



THE DISPATCHER

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Team work: Local 10 member Vanetta Hamlin with Local 34 President David Gonzalez working on a group project together at the GAP workshop held in San Francisco in February.

Longshore division holds grievance and arbitration training

The Coast Longshore Division held a Grievance and Arbitration Procedures (GAP) workshop from February 5-10 in San Francisco. The five-day workshop provided extensive training for 70 ILWU members and local union officials. The goal was to prepare teams with expertise and skills that will enable them to represent members during grievances, arbitrations and appearances before regional Labor Relations Committees (LRCs).

Overview

The workshop began with presentations by experienced ILWU officers, attorneys and staff that covered a range of topics including research and investigative tools, an overview of key provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, and

the Coast Longshore Division Contract, plus important issues relating to health and safety and technology.

Role-playing

The week culminated in a mock arbitration exercise that allowed participants to apply their new skills and knowledge in a group exercise that closely mimicked a real arbitration from beginning to end. Participants were placed in groups and randomly assigned roles as either employers or union members and then presented with a fictional scenario involving a jurisdictional issue. Each team had to prepare their case including researching past arbitrations, interviewing witnesses and identifying key issues in the dispute. Teams then engaged in a mock LRC meeting, followed by a mock arbitration in front of a panel of three arbitrators.

Education Committee

The workshop was put together by the Coast Longshore Division's Education Committee.

"GAP helps give local officers the information and tools to do their jobs more effectively and more efficiently, said Education Committee and Local 13 member Sunshine Garcia. "GAP also educates emerging leaders who will be stepping into those positions later on, so they're better prepared to represent members, protect ILWU jurisdiction and defend our rights on the job."

Positive feedback

Local 63 member Calvin Wade said the GAP training was a great experience. "This was an opportunity for me to gain knowledge about how to access a vast amount of information that I can use to help many members in Los Angeles," Wade said. "This is invaluable and by far the best experience I've had being a part of the ILWU."

Local 18 member Rene Way also reported a positive experience: "GAP gave me tools that I can take back
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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

An apology is in order. When I wrote a report about the Labor Campaign for Single Payer Conference that took place during January in New York (see the February *Dispatcher*) I failed to mention the participation of Floyd Byron, an active member of Local 13 who also serves on the SCDC, and is a longtime champion of health care justice. Brother Byron was fully involved with the NY conference, and his longtime involvement in the struggle to achieve single payer health care is recognized and appreciated. Again, my apology to Brother Byron.

In solidarity,

Rich Austin, Sr.
Pensioner

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



Marching to promote "Medicare for All": Local 13 member Floyd Bryan who also serves on the ILWU's Southern California District Council, joined the Los Angeles "Medicare for All" march on February 4th, shown here with his dog Carma and fellow activist Betty Madden of the Theatrical workers union. He also assisted Local 26 President Luisa Gratz to help pass the new law protecting workers from dangerous indoor heat that was detailed in February's *Dispatcher*.

Trump backs attack on union members

The new Trump administration announced some disturbing news in February that signaled a growing threat to union members.

Support for anti-union law

On February 1, "right-to-work" legislation (H.R. 785) was proposed in Congress by anti-union Representatives Joe Wilson of South Carolina and Steve King of Iowa. The term "right-to-work" was coined decades ago by anti-union business owners. Union members are more likely to describe it as "right-to-freeload," the "right-to-work-for-less" or "right-to-wreck-the-union."

Trump quickly supports

Trump quickly announced his support for the new legislation through Presidential Spokesman Sean Spicer, who said: "The President believes in 'right to work.' He wants...to do what's in the best interest for job creators."

To further emphasize strong support from the White House, Spicer added: "Obviously the Vice President has been a champion of this as well."

Pence's involvement

The White House didn't mention that Vice President Pence has been quietly working with a team of Trump advisors who are gathering strategy ideas to weaken unions, based on "right-to-work" laws and similar pol-

icies already enacted in many states. On February 1, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker revealed he attended a January 28 meeting with V.P. Pence and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in Washington, D.C. Walker said he advised Pence and Gingrich "how they may take bits and pieces of what we did" with the union law and civil service reform to "apply it at the national level." Gov. Walker and other anti-union leaders are advising Trump to begin his attacks by going after workers in public unions, something the new President already pledged to do during his campaign.

Divide and conquer

If Trump keeps his promise to attack public union members, it may explain why the President was also holding high-profile meetings with building trade leaders on January 23, and why he met earlier with Teamster President James Hoffa. Those unions have sometimes supported anti-union candidates who cater to narrow interests while ignoring attacks by the same politicians on the broader working class and other union members.

How law hurts workers

"Right to work" laws are designed and funded by big business to weaken unions. They force unions into an impossible position by making them legally responsible for representing all workers in a shop, while stripping the union's ability to collect

enough fees to cover those representation costs. Strong union shops where everyone is a paying member would be outlawed under the proposed law – and replaced with "open shops" where division, disunity and financial hardship weaken the union and leave workers with lower pay, meager benefits and little say over working conditions.

Ugly origins of "right-to-work"

"Right to work" laws were pioneered in 1936 by the Texas-based "Christian American Association," a racist outfit funded by Southern oilmen and Northern industrialists. A top associate of the group once explained her hostility toward workers by criticizing what President Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, had done to help workers, especially African-Americans, because Roosevelt stood for a "\$15 a week salary for all n***** house help, Sundays off, no washing, and no cleaning upstairs," adding, "My n***** maid wouldn't dare sit down in the same room with me unless she sat on the floor at my feet!"

Start in segregated South

Arkansas and Florida were the first to pass "right to work" laws in 1944, followed quickly by Texas and other Southern states that totaled 14 by 1947 when a Republican majority in Congress passed the notorious "Taft-Hartley" law that stripped

unions of powers gained under President Roosevelt, including the right to conduct effective pickets and boycotts. The anti-union law became popular in the South where segregationists warned that union shops and civil rights would lead to "race-mixing and communism."

Criticized by MLK

The Rev. Martin Luther King warned about the danger of "right-to-work" laws, saying in 1961: "we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights."

The "Southern strategy"

Passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965 re-shuffled America's political deck, with Southern whites switching their political loyalty from the Democratic to Republican Party, while African Americans abandoned the Republican Party of Lincoln and Reconstruction to vote predominantly Democratic. Segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was one of

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Spanish dockers fight to save thousands of good union jobs

Spanish union officials say up to 8,000 dockworkers could lose their jobs if the country implements a court order aimed at destroying their nation's dock labor system.

"We feel cheated," says Antolín Goya, leader of the Spanish Port workers union, Coordinadora.

Demand by European Court

The European Court of Justice ruled in 2014 that Spain's law requiring companies to do business exclusively with the dockers union was at odds with "free market" policies adopted by the European Union.

Fines imposed

Last July, the European Court fined Spain \$16 million for failing to eliminate laws supporting the dockworkers union. When the legislation remained in place, the European Court imposed an additional fine of \$140 million per day until the law was changed.

Union response: strike!

Spain's government finally capitulated to the Court in February by agreeing to change the law. Dockers responded with plans for a multi-day strike at dozens of Spanish ports on February 20, 22 and 24. Union members said they would work one hour, then strike the following hour, and repeat that process for the rest of their shifts during those three days.

Government backs down

As the strike deadline approached, Spain's government announced it would again delay the proposed changes and begin talking with the union – prompting the union to cancel the proposed strike, at least for the time being.

Militant history

Spain's dockworkers have a lengthy and well-deserved reputation for militancy. Their courage was forged during more than a century of labor struggles, including 40 years of fascist rule under

the military dictator Francisco Franco, a key ally of Adolf Hitler, who held power in Spain from the beginning of WWII until his death in 1975.

International solidarity

As the current showdown escalated between the union and Spanish government, solidarity statements of support poured into Spain from dockworker unions around the world, including a letter of solidarity addressed to the Spanish government by ILWU International President Robert McEllrath, declaring:

"We join the Spanish unions who are calling on you to immediately halt the legislative process and get back to the negotiating table with the unions and the employers' association. As a union representing dockers in the United States, affiliated with the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation), as well as IDC (International Dockworkers Council), we act according to principles of mutual support and we strongly believe in the power of international solidarity."

Docker networks unite

Both global networks that represent dockworkers around the world have mobilized to support their Spanish brothers and sisters: the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) which was founded in the year 2000 with an initiative from Spanish dockers; and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Dockers Section. The two groups met together in Spain last year where they signed a mutual cooperation pact.



Solidarity statement: Spanish dockers have a well-deserved reputation for organizing creative, militant actions that express their passion for defending good union jobs.

High stakes

IDC Coordinator Jordi Aragunde, who also works on the docks in Barcelona, has warned, "The Spanish government seeks to make the dockworker profession disappear from national ports."

ITF President and Dockers' Section Chair Paddy Crumlin says the proposed changes are "beyond belief" because they would harm thousands of union members and may violate international labor laws (recognized by the European Union, but never approved in the U.S.).

ILWU Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, who also serves as First Vice-President of the ITF Dockers Section, explained that Spain's "reform" plan would allow companies to bypass the registered union workforce in favor of hiring personnel from temporary agencies. "It would be a major step backwards for workers," said Familathe.



Joining forces: The IDC's Jordi Aragunde (left) and ITF President Paddy Crumlin signed a mutual support and cooperation agreement last summer in Barcelona, Spain.

Canadian politicians consider plan to privatize public resources and destroy good jobs

Canada's new "Liberal" government is flirting with plans that could threaten port unions. On January 25, Federal Transportation Minister Marc Garneau tried to downplay the threat by saying his government was merely "studying" options to privatize the nation's ports and airports, contained in a document known as "The Emerson Report."

"Don't believe the news"

"Please do not make the assumption that because you hear about it in the papers that this is a done deal," Garneau said. "It is by no means a done deal. It is just a new government exploring different possibilities."

Garneau tried to provide reassurance by saying the decision to privatize public assets would be based on whether it would improve "port efficiency." He also added some spin, saying the privatization study was initiated by Canada's previous Conservative Party government. But Canada's current ruling Lib-

eral Party, led by Justin Trudeau, is no friend of labor unions and working families. The Liberal Party advocates "free market" solutions – including the privatization of public assets. Such deals are always lucrative for investors but dangerous for workers.

Sell-off or sell-out?

Privatizing ports and airports would generate billions in one-time revenues for the state when the nation's valuable public assets are sold to private operators. The revenue is appealing to Liberal Party leaders who inherited six years of budget deficits and \$100 billion in debt from the Conservative Party. But those one-time revenues from a sell-off would create an eternity of pain for the public and businesses who would pay higher fees forever when the new capitalist owners impose higher charges to make back their investment costs plus profits.

Consultants hired

The privatization plan is thrilling to Wall Street investors. Last September, the Liberal Party government



Marching for maritime union jobs: ILWU Canada members who marched on February 23 in Vancouver included (L-R) Local 502's Aaron Hoolsema, Rick Hurtubise and Tom Doran; Local 500's Haley Schmitz; Local 514's Frank Morena; Local 500's Rino Voci and Antonio Pantusa; Local 502's Pat Bolen; Local 514's Frank Skara and Ian Neely of Local 502.

hired Credit Suisse to explore privatizing Canada's major airports. Then in November it hired Morgan Stanley to study the benefits of privatizing 18 Canadian ports. Both firms are hardly objective analysts because they and their friends stand to benefit directly or indirectly if the privatization plan moves forward.

Public push back

The CEO of Vancouver's public Airport Authority was quick to declare his opposition to the sell-off, calling it a "bad idea, explaining "the price of everything would go up."

"If we have a private operator, two things will happen," he said. "To make

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San Pedro plaque honors legendary labor bard and organizer Joe Hill



Honoring Joe Hill in San Pedro: A plaque honoring labor hero Joe Hill was dedicated at a January 28th ceremony in San Pedro. The bronze artwork was designed by Suzanne Matsumiya, sculpted by Eugene Daub and financed by contributions from members of the Southern California Pensioners Group.

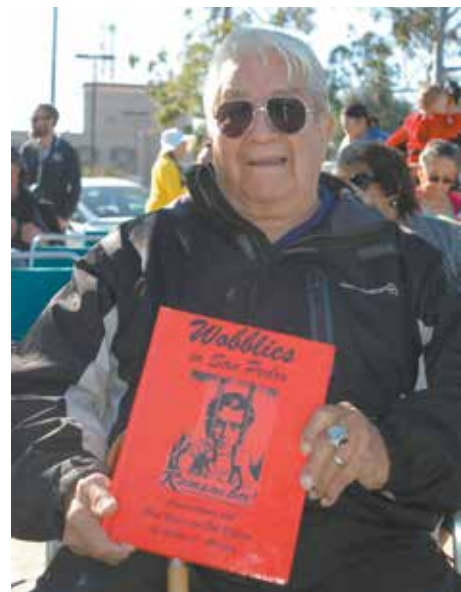
Several hundred people gathered at Liberty Plaza in San Pedro on January 28th to celebrate the life of labor organizer and poet, Joe Hill.

Free speech at Liberty Hill

During the event, a large bronze plaque was unveiled at a site directly behind the official marker for Liberty Hill – site of historic free speech protests in the 1920s that challenged California’s “Criminal Syndicalism” law designed to stop union organizing that remained on the books until 1968. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and socialist Upton Sinclair was arrested during a 1923 protest at Liberty Hill while reading the Bill of Rights. Sinclair went on to run for Governor of California in 1934 on a platform similar to Bernie Sanders that pledged to “end poverty in California” which he lost after being smeared by big business for being a socialist who supported unions – including longshoremen.

Joe Hill in San Pedro

Joe Hill lived on San Pedro’s Beacon Street from 1910-1913 where he worked on the docks as a longshoreman. While living in Pedro, Joe joined the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a militant industrial union committed to the working class and promoting democratic rank-and-file unions. ILWU co-



Harbor historian: Local 13 pensioner, Art Almeida, with his book, *Wobblies in San Pedro*, which he worked on for many years.

founder Harry Bridges was a member of the “Wobblies” during the 1920’s when he worked as a seaman before settling in San Francisco.

Executed in Salt Lake

After living in San Pedro, Joe Hill made his way to Salt Lake City and worked as a miner in Park City. In 1914 he was wrongfully convicted in a controversial murder trial for a crime that he probably didn’t commit. Hill was scapegoated for being an immigrant, migrant worker and organizer for the Wobblies. Shortly before being executed by a firing squad, he uttered the now famous phrase: “Don’t mourn, organize!”

Honors in the Harbor

ILWU Local 13 pensioner and harbor historian, Art Almeida, was a driving force behind the plaque honoring Joe Hill. Almeida became interested in the IWW during the 1950’s when he started working on the docks and learned about Wobbly history from fellow longshore workers. He published a book several years ago, *Wobblies in San Pedro*, that was based on interviews with IWW members Paul Ware and Bob Bigelow who recounted their experiences during the 1920s.

Preserving history

“Our mission is to preserve history,” said Local 13 pensioner Andrea Luse who is also a member of the San Pedro Bay Historical Society. “We wanted something to commemorate the execution of Joe Hill because the IWW was one of the first industrial labor unions to organize in California. Joe Hill was a labor bard (poet) who worked his way up and down the coast as many workers did at that time. During his time in San Pedro, Hill wrote a lot of poetry and songs, and he was involved in the IWW movement here. It’s fitting that we recognize role of Joe Hill and the IWW in the history of organized labor on the waterfront.”

Celebrated songs

Hill composed many melodies that are still performed today as standards of folk and labor music. Folksinger James Allen, who also publishes the *Random Lengths News*, was joined by Diane



Poet laureate: PCPA poet laureate Jerry Brady recited a poem celebrating the life of Joe Hill.

Michelle and The Mourners to perform songs at the event that included “The Preacher and The Slave,” a satirical song about religious fundamentalism that Hill wrote while living in Pedro. Also performed was the folk ballad “Joe Hill” with the lyric, “I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night.” These and other songs are among folk songs that have been passed along through the oral tradition, from worker-to-worker, and published in the IWW’s famous “Little Red Song Book.”

Official recognition

Before the Joe Hill plaque was unveiled, Southern California pensioner and poet, Jerry Brady read a poem that he composed about Joe Hill. Thoughtful commentaries were also delivered from Pacific Coast Pensioners President Greg Mitre, pensioner Art Almeida, former ILWU International President and current Los Angeles Port Commissioner Dave Arian, and Professor Vivian Price from Cal State Dominguez Hills.

“Joe Hill was a rebel. He was an activist and I think he and Harry Bridges would have got along mighty fine,” said Mitre. “He changed his name when he came out West because he was arrested, convicted and blacklisted in Chicago for organizing. He was a true organizer, he was true labor activist and he was a true fighter.”

Mitre said that there was an overwhelming response from the ILWU pensioners who were asked to help fund the plaque. He said \$30,000 was raised in one week, primarily through \$500 contributions. “We had to turn people away because we raised the money so quickly,” said Mitre.

Art Almeida described how the present-day memorial site appeared during the 1920s, pointing to the street where Joe Hill lived, and the jail where Hill spent 30 days for organizing workers on the docks. He also noted that the column marker where the Liberty Hill historical marker was placed had come originally from France where it was used as a wharf piling made of sand, shell and mortar. “The sand represents the landside and



Andrea Luse, Local 13 pensioner and member for the San Pedro Bay Historical Society.

waterfront workers; the shells represent seafarers; and the mortar is the solidarity that binds labor together.”

Dave Arian drew parallels between the dark days of the 1920s and the prospects of the next four years under President Trump.

“The 1920’s were a dark period with the Red Scare, the Palmer Raids and the Syndicalist Act. But light still shined through, and 10 years later, organized labor became a dominant force in America,” said Arian. “It was the Wobblies who led things in the early days; they were the driving force of the early labor movement. The AFL didn’t really like the Wobblies. The IWW believed in fight, fight, fight, because it was necessary in the early days. But even the darkest period of the 1920’s turned into a very progressive period because workers fought back.” Arian said Trump has already ignited a movement that could usher in a renewal of labor organizing. “This plaque now becomes part of that progressive history that we can remind America of over and over again,” said Arian. “This is who we are; this is the real America, not Trump’s America.”

The event ended with Jerry Brady leading the crowd in a rendition of Pete Seeger’s classic union song, “Solidarity Forever.”

ILWU meets with other unions who supported Sanders

ILWU representatives travelled to Maryland on February 11-12 to meet with leaders from five other national unions who supported Bernie Sanders for President.

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath assigned a delegation to attend the event that included Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 34 member and International Executive Board member Sean Farley, and ILWU Political Director Lindsay McLaughlin. Local 23 President Dean McGrath also attended, representing his local and a large network of Bernie supporters in Washington State.

"We exchanged some good ideas about how we could work together to benefit union members and everyone who supports workers' rights," said Willie Adams.

Local 34's Sean Farley added, "This was just the beginning, and something the ILWU leadership will want to discuss further, but it was a productive meeting."

When the Sanders' Presidential campaign ended, Bernie pledged to

help keep his vast network of supporters – numbering millions – involved in progressive, pro-union causes. The Sanders campaign is calling that effort "Our Revolution," with Larry Cohen, former President of the Communication Workers union, serving a chair of the organization's Board of Directors.

The multi-union event was held at the Tommy Douglas Conference Center – named in honor of the Canadian labor advocate and Baptist minister who created Canada's single-payer national health care system in the 1960's with support from labor unions.

"This was a perfect place to hold our meeting where we could think about new ideas and approaches," said Dean McGrath.

The ILWU's International Executive Board will discuss any outcomes for the "Labor for Bernie" meeting when the body meets in San Francisco on March 20-21.

"The Bernie Sanders campaign put working families front and center and won more than 13 million votes during the primary elections – so this is a group of people we should probably be involved with," said McEllrath.



Beyond Bernie: A team of ILWU leaders attended a meeting in early February with other unions who backed Bernie Sanders during the 2016 primary elections. In the back row: Local 34 member Sean Farley (left) and ILWU Legislative Director Lindsay McLaughlin; in the front row: ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams (left) and Local 23 President Dean McGrath.

Three ILWU-endorsed candidates win SoCal Democratic Party delegate seats

Three ILWU-endorsed candidates in Southern California have won Delegate seats in the California Democratic Party. Two other ILWU-supported candidates narrowly lost elections that took place on January 7.

Among the winners were Local 63 Business Agent Cathy Familathe who also serves as President of the Southern California District Council, Irene Huerta who serves as Secretary to ILWU Local 13 President and is member of OPEIU Local 537, and Shannon Ross, wife of ILWU Local 94 member Marcel Ross.

Local 13 members Jerry Avila and Vivian Malauulu did well but both lost their bids. All candidates were endorsed by ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94 and the Southern California District Council. Malauulu was elected as to the Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees in 2016.

"This is historic, because it may be the first time that the ILWU has endorsed candidates and friends of

our union to become delegates in the California Democratic Party," said Cathy Familathe. She added that candidates on the ILWU-supported slate were "pro-Bernie" and will use their delegate positions to press for a pro-worker platform.

The Assembly District Election Meetings are held every two years. Each District elects seven women and seven men to serve as delegates from their Assembly District to the state Party. Delegates are responsible for planning and attending informational meetings throughout the region and working with other delegates to represent their community. They vote at regional meetings and the California Democratic Party Convention.

"I think it's important for union members to get involved in politics," Huerta said "Especially with all that is going on right now, it is important that workers have a voice in shaping the agenda for the Democratic Party." Huerta was first elected as an Assembly Delegate in 2015 and has been encouraging other union members to do same.

Trump backs attack on union members



Women's March: ILWU and IBU members from Seattle and Tacoma marched in the January 21st Women's March to protest the inauguration of Donald Trump. Protests occurred in every major city in the country. Approximately 4 million people attended the demonstrations nationwide. From left to right are Chuck Alexander (Local 52), Dan McKisson (Local 19), Kesa Mueller (Local 19), Scotty Martinez (Local 19), Leith Jasinowski-Kahl (Local 19), Kathy Dvorak (Local 52), Zachary Pattin (Local 23), Carla de Leon (Local 19, Aux), Teresa Lewis (Local 52), Cosette Hill (Local 19), Brian Skiffington (Local 23). Not pictured: Terri Mast, IBU Secretary-Treasurer.

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the first to change his political affiliation in 1964 – the same year that Republican Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater voted against the Civil Rights Act and lost the 1964 election, boldly campaigning for “states’ rights” to the delight of Southern segregationists.

Racist code words

Richard Nixon won in 1968 with a “Southern strategy” that used racist code language, including talk about “welfare, less government, violent criminals and “states’ rights” to win white votes in the South – plus blue-

collar votes from whites in the Midwest and Northern industrial cities. Nixon’s Chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman explained: “you have to face the fact that the whole problem is really the Blacks. The key is to devise a system that recognized this while not appearing to.” Ronald Reagan’s campaign strategist, Lee Atwater, explained how racist appeals had helped conservatives win white votes:

“You start out in 1954 by saying, “N*****, n*****, n*****.” By 1968 you can’t say “n*****” — that hurts you. Backfires. So you say stuff like

forced busing, states’ rights and all that stuff...”

This is how the term “right-to-work” became one of the many racist code words that white politicians used to communicate bigotry and win elections; beginning in the South, and now throughout much of the country.

Behind the campaigns

Big business is still financing today’s campaigns to pass “right-to-work” laws, just as they have since 1936. Some of the work is being done by the National Right To Work Committee and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), both of which have been passing laws in state legislatures with help from the Koch brothers – using the same oil fortune that funded the racist John Birch Society and other anti-union groups more than a half century ago.

Majority of states

Corporate lobbyists and anti-union politicians have now succeeded in passing “right-to-work” laws in a majority of state legislatures. Kentucky joined the list in early January and Missouri become the 28th “right-to-work” state on February 6. Similar laws have been enacted in the former industrial union strongholds of Wisconsin and Michigan – states which also account for Donald Trump’s Electoral College victory. Efforts to pass similar laws in California, Oregon and Washington have failed – but a federal law or court decision could supersede pro-union laws at the state and local level.

Supreme Court decisions

The Supreme Court has the power to change federal labor laws. With one unfilled vacancy that President Obama was prevented from filling, the Supreme Court deadlocked with 4-4 votes on several cases involving issues related to “right-to-work,” including the ability of unions to collect representation fees. If Trump nominates a conservative anti-union member to the Supreme Court, the new anti-union majority could change national labor laws without passing any legislation.

Promises or betrayal?

Many promises were made by politicians during the election, claiming they wanted to help America’s working class. The coming months will reveal how sincere those promises were, and whether the ones made to the working class will be honored over the demands of big business, billionaires and Wall Street executives. Those forces have already taken control of the government’s most powerful jobs where they will make decisions felt by every worker and family in America.

Only way for workers

“Workers and unions have never gotten anything handed to them on a silver platter, because progress only gets made by pushing the powerful to do what’s right,” said ILWU President Robert McEllrath. “That’s the way it’s always been, and that’s what we need to be doing now and in the future.”

Longshore division holds grievance and arbitration training

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to help me serve my union better and help protect our work,” she said.

Planning and follow-up

The Education Committee planned the workshop for months. And after the workshop concluded, they met to evaluate the training sessions, using feedback from participants and presenters. The constructive feedback allows the program to be constantly improved and updated.

Future Investment

“Education is an investment in the union and our membership,” said

Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr., who has been a member of the Education Committee since 2005. “Hopefully some of the attendees will emerge as future leaders in this union, as has happened with past workshops and trainings.”

President McEllrath and other titled officers were present for much of the training.

“We need a lot more members with leadership skills to keep the ILWU strong,” said McEllrath. “This training is a great way to help people get some of those skills to assume leadership roles in our union.”



Coast Committeemen Cameron Williams (left) and Frank Ponce De Leon served as arbitrators during the mock arbitration exercise and gave feedback to the participants on the last day of the GAP workshop.



Studying the contract: Local 13 member Diana Chavez-Feipel researched provisions in the Coast Longshore contract to help her team prepare for a mock arbitration



Closing remarks: ILWU International President Robert McEllrath added his experience and insights gained from decades of working on the docks.

Bob White: militant, progressive Canadian

Known for his independent views, militant tactics and progressive outlook that favored social justice for all workers, Bob White died on February 20 at the age of 81. White was mourned by union members across Canada and hailed as a “giant of the Canadian labor movement.”

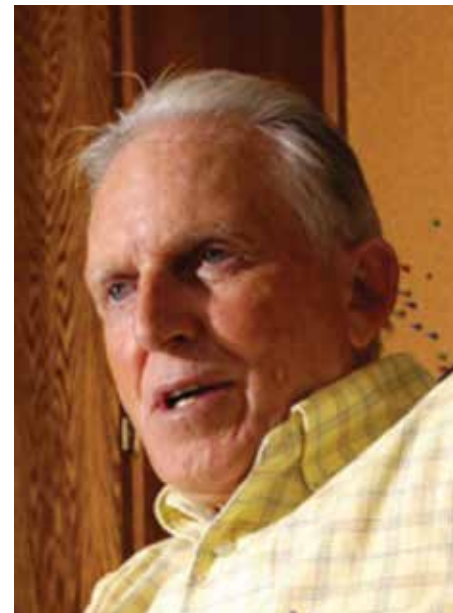
White emigrated with his family from Ireland to Canada at the age of 13 and went to work in a factory at the age of 15 where he quickly experienced his first strike. Two years later he was elected a Steward, and led a strike of 500 workers at the age of 22.

Elected to leadership positions within the U.S. - based United Auto Workers, he led a successful break-away effort that created the Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW) in 1985. White was elected President for three terms before becoming President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

White was a bitter foe of contract concessions, the NAFTA Free Trade Agreement and U.S. military expansion. He pushed hard for social service funding, while also backing organizing campaigns and affiliations that helped the CAW expand, eventually merging with Canada’s Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union in 2013 to form a new union called Uni-

for, which describes itself as “a new kind of union that advocates on behalf of all working people – employed or unemployed – across the country.”

“Bob was a true unionist who spoke what he believed,” said ILWU Canada President Rob Ashcroft, “including the principle that workers should belong to the union of their choice. White honored his word by seeing that Local 400 members joined the ILWU’s ranks after a merger could have put them into the Canadian Auto Workers. This was just one example of Brother White’s integrity that made him such an exceptional leader.”



Herb Mills honored by Local 10



Honoring Herb: (From left to right) Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Derrick Muhammad, Local 10 pensioner Herb Mills and Local 10 President Ed Ferris.

Local 10 members honored their longtime brother and pensioner Herb Mills with an Outstanding Service Award during a ceremony held on January 19th at the local’s monthly membership meeting in San Francisco.

“We’re honored to be celebrating the many contributions that brother Herb Mills has made to Local 10 and the working class,” said Local 10 President Ed Ferris who presented the award plaque to Mills.

Mills served as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 10 in the late 1970’s and early 80’s, where he took a leadership role in many important struggles, including early support for the United Farmworkers Union and opposition to arms shipments bound for Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet in 1978. Mills also helped lead the 1971 Longshore strike that lasted 134 days, in

addition to many years spent handling routine duties of contract enforcement and representation.

Also recognizing Mills at the event was longtime community organizer Mike Miller who explained how the two met as students at U.C. Berkeley where they became deeply involved in Civil Rights and social justice struggles. Mills helped lead an important 1960 protest by students at San Francisco City Hall where they supported ILWU and other union members who were being persecuted by the House Un-American Activities Committee in Congress for holding radical political views – including the idea that workers should be entitled to a democratic voice on the job and a say in economic decisions.

An effort is underway to preserve the volumes of writing that Herb Mills produced about the ILWU, workers and unions. Local 10 members passed a motion to support that effort with a financial contribution.

Canadian politicians consider plan to privatize public resources and destroy good jobs

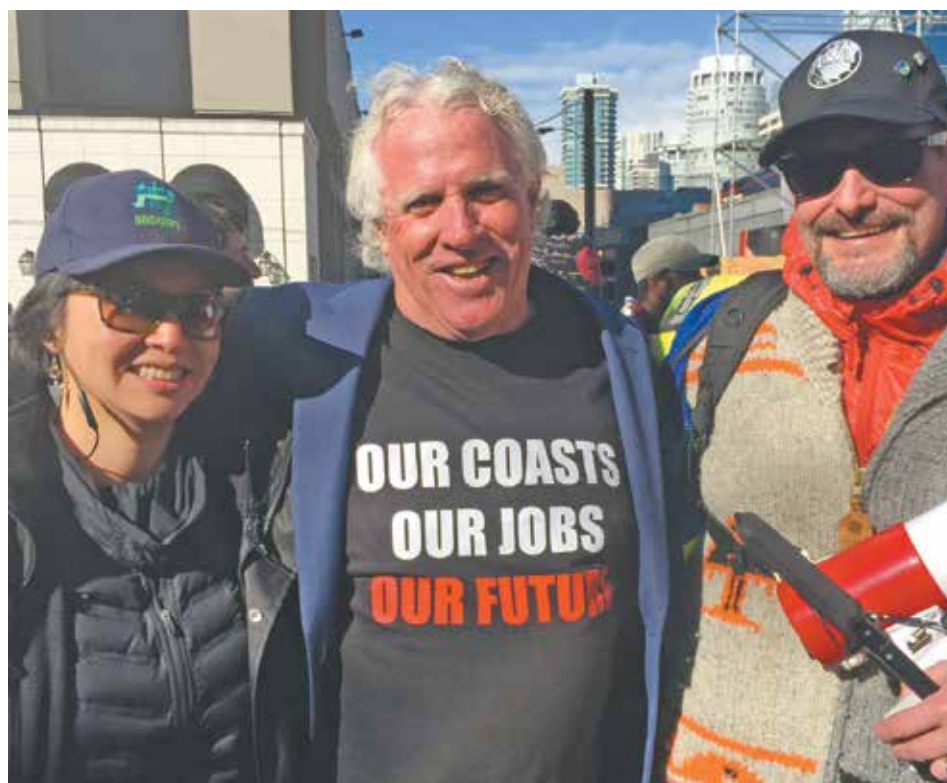
continued from page 3

their return, the prices will go up and it will no longer be a community-run airport.”

Similar sentiments were offered by ILWU Canada President Robert Ashton: “This plan deserves a quick and certain death because it will hurt workers, the public, our province and the nation. The only real winners would be Wall Street and a handful of wealthy investors – while everyone else would pay for their party.”

To protest the scheme, ILWU Canada members participated in a march and rally on February 23 that began at Vancouver’s Federal Courts and concluded in front of Transport Canada. ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton and ITF President Paddy Crumlin

were among the many speakers who condemned the government’s threat to privatize transport, allow foreign-flagged vessels and crews to provide port-to-port service within Canada, and other “free market” measures in the Emerson Report that could threaten an estimated 900,000 Canadian jobs. ILWU Canada is organizing the coordinated national protests with UNIFOR (another progressive union that was formed by a merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and other unions in 1985) and the Seafarers International Union of Canada. Also participating were the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union, the Canadian Merchant Service Guild and the International Union of Operating Engineers.



Supporting the fight: Paddy Crumlin, President of the International Transport Workers Federation and leader of the Australia’s Maritime Union joined the February 23 protest in Vancouver with Local 500 member Joulene Parent (L) and Michael Parent (R) of Local 514.



Seafarer solidarity in Portland: When the Portland Seafarer's Mission requested donations of clothing to help crewmembers stay warm during the winter months, members of Locals 5 and 8 responded with generous donations. The two-month effort gathered several pickup loads of donated clothing that was distributed to crewmembers aboard several vessels on the Columbia River. Local 5 Chief Steward Chris Hagen organized donations from the Portland Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines. His work at the center and visits to ships was instrumental in making the project a success. ITF Inspector Martin Larson coordinated the effort as part of his work to assist crewmembers in the region. "The best union-building solidarity we can do is to extend a hand in fellowship," said Larson, "and the affiliated union brothers who work aboard those vessels this winter truly appreciated the kindness from ILWU members." This photo was taken on February 3 aboard the vessel "Western Panama" while it was berthed at Portland's Terminal 4. Pictured are (L-R): Boatsain Nemesio Pamplona and Chief Officer Andres Fajardo. Nemesio's new green jacket was donated by Local 8 member Joel Hernandez who also serves in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Michael D. Vawter; Michael D. Quinton; William B. Sandoval; David J. Morrison; **Local 13:** Peter J. Grant; Ruby B. Cruz; Edgar Lopez; Michael J. Macgilvray; Michael G. Nelson; **Local 19:** Jack S. Block Jr; William L. Brown; **Local 23:** Douglas Woods; Ted L. Guntle; **Local 34:** Lance W. Hebert; **Local 46:** Raul Y. Zavala; **Local 52:** Cynthia E. Kendall; Cheryl M. Miller; Candis C. Scott; **Local 63:** Vicky L. Carreon; Armando Fimbres; Joseph A. Bojorquez; Thomas R. Carner; **Local 75:** Stephen E. Lake; **Local 94:** William S. Mosich; Larry Karkkainen; Mark W. Shaffer; Donna M. Wilson; **Local 98:** Paul H. Wieser;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Marvin W. Vaughn (Betty); Solomon Kahookele; George E. Rimer; **Local 10:** Samuel Marks; Jan Magdalik; Allen D. Miller; Arnold A. Gridley; **Local 13:** Roger Gonzales (Hermila); Raymond W. Barnard; Louie J. Pacheco (Angela); Ronald Pesusich;

William J. Harris; Arthur J. Dolan; Henry K. Kelihoomaluu; Carmen H. Laughlin; Melvin E. Haynes; **Local 23:** Malcolm N. Thompson; **Local 24:** Eric A. Reutercrona (Barbara); **Local 34:** Phillip J. Cava; **Local 40:** Philip Pitzer; **Local 94:** Orville L. Dyché; William J. Garcia (Louise); Elias Gomez Jr;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Marie W. Bentaas; **Local 8:** Maxine Cobbs; **Local 10:** Mary L. Randolph; Madonna Davenport; Ida M. Greene; Rebecca S. Smith; Mary A. Finley; Evelyn Pride-Lewis; **Local 13:** Danica Matulich; Nohea Rickard; **Local 19:** Gwili Blufon; Geraldine Kerzic; **Local 21:** Doris M. Stennick; **Local 23:** Ruby V. Maijala; Bernice A. Turner; **Local 24:** Maudella M. Asikainen; Carol L. Such; Charlotte M. Vammen; **Local 34:** Erma M. Farrelly; **Local 63:** Josephine D Ambrosi; Ruby L. Miller;

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