



THE DISPATCHER

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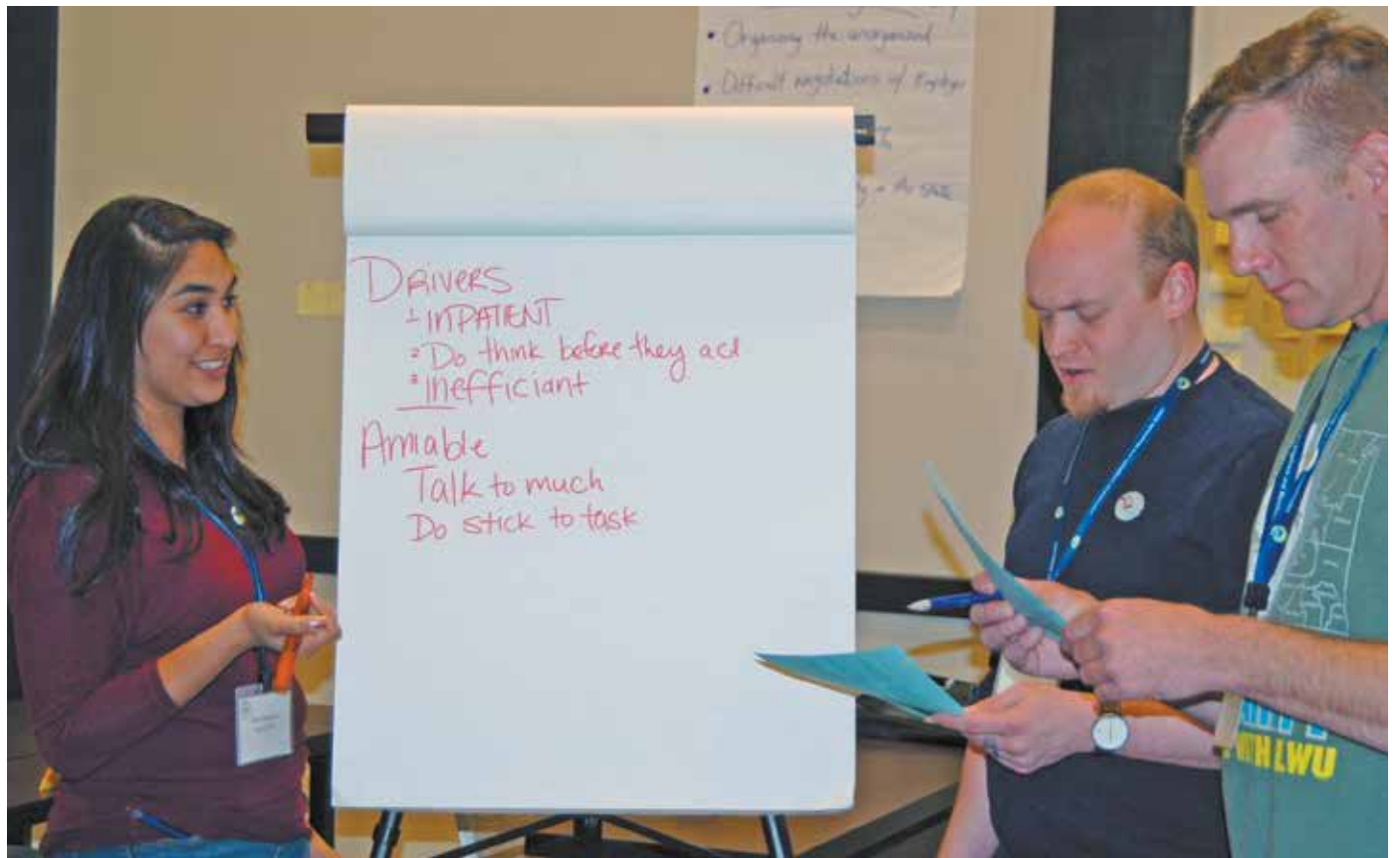
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Team building: The LEAD Institute program emphasized group participation and collaborative problem solving to help build a strong democratic union from the bottom-up.

LEAD training aims to strengthen a rank-and-file union

A diverse group of 100 rank-and-file members and elected leaders attended the ILWU's Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) training in Seattle on May 7-12. The week-long education program seeks to provide tools that attendees can take back to their local unions that will encourage new leadership and more membership involvement – both fundamental tenants of the ILWU belief that strong unions are built from the bottom-up.

Practical skills

Dozens of exercises were conducted throughout the week, emphasizing active participation and collaborative problem-solving skills. Participants learned practical skills, including how to run a

successful union meeting, how to increase member involvement, how to speak confidently in public, and how to communicate a positive, public-interest union message to the news media.

Opening remarks

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath opened the training, emphasizing that leadership comes in many forms and is not limited only to those holding elected union office. He reminded everyone that the ILWU's strength comes from an active and engaged rank-and-file, not a "top down" leadership style.

"Does a leader have to be the president or secretary-treasurer of the local?" asked McEllrath. "Absolutely not," he answered. "You'll see a leader stand up in a union meeting and speak their mind, ask questions and go through the democratic process of our union. It's you, the rank-and-file, who are going to make this union work."

Keynote address

On the second day of the training, a keynote address was delivered by Dr. Steven Pitts, an economist at UC Berkeley's Labor Center. He focused on America's growing inequality, explaining that wages for workers no longer rise with higher productivity.

During the decades following WWII until the late 1960s, Pitts said wages rose along with productivity, allowing workers to share the benefits of producing goods and services more efficiently. Pitts said that wages have been stagnant for several decades despite rising productivity levels. More profits from higher productivity are now going into the pockets of the super-rich.

"Workers in this country have been beaten-down for 40 years, and that beat-down is a result of workers lacking power," Pitts said. He stressed that workers can begin to reverse this trend by starting with

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LETTERS TO THE *DISPATCHER*

Dear Editor,

Since 2007, the ILWU has been supporting House Resolution 676, which calls for the U.S. to create a single-payer “Medicare-for-all” health care system at an affordable price.

Living in Washington State, I can drive 20 minutes north and enter Canada where all citizens have comprehensive, affordable health care. Every other industrial country in the World has this kind of coverage. Americans deserve no less.

We can't keep bankrolling a broken healthcare system that holds us hostage to private, profit-making insurance companies. Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA) was flawed because it tried to save that system. The Republican

alternative is even worse, because it removes the ACA's limited controls and accountability over insurance companies.

We need to badger the Senate until they support single-payer health care. Accomplishing this will require organizing and action. We can begin by calling members of the Senate to demand that they support H.R. 676, a reform that would put people before insurance company profits.

**John Munson, Local 19 retired, Pacific Coast Pensioners Association
Seattle, WA**

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

Organizing victories on Hawaii's docks

2016 was a busy year of ILWU organizing activity on the docks of Hawaii. A new Matson clerical unit was organized into Local 142, and a charter was granted to ILWU Local 100 to create a home for four newly-organized units of longshore supervisors who came into the union.

Workers in these new units met on their days off to develop contract demands and to elect five separate negotiating committees. Contract talks began in late 2016 for the Matson clericals and supervisors at Hawaii Stevedores, Inc. (“HSI”), Matson Facilities and Maintenance, and Young Brothers, Ltd. Negotiations for McCabe, Hamilton and Renny supervisors started this year.

International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado served as spokesperson for each set of negotiations. “Negotiating a first collective bargaining agreement is tough,” stated Furtado. “You’ve got 30-plus sections of contract language and

economics to wrestle over with the Employers.”

None of the 21 members elected to the five negotiating committees, had ever been involved in negotiations and only one worker had ever belonged to a union. Despite this, Furtado said “Members of all the committees worked hard, learned fast, and took their responsibility seriously. It wouldn’t be possible to run five separate negotiations for first contracts without strong committees. We also had great support from the 142 Hawaii Longshore Division.”

In the early morning hours of Friday April 21, the first of these committees reached a tentative agreement – the new unit of Matson clericals. Later that same morning, negotiations stepped up with HSI. The outlines of a tentative agreement were hammered out over the weekend and a final tentative agreement was reached on May 2.

The Matson clerical unit was able to make substantial gains in wages and benefits, including family medical with no monthly premium and



Ratifying the CBA: HSI Supervisors voted in favor of ratifying their newly negotiated collective bargaining agreement.

a greatly improved retirement plan. As non-union workers, many members in this unit were used to getting a bonus instead of a raise. As ILWU members, everyone will receive increases of 3 percent in each of the next three years. Some workers also saw pay upgrades in addition to their 3 percent raise.

On April 30, Matson clerical workers unanimously ratified their contract. Unit Secretary Joy Borbo stated: “Before we joined the ILWU we had no representation and we were ‘at-will’ employees. Now we are bargaining unit employees, we have rights, we have the collective power to negotiate a contract, and a voice to help enforce our contract. Fortunately for us that voice is the ILWU... this is the best thing that has ever happened in my career at Matson.”

Local 100 HSI supervisors held their ratification meeting on May 5, and their first contract was also unan-

imously approved. HSI supervisors won a guaranteed 40-hour work week and 3.5% wage increases in each of the next three years – with back pay to September 20, 2016. In addition, some classifications received wage upgrades and premiums.

HSI supervisors also won family medical benefits with no monthly premiums and – for the first time – twelve paid holidays (supervisors were previous salaried workers). As non-union salaried workers, HSI supervisors weren’t paid overtime and had no differential for working the night shift – injustices they corrected in their first union contract.

“The hard-fought victories won by the Matson clerical workers and HSI supervisors will greatly benefit these workers and sets the stage for good agreements to be won at the three supervisor units still in negotiations.” Furtado said.



Matson clerical unit's elected negotiating committee from left to right: Dennis Teshima, Joy Borbo, Leimomi Attwood, and William Harris, Jr.

DISPATCHER

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ILWU celebrates 83rd anniversary of Bloody Thursday

Southern California

Wilmington's Harbor Sports Complex was the site for this year's So Cal's harbor-area Bloody Thursday picnic. The annual event has grown to attract nearly two-thousand participants, so many of the previous locations can't handle the crowds or the parking. "It's a sure sign of success but the numbers and logistics can get overwhelming," said Jesse "Nacho" Enriquez, who's been one of the coordinators of the event for the past 8 years, although he took last year off when Steve Lenares and Melon Cesar Hall handled the job. This year's Committee included Lenares, Cesar Hall and Diane Chavez-Feipel, along with core volunteers that included Paul Zuanich, Franc Bodnar and Pak Chung Won. "We're so big now that we need parking for 700-800 cars," said Enriquez, "and that kind of space just isn't easy to find." About 1800 turned out this year, which Enriquez said was "just about the right size for the facility."

Honoring So Cal's fallen martyrs

Like past years, the event began with a morning memorial at the Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena where martyrs Dickie Parker and John Knudsen were buried after being shot on May 15, 1934; both died and gave the first blood during a long struggle to establish the ILWU on the west coast. Local 13's Angel Blanco coordinated the event as he has in past years, accompanied by ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe with SCDC President Cathy Familathe, ILWU Poet Laureate Jerry Brady, Pacific Coast Pensioner President Greg Mitre, and Brother Jessie Lopez who offered a prayer and reflection. When the brief service was over, a group of classic cars and bikes from the Longshoremen's Motorcycle Club left the cemetery and headed to Wilmington for the picnic.

Getting bigger and better

This year's event couldn't be accommodated at the Harry Bridges Park in Long Beach or Peck Park in Pedro, so the Harbor Spots Complex in Wilmington was able to help. For shade, there were lots of canopies in place of the usual trees, and the kids in the bounce houses didn't seem to care that they were jumping on top of newly-installed Astro-turf that cost the city a million to install. The VFW honor guard formally opened the event that featured great food with thousands of burgers, tacos and sno-cones.

Ending on a positive note

The music was equally tasty, beginning with Wayne Moore and his "Down the Hatch" band, followed by another local favorite "Azure," and ending with the Howard Scott Project (formerly with the band "War.") Many local politicians came to mingle and listen instead of trying to make long speeches.

"People danced until the last song and the City said they'd be happy to have us back, so it was a good day," according to Enriquez, who with his team was looking forward to some recovery time after clean-up. "We couldn't have done it without all the volunteers," he said, "Our Casuals, B's and A's, as well as folks from Beacon House and other community groups were a big help."

Local 10 commemorates Bloody Thursday

Local 10 commemorated the 83rd anniversary of Bloody Thursday at their hall in San Francisco. The event began with member Scott Barton playing Taps on the trumpet followed by a dramatic entrance by the Local 10 Drill Team who served as the Color Guard. Aaliyah Washington Purry followed with an acapella version of The National Anthem. Local 10 Pensioner Norman Mcleod served as the emcee for the commemoration.

Featured speakers were Local 10



Tacoma volunteers: Tony Brett (L) and Jeff Clowers (R) helped serve hundreds of burgers at Local 23's picnic.

President Ed Ferris, Local 10 Secretary Treasurer Derrick Muhammad, Local 34 President Dave Gonzales, BALMA Treasurer Mike Villeggiante and pensioners George Romero, Bill Aviles, Lawrence Thibeaux, and Dorothy Johnson. Speakers addressed a range of issues including the history of the 1934 waterfront strike, the ILWU's history of militant, democratic unionism, and the need to protect and preserve the hiring hall that was a central demand of the 1934 strike. Victor Manuel Lemange Sanchez, General Secretary of Cuba's National Union of Hotel & Tourism Workers, was a special guest speaker.

Special recognition awards were presented in absentia to Bay Area Pensioners President George Cobbs and Mattie Lawson, the first women longshore worker registered in Local 10. Cobbs was in the hospital at the time and passed away a few weeks later. An obituary for Brother Cobbs will appear in the September edition of the *Dispatcher*.

Following the speakers, lunch was served at the Local 10 hall. The day ended with a bay cruise – made possible in part thanks to labor that was

generously donated by Blue & Gold crewmembers who are members of the Inlandboatmen's Union.

Seattle

It was another big picnic this year for Seattle-area ILWU members, held at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish in Bellevue. An estimated 650 people attended the event that featured a yummy BBQ, a bouncy castle and inflatable water slide for the kids, a DJ who played great tunes, and swimming on the lake. On a more somber note, they honored members who had passed during the last year from Locals 19, 52, and 98, by reading each name and ringing a ship's bell to mark their passing. As in past years, Local 19's Sarah Esch coordinated the event with volunteers that included Danny and Samantha Philio, Tyrone Harvey, Dusty Crabtree, Charlie Wilbert, Randy Wilbur, Warren and April Fairbanks, Marty and Matt Rosler, Scott Martinez, John Fisher, James & Eric Bump, Mark Williams, Patrick Mick, Nick Budinich, Kevin Haskell, Justin Hirsch, Dan McKisson, and Dave Savill.

Local 21 in Longview

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Longshore's Canadian legacy: Members and pensioners gathered along the waterfront this June at a park just east of Vancouver for their annual remembrance of the bitter struggle at the Ballantyne docks on June 18, 1935, when 1,000 locked-out workers tried to reclaim their jobs from employers and a company-controlled union. The battle lasted for hours and pitted workers against heavily armed police and "special" officers and vigilantes who were recruited for what many expected to be a broader worker uprising. When it was over, 16 workers were arrested, 60 injured and dozens hospitalized, including one who was shot. Among those marching were veterans of WWI, including Mikey O'Rourke who was awarded the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest medal for bravery at the time. Another decade of struggle passed before workers established the independent union that became today's ILWU Canada.



ILWU Pensioners remember their fallen brothers & sisters:

Southern California Pensioners hosted their annual "First Blood" ceremony on May 15th in San Pedro at the Port of Los Angeles. The event honors those who have died while working on the waterfront. In 2009, Pensioners erected a bust of Harry Bridges, and below it, engraved in stone the names of every ILWU member who went to work but never returned home. The ceremony included a special prayer, release of doves, and a world-renowned bagpiper. Over 300 people attended this year's event, including a large contingent of newly hired "ID's" from Local 13. ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe was the keynote speaker. "It was a rousing speech about the importance of our union, the fact that we work in a dangerous environment, and need to always watch each other's backs," said Pensioner President Greg Mitre who emceed the event. (L-R) So Cal Pensioners 1st Vice President Jerry Garretson, 2nd Vice President Dave Arian, President Greg Mitre, Financial Secretary Lynn Hay and Recording Secretary Herman Moreno.

LEAD training aims to strengthen a rank-and-file union

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a common vision and shared values about the kind of world they want to see in the future. Pitts then led participants in a group exercise to develop that shared vision.

Presentations and group exercises that afternoon focused on how to make union meetings more effective and how different personality types and “working styles” can collaborate to make an effective team. Those sessions were facilitated by Joel Schaffer and Rick Ogelsby of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). That was followed by a session on “Robert’s Rules of Order,” which is the process used by the ILWU and other bodies to assure orderly debate and decision-making. This session was led by Local 8’s Jim Daw and Local 52’s Max Vekich; both have served as parliamentarians at Longshore Caucuses and ILWU Conventions.

The ILWU’s 10 Guiding Principles

The third day started with a discussion about the ILWU’s Ten Guiding Principles, led by pensioner Rich Austin, Sr., who presented an overview of the principles and their history. A panel discussion followed with IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast, Local 5 Union Representative Ryan Takas and Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr., who explained the importance of the Guiding Principles and how they have shaped the union. Following the panel discussion, workshop participants voted for what they felt were the most important principles, listing favorites at one of ten easels set-up around the room.

Bridging the ‘generations gap’

Later that afternoon, conference participants discussed the need to develop and involve young leaders in the union. A discussion on “bridging the generation” gap began with a brainstorming session that explored the perspectives of younger and older workers led by Gary Hattal and Ligia Velazquez of FMCS. A panel discussion followed with ILWU Canada Second Vice-President Steve Nasby, Local 5 Secretary-Treasurer Amy Wren, ILWU 23 President Dean McGrath, Tacoma Pensioners President Mike Jagielski, and Local 23 B-Man Brian Skiffington. Panelists explained how

their locals are developing younger and newer leaders. Nasby discussed ILWU Canada’s annual “Young Workers Conference” along with efforts to include ID Casuals in education and other union programs. The Tacoma delegation talked about their Young Workers’ Committee that built strong bonds between Local 23 pensioners and younger Tacoma longshore workers.

“We brought together young workers who are hungry for knowledge about the ILWU and the industry, and you have this group of pensioners who are eager to share their knowledge and experience. It’s a powerful combination,” said Mike Jagielski.

Local 5’s Amy Wren talked about the challenges of building union culture at Powell’s where the turnover rate is much higher than the longshore industry, and most workers have no personal or family experience with unions before working at Powell’s.

Automation

On day four, ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe gave a multi-media presentation that explained the growing threat of automation on the docks, in the trucking industry and in warehouses and hotels.

“I’m tired of being lied to by politicians,” said Familathe. “I don’t think there’s a politician on either side of the aisle who understands where this technology is going and what is going to happen to working people over the next few years. We need to challenge these politicians on where they stand on automation and how they expect public services can continue to be funded if more and more workers are displaced by robots.”

Communications workshop

The ILWU communications staff held a workshop in the afternoon of day four. Topics included internal and external communications strategies, developing a public-interest messages, flyer design and public speaking. The workshop was interactive, and participants worked in small groups to practice public speaking, produce their own flyers and develop messages that combined union issues with broader public concerns.



Solidarity with Standing Rock: Local 4 members Steve Hunt (left) and Jamison Roberts shared their recent solidarity efforts to support the Lakota Sioux and other Native Americans who have been fighting against the Dakota Access pipeline that is proposed to run through Native land.

Report from Standing Rock

Toward the end of the day, Local 4 members Steve Hunt and Jamison Roberts shared their experiences with building community support for ILWU members who were locked-out of the EGT grain terminal in Vancouver, WA for 18 months, ending in late 2014. They also shared details about their recent solidarity efforts to support the Lakota Sioux and other Native Americans who opposed the Dakota Access pipeline that was proposed to run through their land. Hunt said the tactics he saw on TV used by the police against Native Americans reminded him of how ILWU members had been treated in Vancouver during the lock-out. “I wanted to go there and see for myself what was happening, and not rely on what the media was telling me,” he said. “I know they police aren’t there to protect the grass. They have the backs of the oil companies, just like they had the backs of the grain companies in Vancouver,” he said.

Hunt and Roberts were the first ILWU members on the ground at Standing Rock protest. They brought a trailer full of donated supplies from Local 4 members and stayed for a week to provide assistance. Delegations from Locals 10, 13 and 23 followed, and the ILWU Executive Board and the Coast Longshore Division both donated funds to support the cause.

Member Action Plan

The week culminated with the Member Action Plan (MAP) exercise. Small working groups were tasked with developing a plan to help new members get more involved in their local unions.

The idea was introduced by Fred Glass, Communications Director for the American Federation of Teachers, who helped develop the exercise with former ILWU Education Director Gene Vrana. Each group was asked to begin by assessing the current needs of their locals to determine any shortcomings that now exist with new member education, outreach and orientation. Those insights were combined with skills and approaches learned during the week, then shaped into a proposed plan that was presented to the conference on the final morning of the training.

Closing address

On the final day, ILWU International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams delivered closing remarks to the conference. He stressed the need for participants to bring back what they had learned and apply that knowledge to work with their local union officers. “What will you do with all of this knowledge? What will happen when you get back home? Will your momentum and enthusiasm die out? Will you be on fire when you get home or will



This year’s LEAD Institute was attended by a diverse group of 100 rank-and-file members and elected leaders. It was the largest LEAD training to date

you just go back to doing what we've always been doing?" Adams asked.

Active members, strong unions

Local 500 member Joulene Parent, who now works on her local's Education Committee, said her own experience as a casual dockworker illustrated how important it is to actively encourage new workers to participate.

"I'm one of those people who was pulled into working with our union's

Education Committee before I became a full member," Parent said. "I used to think that you had to be a fully-registered member to get educated and that it was an exclusive club. But Local 500 members reached out to me, invited me, encouraged me to participate, and made me feel like I had something to contribute. Now I see that our inactive members and casuals are resources lying dormant that could benefit our union."



Vision: Local 19's Alexandra Vekich served as note taker during a group exercise to develop a broad vision for the union.



Local 10 Business Agent Frank Gaskin (left) and Local 13 member Robert Trimmer worked together on a group exercise on the LEAD's first day

ILWU celebrates 83rd anniversary of Bloody Thursday

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Local 21 in Longview held their annual picnic at an RV Park in nearby Castle Rock, WA. that attracted over 200 participants – significantly more than the previous year. The weather was hot for the Columbia River, but the kids didn't seem to mind and quickly got down to business with two bounce-houses, gunny-sack races, a sprint, attacking two piñatas full of candy, and a hunt-in-the-hay for \$300 worth of quarters and half-dollars plus a few \$20 gift cards generously donated by Credit Union members who helped sponsor the events.

Adults had their own entertainment, including a bingo game coordinated by Mike Gilbert, with prizes and gift certificates donated by local merchants and more \$20 gift cards donated by the Credit Union. Hats and t-shirts donated by the Maritime Union of Australia were also a big hit.

Food provided during the warm afternoon included sno-cones that were especially welcome, plus burgers, dogs and delicious ribs cooked in a smoker provided by Rich Newman.

An amazing cake was provided by a talented pastry chef and relative of Local 21 member Brian Graimes from Kalama Export who turned heads and

won applause with a confection that looked like a vintage shipping crate with a longshore hook on top.

The serious part of the day was brief but touching, with a ceremony that included a moment of silence, followed by a release of red and white balloons in memory of Local 21's fallen brothers and sisters.

A novel and entertaining event this year was the "Dunk Tank" assembled by a volunteer crew led by Logan Byman. Vice President and Dispatcher Jake Ford was the first to get wet for a good cause, with others following his lead into the tank. It cost \$5 for a bucket of balls and the effort raised about \$200 in donations.

Daniel Rundell coordinated the day's events, with a volunteer crew of hard-workers on a Committee that included Local 21 Secretary Jamie Wheeler and her twin-sister Jackie Honrud, Lon Ford, Michaelyn Doss, Mike Gilbert, Ellie Holiday. Photos of the day were taken and assembled by Local 21 historian and photographer Mary Beth Bean.

"It was a lot of work by all the volunteers, but also a great way to get our local families together for a good cause," said Rundell.



Honoring George Cobbs: Local 10 Pensioner Norman Mcleod (left) and BALMA President Christopher Christensen honored George Cobbs for his pioneering work in developing the ILWU's Alcohol, Drug and Rehab Program.



Remembering those who sacrificed: A brief memorial service in Portland included Local 8 President Mike Stanton at the podium with Columbia River Pensioners President Jerry Bitz (L) and Pensioners Vice President Barbara Lewis (R).

Tacoma picnic at the lake

Local 23 members gathered again at beautiful Spanaway Lake Park to honor Bloody Thursday with their traditional July 5th picnic.

Over 300 participated this year, enjoying a delicious barbeque lunch that provided hundreds of burgers and dogs. Kids went to the bounce house and young ones went on pony rides. A local artist provided face-painting for young and old alike. The Auxiliary's bingo game continued to attract the older set. Sno-cones were again included this year and were welcome on the warm summer day.

A committee of volunteers organized the event, including Eric Sowers and Art Jackson with Kyle Copeland, Jeff Clowers, Dave Windsor, Dragan Butorac, Warren VanWettering, Dave Barker and a host of others who served food, and helped with the set-up and clean-up. Local 23 Pensioners and Auxiliary #35 members generously donated their time, and Local 23 administrative staffer Tawni Bailey handled a pile of details that made things flow smoothly.

Portland

An estimated 1,000 union family members, pensioners and friends attended the annual July 5th picnic at Portland's Oaks Amusement Park.



Photo by Michelle Meese

Fun for all: The Southern California Bloody Thursday Picnic was filled with games, events and entertainment for the whole family.

A memorial service was held at 11am that concluded with a wreath that was placed gently into the current of the Willamette River that floated out toward the sea, to honor the union martyrs who sacrificed their lives in 1934 that made today's union possible.

Lots of hot dogs, chili, ice cream and drinks of all kinds were provided to picnickers, with ride bracelets available for kids wanted to experience the amusement park rides that ranged from gentle to thrilling. Generous donations that made the event possible came from Local 5, 8, 40, 92 the Inlandboatmen's Union, Auxiliary 5, Columbia River Pensioners and Local 8 Federal Credit Union.



Time for family: Local 21 members enjoyed the day with their families.

Adams recognized by historic SF newspaper

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams was included among a distinguished group of “Leading Men of the Bay Area” who were honored in June by the San Francisco *Sun Reporter*, the city’s historic African-American newspaper. Adams, who also serves as President of the San Francisco Port Commission, was featured along with dozens of African-American business, professional, religious and political leaders from the Bay Area.

An important newspaper

The *Sun Reporter* has been a force in San Francisco politics for 63 years, with former editor Thomas C. Fleming, playing an especially active role during the 1930’s and 40’s when the ILWU was born amidst violent opposition from employers and police. Fleming worked at several newspapers that served African-Americans in San Francisco until he retired at the age of 89.

Meeting 20th Century icons

Fleming lived a modest life, but met many icons of the 20th Century including Martin Luther King Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois, Charles Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, Paul Robeson, A. Philip Randolph, Langston Hughes, Fats Waller, Jackie Robinson, Mary McLeod Bethune and Duke Ellington. He became personal friends with Paul Robeson, the gifted singer, actor, athlete, intellectual and ILWU supporter who was harshly attacked during the Cold War for advocating peace with the Soviet Union – and later died in relative obscurity after his promising career was ruined by racism and blacklisting.

Founding of the ILWU

Fleming’s early years in San Francisco closely followed the birth of the ILWU. He arrived at the Bay Area in

1926, and wanted to write for a daily newspaper, but none in the Bay Area would hire any African-Americans until 1962. So Fleming wrote for smaller, political newspapers that served African Americans, including *The Spokesman*, which courageously backed the 1934 maritime strike. Fleming recalled how the same segregation that kept him out of major newsrooms also impacted work on the docks. He said, “Blacks could only work on two piers in San Francisco. If you even went near them the rest of them, you might get beat up by the hoodlums.”

Racists attacks

During the waterfront strike in the summer of 1934, Fleming said, “there were some vigilante groups patrolling the entire Bay Area. Apparently they were displeased with some of the editorials we were writing, because we came to work one morning and all the plate glass windows were smashed out. They had gotten inside and smashed the keys on the keyboard of our Linotype machine, and they pasted up a note: ‘You n-----s go back to Africa.’”

Tough times in Great Depression

Longshore workers won their coast-wide strike after 7 men died in the effort and many more were seriously wounded. The *Spokesman* also suffered financially and soon went broke, leaving Fleming to scrape by with a radio show called, “Negroes in the News,” and a column in the *Oakland Tribune*, called “Activities Among Negroes.”

Editing at The Reporter

Fleming’s big break came in 1944, when he was hired to edit *The Reporter*, a new weekly paper dedicated to serving African-Americans in San Francisco during the turbulent war years. Most of the paper’s readership had recently fled the rural South during “The Great Migration” in search of better jobs in defense plants, shipyards and the waterfront.



Carlton Goodlett, standing to the left of President John Kennedy, during a White House award presentation to African American newspapers in 1962.



Radical political views

Fleming held radical political views that were shaped by many injustices he witnessed – along with victories that were being won by unions with socialist leaders who encouraged collective action and protests. He was close to the Communist Party which had a large membership during the 1930’s and 40’s that may have reached up to one million Americans, including supporters known as “follow travelers”

Radicals distinguished themselves by challenging racial discrimination that was commonplace in the Bay Area and throughout America. “Blacks were up in arms about the hiring practices in the shipyards and other war industries, and the Key System, which operated the (public) transit system in Oakland, would not hire any black bus drivers or streetcar operators. . . . so I started writing editorials saying that if blacks could drive those big Army rigs, they could drive those buses on the street too.”

Fleming’s tough reporting and editorials supporting unions and civil rights raised his profile with the draft board, who forced him into Army in 1944, despite being over the age limit. An insider at the draft board later confirmed that he was sent to the Army by those who didn’t like his editorials.

Dr. Carlton Goodlett

When African-Americans arrived in the Bay Area during the war years, racism made it impossible for many to find a doctor. That’s when Fleming urged his best friend, Dr. Carlton Goodlett, to open a medical practice in San Francisco in 1945 at an office near the *Reporter* that was soon flooded with patients. The doctor’s steady income allowed him to buy a stake in the *Reporter*, and he soon acquired a second African-American paper called “*The Sun*,” during a poker game. The two papers were combined into the *Sun Reporter*, which became the basis for a statewide chain of 7 African-American newspapers that reached peak circulation during the 1960’s and 70’s.

ILWU supporters

Goodlett and Fleming shared responsibility for writing editorials during the next six decades. Both men were union supporters, strong allies of the ILWU and not shy about sharing their left-wing political views.

In addition to practicing medicine and working on his newspapers, Goodlett led anti-segregation campaigns in the Bay Area, including the right for physicians to work in hospitals that previously banned Black doctors.

Powerful political coalitions

Goodlett became heavily involved with local politics, forming a powerful and enduring coalition with Phil Burton, who served many years in Congress and narrowly lost a bid to become House speaker. Goodlett also backed Willie Brown’s first run for office in 1962 and remained a close friend of the Assembly Speaker and San Francisco Mayor during the next four decades. Goodlett was arrested in 1968 for supporting the historic strike by Black students at San Francisco State University, where the nation’s first Black Studies Program was established. Other activists in that struggle included actor Danny Glover and former ILWU Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Clarence Thomas.


Goodlett’s passing in 1997 was immediately honored by political leaders who renamed City Hall’s official address in his honor, as #1 Carlton Goodlett Place.

Fleming also remained active in politics, attending nine political conventions, meeting two presidents and knowing most major politicians in California. At the age of 96, he was still contributing to a weekly column called “Reflections on Black History that was carried by 200 African American newspapers across the country. Fleming passed in 2006 at the age of 98.

The *Sun Reporter* is published today under the direction of Amelia Ashley-Ward.




**The Port of San Francisco
&
The International Longshore
and Warehouse Union**

CONGRATULATES



WILLIAM ADAMS
San Francisco
Port Commission President &
ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer

**And all of this year’s Leading Men of the
African-American Community**

**Thank you for your service
and commitment to the community**

Local 20 gets new contract with Rio Tinto at Port of LA

A new five-year contract has been ratified covering 77 members of ILWU Local 20 who work on a private dock at the Port of Los Angeles where they load and process materials mined at Rio Tinto's giant borate mine and plant in the Mojave Desert that employs over 500 members of Local 30 in Boron, CA.

Retirement benefits

The Local 20 Negotiating Committee of Rudy Dorame, Mike Gonzolo, Tim Simpson and Robert Frazier began negotiating in December of 2016. They reached a tentative agreement with the company on June 3, and members ratified the new contract a week later. The new agreement will increase defined pension benefits from the current \$75 per year of service to \$80 at the end of the 5-year contract. The company also provides a 401(k) savings plan for newer employees.

Recovering some lost ground

A previous contract opened the door for a "two-tier" pay and retirement scheme that caused divisions between newer and older workers, that



Local 20 members stood in solidarity with Rio Tinto workers in Indonesia; they recently won a new contract.

would eventually lower pay throughout the shop. To help, the new contract guarantees minimum raises of 2.5% to everyone for each of the 5 years, while also providing 3.5% raises to lower-paid, newer workers in years 4 and 5. Another improvement restores seniority bidding rights to everyone hired after 2011. The new agreement also provides more vacation carry-over, better death benefits, more funeral leave, and higher allowances for safety shoes

and glasses. The probationary period was also reduced from 120 to 60 days, improving job security for new members. The company also agreed to post overtime equalization charts and share testing results when they're required for bidding certain jobs.

A last-minute effort by the company to claw back a \$1000 signing bonus was also defeated and that cash payout became part of the package.

Unity was important

"We tried to keep everyone informed and members stayed united," said Local 20 President Rudy Dorame, who also thanked "all of our brothers and sisters from the surrounding locals in our area," noting that "the ILWU family here in the harbor really came through for us." He also mentioned international support that included Australia's CFMEU. "I think all the support and solidarity made Rio Tinto take our contract talks more seriously," said Dorame.



A union voice at the capitol: The Coast Legislative Committee, composed of ILWU International officers, Coast Committeemen and local leaders, spent June 25-30 in Washington, D.C., where they spoke with legislators, staff and agency officials about key concerns. Legislation targeting longshore workers has been proposed during the past year – all of it based on inaccurate information and faulty assumptions. "We came to share facts and information, and many legislators were grateful to hear us setting the record straight," said President Robert McEllrath. "Some legislators are listening only to big business, but we wanted workers and unions to have some say in the process back there."

IN MEMORIAM

Lois Stanahan: Veteran Portland activist

Longtime Portland labor and social justice advocate Lois Stanahan, passed on May 17 at the age of 97. She was born and raised on a farm in Arkansas where she played the fiddle in a family band with her five siblings."

Like many of her generation, she migrated from the south and headed out west during the Second World War, arriving in Portland where she found work as a waitress in 1940 – and quickly helped her co-workers join the union. Before long, she found a better-paying job in Portland's shipyards as a welder and joined the Steamfitters Union with many other women who helped build Liberty Ships that transported vital goods for the war effort.

After the war, Lois worked as a telephone operator and helped organize her co-workers into the Communication Workers of America and helped lead their national strike in 1947 – a year before the ILWU west

coast waterfront strike. It was during these conflicts that she married Jesse Stanahan. Both were deeply devoted to the cause of union organizing and social change, with Jesse joining ILWU Marine Clerks Local 40 in 1942 and Lois joining the ILWU Auxiliary #5 where she remained active throughout her life.

In addition to her love for gardening, Lois was an excellent photographer who contributed many images that were published in *The Dispatcher*.

Her devotion to political activities, desire to communicate with the public and tell labor's story, landed her in a high-profile confrontation with authorities that made headlines in Oregon. The issue involved Stanahan's insistence on a legal right to gather petition signatures in public places – even if those places were privately owned.

In 1989, she was arrested for gathering petition signatures at a Fred Meyer store in Portland. Stanahan insisted that the sidewalk in front of the supermarket was effectively a pub-

lic space – even if it was located on private property – so she sued Fred Meyer and won a jury verdict with damages that was upheld by the state court of appeals. Oregon's Supreme Court, eventually overturned her victory and ruled for the rights of private property owners to exclude petition gathering in public areas, such as shopping malls.

Among the many social justice causes she supported was the effort by members of the United Farmworkers Union to improve working conditions in the fields. She joined the consumer grape boycott in 1965 and supported the UFW effort for decades that followed.

In later life she was active in the campaign to stop a sales tax in Oregon, arguing it was a "regressive" measure that fell most heavily on the poor and working class – while going easy on the state's richest residents.

In 1997, Lois and her husband were inducted into Oregon's Labor Hall of Fame by the Labor Retirees Council, which recognized their lifetime of activism.



Photo by Neil Heilpern

Long-distance fighter: Lois Stanahan spoke at the Oregon governor's mansion at an event in 2001 to honor the farmworkers union. She shared stories of Cesar Chavez staying in her home, and how a shipload of boycotted California table grapes never made it to Oregon.

Jesse died the following year in April, 1998. Lois survived another 19 years until passing at her daughter's home in Edison, New Jersey. She was buried at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland on May 30.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Rodolfo B. Regidor; Stephen J. Buich; Victor J. Gressot Jr.; Bobby R. Payne; Charles L. Hampton; Theotis Dickerson; **Local 13:** Thomas D. Costello; Guillermo M. Trujillo; Michael B. Phipps; Harry L. Wilson; Rosendo P. Aldrete; Michael R. Wilson; Scott A. Jackson; Nicolas C. Huizar; Teri L. Perez; Joseph E. Miretti; Anthony E. Aranda; Jerry A. Bogdanovich; Jacquelyn S. Chapman; Douglas M. Foster; Carl R. Reid; Salvador Gonzalez; Armando J. Castro; Arline De La Cruz; Darrell L. Chapman; Ted Golden; Lorena Davis; Frederick C. Huerta; Shawn P. Robinson; Kenneth M. Sutton; **Local 19:** Raymond J. Leffard; Richard C. Hansen; **Local 21:** Ralph E. Rider III; Daniel J. Osborn; Scott E. Chamberlain; **Local 23:** William L. Brieger; Donald A. Hartman, Jr.; Geri L. Nelson; Robert R. Dalton; Henry M. Brown; Harry J. Coudriet; Herbert M. Ahlgren Jr.; Cary R. Parker; **Local 27:** Allan J. Heinle; **Local 40:** Kurt R. Millsbaugh; Cecil F. Smith; **Local 46:** Violet Oretta; **Local 63:** John Antich; Judith C. Donato-Freese; Pamela D. Cooksie; Sharon L. Brannen; Lynn L. Hummel; Starlene E. McDonald; Pamela B. Wright; Joseph Sancirardi; Patricia L. Reyes-Jimenez; George W. Love; **Local 94:** Lorenzo A. Torres; Sime Baran

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Herbert D. Dyer (Rosalie); **Local 7:** Danny W. Vail; **Local 8:** Kenneth L. Tester; Ira W. Morris (Dorothy); Gilbert M. Burk; Norman Davison; Bruce A. Lyngstad; **Local 10:** Luis G. Banuelos (Maria); Gilbert Estrada; Richard I. Ross; Leonel S. Medeiros (Maria); Roy Williams Jr (Lauretta); Mario M. Da Rosa (Elisabete); **Local 12:** Glenn Pettit; Alvin L. Sutton (Melba); Calvin L.

Hamlin (Norma); Horton L. Hightower (Peggy); **Local 13:** Henry S. Loya; John G. Polich; Earl Williams; Milton W. Elrod Jr. (Maria); Louis Butorovich Jr.; Robert D. Davie; Evangelina Gamez; Gregorio M. Albanez; Atilio Gomez; James Fox Cibel; John M. Boe; Joseph V. Bertrand; David B. Muniain; **Local 19:** Werku Demisse; Robert E. Johnson; Kristian B. Jacobson; Ron L. Sylte; **Local 21:** Arnold L. Hendrickson (Patricia); Donald G. Froemke (Phyllis); Frank Soom; Norman F. Gleave (Linda); James R. Parvi (Janette); Johnny H. Beam; **Local 23:** Clarence S. Woodard; **Local 24:** Frank A. Franich; **Local 26:** James H. Andrews; **Local 32:** George W. Larson (Mary); **Local 34:** Edwin D. Macon; **Local 40:** Daniel G. Pyle; Local 52: Herbert O. Nickolsen; **Local 54:** Murray H. Hodge; **Local 63:** Charles W. Winston Jr; Ralph S. Tennant; Mario D'ambrosi (Kathleen); Michael P. Vezzuto; Louis Mendoza; **Local 91:** George Gomez; Dave Hill (Lois) **Local 92:** James W. Bridger (Nancy); **Local 94:** Daniel V. Castaldi (Mary);

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Helen F. Ede; Edith C. Barnes; Ellen L. Delashmutt; **Local 10:** Gladys Duncan; Edythe Robinson; June Colondres; Tereza Corpuz; Hallelan Love; Dorothy Cross; Bernice Baumgarten; Manuela Guerrero; Rosario Casabonne; **Local 13:** Taumalatou Simi; Sylvia Guerrero; **Local 19:** May Louise Wilkerson; **Local 21:** Maudene Cooley; Bertha E. Ahonen; **Local 23:** Christiane Riley; Elizabeth A. Mac Laine; **Local 40:** Lois R. Stranahan; **Local 40:** Donna M. Foster; **Local 46:** Rose Duenez; **Local 52:** Shirley J. Bruce; **Local 63:** Jean V. Le Fort; Florida Villescas; Jean A. Kerr; **Local 98:** Eunice W. Trowbridge



Walking for a good cause: On Saturday, April 22 Local 23 held their Multiple Sclerosis Walk on Saturday April 22nd above the scenic Chambers Bay Golf course. The Tacoma Longshore team had over 75 walkers and was made up of members, pensioners, ILWU Auxiliary #35, family and friends, all proudly wearing their ILWU team shirts. Local 23 took home an award for having the largest team.

Between the donations from two fundraisers and what was raised by the walkers, Local 23 raised a total of \$12,359 to fight MS, which is the largest amount the Local has raised. The co-captains of the team were Holly Hulscher and Lisa Cole along with many amazing volunteers worked together in solidarity to support such an important in the Tacoma community.



ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners 50th Anniversary Convention Hosted by: the Southern California Pensioners



On the Water in Long Beach, California | September 18-20th 2017




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Fun Activities Throughout the Week Including a Harbor Cruise!




A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU- sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away.

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