workers’ Federation and International Dockworkers Council. The conference opened with a speech by Labour Party leader Andrew Little, and ended with Green Party co-leader Metiria Turei. Women and Youth members met one day early, drawing participants from throughout New Zealand. In addition to an address from President McEllrath, ILWU Canada’s Steve Naiby and Vice President Ray Familathe also spoke.

ILWU Canada members march to protect maritime jobs

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Happy New Year 2017