The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) held their 51st Annual Convention from September 16-19 in Portland, OR. A total of 154 people attended this year’s meeting including 88 PCPA delegates who tackled issues ranging from Long Term Health Care Insurance to the importance of getting-out-the-vote for pro-union candidates in the November mid-term elections.

The convention was dedicated to the memory of pensioners who have passed since the last convention. Elected officers from the International and local unions included ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 13 President Mark Mendoza, Local 63 President Joe Gasperov, Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Farless Daily, and Local 8 President Bruce Holte. Also attending were Vanetta Hamlin and Trevor McCoy from the Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA). Those unable to attend this year’s event due to the ILWU Hawaii Convention included International President Robert McEllrath, Vice President (Mainland) Ray Famlath, Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado and Coast Committee-men Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams who all sent their regards.

Support for Dave Arian
PCPA President Greg Mitre began the proceedings with an announcement about Southern California Pensioner Dave Arian, who has been an active PCPA member since he retired from his waterfront career that included serving as ILWU International President and President of Local 13.

Mitre said Arian is fighting a rare form of thyroid cancer that prevented him from attending this year’s convention. “Dave has a love for the ILWU that runs deeper than I have ever known. It probably hurts Dave more to be missing the convention than we miss having him here,” Mitre said. On the convention’s last day, Mitre used his phone to place a video call that allowed Arian to see and hear the expressions of love and support coming to him from delegates and guests.

Guest speakers
Mitre then introduced Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith who is running for a seat on the Portland City Council. Commissioner Smith spoke about the important role of pensioners in our political system and praised the work by labor unions to protect wages and working conditions of all workers. “Without you, there would be no America,” Smith said.

ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams was introduced and declared that he had attended each of the PCPA conventions during the past 14 years. “For me it all starts with the...continued on page 6

Pensioner power trio: (L-R) Canadian Pensioners Club President Tom Dufresne, PCPA President Greg Mitre and Local 142 Pensioner/Memorial Association Director Clayton Dela Cruz, each shared their views about the union’s future.
Informe actualizado sobre las elecciones del Sindicato Internacional

Los resultados de las elecciones del sindicato Internacional ILWU se están procesando de conformidad con la Constitución del sindicato. Las boletas fueron enviadas por correo a los miembros el 23 de julio y tenían que devolverse a más tardar el 6 de septiembre. El recuento de los votos comenzó esa mañana y se prolongó hasta poco antes de la medianoche. Dicho recuento fue realizado por funcionarios de un organismo independiente externo y miembros del Comité Interna-
tional de Votación. Además, fue asistido por varios candidatos y observadores de varios candidatos. El Comité Internacional de Votación publicó un informe del 10º de septiembre sobre el proceso y los resultados del recuento de votos, el cual se proporcionó a todos los candidatos, sindicatos locales y afiliados.

Durante los 7 días siguientes se recibieron 9 impugnaciones de los miembros y candidatos. Además, se recibió un fax que no cumplía los requisitos de una impugnación. Se enviaron a todas las partes notificaciones de impugnaciones en un plazo de siete (7) días a partir del momento de la notificación. El Comité Internacional de Procedimientos Electorales celebrará una audiencia informal que comenzará el 1 de octubre, dándose el aviso de la hora, lugar y fecha de dicha audiencia con cuatro (4) días de antelación. El Comité de Procedimientos Electorales tiene hasta el 15 de octubre para emitir su informe.

Supporting pro-union candidates: Presidents from four Southern California ILWU longshore locals attended a June 28 fundraiser to support pro-union candidates for Congress. (L-R) former Labor Secretary Tom Perez, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Local 63 President Joe Gaserov, President Barack Obama, Local 94 President Danny Miranda and Local 13 President Mark Mendoza. ILWU contributions to Congressional campaigns are from voluntary member donations, not union dues.
So Cal locals hold largest Labor Day in years

When workers go to work during the summer months at Rite Aid’s Distribution Center in the Mojave Desert, their million-square-foot steel building without air conditioning can sometimes feel like an oven.

Danger is real

Laboring inside hot buildings has long been recognized by workers and medical experts as dangerous, but employers have successfully blocked state and federal laws to protect workers.

Local 26 President Luisa Gratz is trying to change that by working with a team of volunteers and medical experts – coordinated by the WorkSafe advocacy group – who are pressing Cal-OSHA to adopt a new “indoor heat standard.”

Gratz knows firsthand how dangerous a hot building can be for employees, she once worked in a facility where co-workers passed out from the high heat.

One death is too many

“A worker died a decade ago at the Rite Aid warehouse in Lancaster when the high heat. She was an oven.” she says. “It’s outrageous, but the history of health and safety laws in the U.S. seems to be based on the principle that workers have to die before protections can be passed.”

Gratz is aware of workers in many other warehouses and offices who have experienced symptoms of heat stress and heat exhaustion that include passing out on the job. She says a law protecting employees against hazardous indoor heat is long overdue, recalling that when Rite Aid workers formed their union 10 years ago, they were motivated in part by the death of a co-worker believed to be the first victim of heat inside their warehouse. That tragedy sparked workers to organize and negotiate the first indoor heat contract language for warehouse workers in the nation. Their action forced management to install evaporative coolers and provide additional water breaks when indoor temperatures spiked.

“It was a good start, but with climate change creating hotter conditions, we need stronger protections,” said Gratz.

Protections long overdue

Gratz and other union supporters have spent years urging Cal-OSHA’s Standards Board in Sacramento to pass regulations with teeth to protect workers from excessive indoor heat. Stronger regulations were passed by the legislature at one point, only to be vetoed by then-Governor Schwarzenegger at the request of business interests. The 7-member Board appointed by Governor Brown now has two vacancies and is hampered by industry lobbyists who often slow progress to a crawl and undermine even the smallest reforms. The situation with OSHA in Washington, D.C. is even worse, with President Trump, now rolling-back workplace protections.

“Brown bows to business

“Not long ago, the possibility of passing indoor heat protections in California looked promising after Governor Brown appointed Ellen Widess, a strong worker advocate, to head Cal-OSHA. But after several years, industry groups ganged-up against Widess, and eventually forced her to resign. The shakeup further emboldened industry groups who won a more “business-friendly” approach to workplace safety at the expense of workers. Today, Cal-OSHA plods along with too few inspectors (far less per-capita than Oregon and Washington) and too little clout to punish employers who continue killing roughly 400 workers per year, a number that has held steady for most of the decade. Gratz says the rule-making process is frustrating, but she and others remain determined to keep pushing for statewide indoor heat protections.

“Worksafe! advocacy – coordinated by the Harbor Coalition, a network of union and community groups anchored in the working class town of Wilmington, CA.

An estimated 6,000 union workers representing more than 65 labor unions participated with family members and community supporters at this year’s event. It was the largest Labor Day Marches in recent history and the largest Labor Day celebration on the West Coast. The energy, enthusiasm and solidarity on display contrasted sharply with recent attacks on workers and unions.

The day began with a free breakfast sponsored by Southern California ILWU locals who provided huge quantities of pancakes, eggs, sausage, burritos, coffee, and juice at the Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Memorial Hall. Over 2,000 breakfast burritos were distributed at no charge to the community.

Labor Day marks the traditional beginning of election season, so the ILWU welcomed candidates running for local, state and federal offices. Each candidate was limited to a few minutes on the mic at the Memorial Hall, delivering their remarks as their audience ate breakfast.

The annual parade started after breakfast on the corner of Broad and E Streets, just a few blocks from the old Local 13 dispatch hall. The parade slowly made its way up Avalon Blvd., ending at Banning Park for an all-day barbecue and picnic. The parade was led by members of the Southern California ILWU Pensioners Group who rode in a flat-bed trailer and tossed candy to families that lined the streets with their children to watch the march.

ILWU members, nurses, teachers, Teamsters, Building Trades and other workers marched together and were joined by local high school marching bands, cheer squads, color guards, classic cars and motorcycle clubs to celebrate the working men and women who built this country, work around the ports and keep things running.

After arriving at Banning Park, families enjoyed free hot dogs, hamburgers, snow-cones, sodas and live music courtesy of the Los Angeles County Labor movement.

Leading the way: A truckload of Southern California Pensioners took their assigned place in front of the parade.

ILWU Local 13 member David Serrato spoke on behalf of the ILWU at the picnic, urging union members to work together in the face of coordinated attacks by employers and anti-union politicians.

ILWU pensioners Jerry Brady and Dave Arian were both honored with special commendations presented by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis for their contributions to the labor movement. Days after the March, Arian left for further treatments at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Marching for justice: Local 56 Ship Scalers marched in the parade with matching t-shirts.

Indoor heat kills & injures workers, so why isn’t there a law to stop it?

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Searching for support in Sac

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Northern California District Council Recommendations

US Senate: Kevin de León
US House of Representatives
CD 1. Audrey Denney
CD 2. Jared Huffman
CD 3. John Garamendi
CD 4. Jessica Morse
CD 5. Mike Thompson
CD 6. Doris Matsui
CD 7. No Recommendation
CD 8. Paul Cook
CD 9. Jerry McNerney
CD 10. Josh Harder
CD 11. Mark DeSaulnier
CD 12. Nancy Pelosi
CD 13. Barbara Lee
CD 14. Jackie Speier
CD 15. Eric Swalwell
CD 16. No Endorsement
CD 17. Ro Khanna
CD 18. Anna Eshoo
CD 19. Zoe Lofgren
CD 20. Jimmy Panetta
CD 21. T.J. Cox
CD 22. Andrew Janz
CD 23. T.J. Cox

Governor: Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor: Ed Hernandez
Attorney General: Xavier Becerra
Controller: Betty Yee
Treasurer: Fiona Ma
Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tony Thurmond

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
District 2: Catherine Stefani, Schuyler Hudson (dual)
District 4: Gordon Mar
District 6: Matt Haney
District 8: Rafael Mandelman
District 10: Shamann Walton

San Francisco Board of Education
Monica Chinchilla
Alison Collins
Li Miao Lovett
Faauuga Moliga

Board of Equalization
District 1: Tom Hallinan (D)
District 2: Refer to Executive Council
District 3: Tony Vazquez (D)
District 4: No Recommendation

State Senate
SD 2. Mike McGuire
SD 4. Phil Kim
SD 6. Richard Pan
SD 8. No Recommendation
SD 10. No Recommendation
SD 12. Anna Caballero
SD 14. Melissa Hurtado
SD 16. Ruth Mussel-Lopez
SD 18. Robert Hertzberg
SD 20. Connie Leyva
SD 22. Mike Eng
SD 24. Maria Elena Durazo
SD 26. Ben Allen
SD 28. Joy Silver
SD 30. Holly Mitchell
SD 32. Bob Archuleta

State Assembly
AD 1. No Recommendation
AD 2. Jim Wood
AD 3. DUAL: Jim Gallagher / Sonia Aery
AD 4. Cecelia Aguiar-Curry
AD 5. Carlee Jean Neal
AD 6. Jacalyn Smith
AD 7. Kevin McCarty
AD 8. Ken Cooley
AD 9. Jim Cooper
AD 10. Mark Levine
AD 11. No Recommendation
AD 12. Heath Flora
AD 13. Susan Eggman
AD 14. Tim Grayson
AD 15. Jovanka Beckles
AD 16. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

State Propositions
Proposition 1: YES - Veterans and Affordable Housing Bonds
Proposition 2: YES - No Place Like Home Act of 2018.
Proposition 3: YES - Bonds for water supply
Proposition 4: - Bonds for private hospitals. No Recommendation
Proposition 5: NO - Changes for Home Owners to Transfer Property Tax.
Proposition 6: NO - Eliminates Road Repair and Transportation Funding.
Proposition 7: NO - Recommendation Daylight Savings
Proposition 8: YES - Regulate and limits fees at dialysis clinics.
Proposition 10: YES - Expands local authority to pass rent control on Property.
Proposition 11: NO - Requires private ambulance workers to be on-call during breaks.
Proposition 12: YES - New standards for confined farm animals.

Oakland Mayor: (dual endorsement) Cat Brooks/Pamela Price
Oakland City Council District 6: Desley Brooks
Berkeley City Council District 1: Igor Tregub
City of Alameda: Measure K: YES – rent control
Richmond Water District: Cheryl Suddeeth

ELECTION GUIDE

Oregon Area District Council Recommendations:

Portland City Council: Jo Ann Hardesty
Washington County Commission: Kathryn Harrington
Columbia County Sheriff: Dave Brown
House District 10: David Gomberg
District 42: Rob Nosse
House District 44: Tina Kotek
District 54: Amanda La Bell
Senate District 20: Charles Gallia

Note: These recommendations were provided when The Dispatcher went to press; additional recommendations may be available after October 1st.

Please check for an updated list at your local union office.
2018 Washington State PSDC Endorsements

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**GOVERNOR**
- Gavin Newsom
- Kevin de Leon
- Edward P. Hernandez
- Alex Padilla

**FIONA MA**
- Jaycee草莓

**TONY THURMOND**
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RICHARD LARA**
- State Treasurer

**STATE ASSEMBLY**

- Rudy Saldaña Jr.
- Socorro Cisneros
- Nicholas J. Higa
- Wanda Cavenaugh
- Steve Fox
- Morrie S. Limon
- Christy Smith

**CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE**

- Richard Blum
- Wendy Carrillo
- Freddie Rodriguez
- Miguel Santiago
- Sydney Kamagner
- Greg Griffith
- Eduardo Garcia

**WASHINGTON STATE SENATE**

- Senator Jessa Lewis
- Senator Karen Hardy
- Senator Bill O’Halleran

**WASHINGTON STATE CONGRESS**

- Representative Derek Stanford
- Representative Shelley Kloba
- Representative Marcus Riccelli
- Representative Timm Ormsby
- Representative Bill Ramos
- Representative Lisa Callan
- Representative Dave Wilson
- Representative Matt Shea
- Senator David Wilson
- Senator Christy Keller

**JUDICIAL**

- Senator Jim Honeyford
- Senator Jim Pachl

**SPECIAL MEASURES**

- Proposition 1: Yes
- Proposition 2: Yes
- Proposition 3: Yes
- Proposition 4: No
- Proposition 5: Yes
- Proposition 6: Yes
- Proposition 7: No
- Proposition 8: Yes
- Proposition 9: Yes
- Proposition 10: No

**SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**

- Stephen R. Wood

**WASHINGTON STATE CONGRESS**

- Representative Caleb Donner
- Representative Alfred Coletta

**LOCAL 13**

- Los Angeles County Sheriff
  - Jim McDonnell
  - Alex Villanueva
- Ventura Community College Trustee, Area 1
  - Arthur “AJ” Valenzuela
- Mayor of Torrance
  - Patrick Furey

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL 13**

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  - Alex Villanueva
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**LOCAL 13**

- LD 1 Pos. 1 Derek Stanford
- LD 1 Pos. 2 Shelley Kloba
- LD 3 Pos. 1 Marcus Riccelli
- LD 3 Pos. 2 Timm Ormsby
- LD 5 Pos. 1 Bill Ramos
- LD 5 Pos. 2 Lisa Callan
- LD 6 Pos. 1 Derek Kilmer
- LD 6 Pos. 2 Pramila Jayapal
- LD 7 Pos. 1 Carolyn Long
- LD 7 Pos. 2 Adam Smith
- LD 8 Pos. 1 Kim Schrier
- LD 9 Pos. 1 Gail Heron
- LD 9 Pos. 2 Janelle Bynum
- LD 10 Pos. 1 David Frockt
- LD 11 Pos. 1 Zach Haidus
- LD 11 Pos. 2 Steve Berquist
- LD 12 Pos. 1 Tom Dent
- LD 12 Pos. 2 Kathy Gillespie
- LD 13 Pos. 1 Tashia Harris
- LD 13 Pos. 2 Damion Jinks Jr.

**LOCAL 13**

- LD 14 Pos. 1 Troy Olivan
- LD 14 Pos. 2 Kathleen Levine
- LD 15 Pos. 1 Editorial Board
- LD 15 Pos. 2 Editorial Board
- LD 16 Pos. 1 Tanya Daugherty
- LD 16 Pos. 2 Maxine Waterman
- LD 17 Pos. 1 Tanisha Harris
- LD 18 Pos. 1 Dave Wilson
- LD 18 Pos. 2 Kathy Gillespie
- LD 19 Pos. 1 Timm Ormsby
- LD 19 Pos. 2 Matt Shea
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- LD 21 Pos. 1 Strom Peterson
- LD 21 Pos. 2 Matt Shea
- LD 22 Pos. 1 Lillian Ortiz-Self
- LD 22 Pos. 2 Christine Brown
- LD 23 Pos. 1 Sherry Appleton
- LD 23 Pos. 2 Drew Hansen
- LD 24 Pos. 1 Mike Chapman
- LD 24 Pos. 2 Jay Stanford
- LD 25 Pos. 1 Shawna Brown
- LD 25 Pos. 2 Matt Shea
- LD 26 Pos. 1 Jay Stanford
- LD 26 Pos. 2 Dande Mantel
- LD 27 Pos. 1 Merideth Phillips
- LD 27 Pos. 2 Jessica Melton
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- LD 28 Pos. 2 Susan Samaan
- LD 29 Pos. 1 Madrid Jackson
- LD 29 Pos. 2 Matilda Stark
- LD 30 Pos. 1 Monica Stonier
- LD 30 Pos. 2 Shakira Gracia
- LD 31 Pos. 1 Ivan Lewis
- LD 31 Pos. 2 Brian Duthie
- LD 32 Pos. 1 Franklin Hsu
- LD 32 Pos. 2 Todd Preston
- LD 33 Pos. 1 Tina Orwall
- LD 33 Pos. 2 Christine Vickers
- LD 34 Pos. 1 Eileen Cody
- LD 34 Pos. 2 Joe Fitzgibbon
- LD 35 Pos. 1 Tanya Daugherty
- LD 35 Pos. 2 Beth Doglio
- LD 36 Pos. 1 Mike Chapman
- LD 36 Pos. 2 Jay Stanford
- LD 37 Pos. 1 Laurie Jinkins
- LD 37 Pos. 2 Jake Fey
- LD 38 Pos. 1 Mike Sells
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- LD 39 Pos. 2 Tanya Daugherty
- LD 40 Pos. 1 John McCoy
- LD 40 Pos. 2 June Robinson
- LD 41 Pos. 1 Ivan Lewis
- LD 41 Pos. 2 Brian Duthie
- LD 42 Pos. 1 Madison Jackson
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- LD 43 Pos. 1 Tamyra Ray
- LD 43 Pos. 2 Brian Duthie
- LD 44 Pos. 1 Lauren Davis
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- LD 45 Pos. 1 Steve Dye
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- LD 46 Pos. 2 Larry Springer
- LD 47 Pos. 1 Debra Entenman
- LD 47 Pos. 2 Pat Sullivan
- LD 48 Pos. 1 Kristi Lepic
- LD 48 Pos. 2 Amy Wagon
- LD 49 Pos. 1 Sheryl McCloud
- LD 49 Pos. 2 Megan Stonier
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- LD 50 Pos. 2 Brandon Kinney
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on the eve of the Great Recession. One containers this year than since 2007 fortunate in recent years because cargo Mitre said the ILWU has been for- of the Dispatcher). Jenkins Jr. (see September 2018 issue of work at the University of Washington Longshore Caucus which approved a motion to a resolution passed by ILWU’s national elections. He also called atten- bers to vote in the recent ILWU Inter- alowing Panama Canal Division mem- the ILWU convention, including one of the important resolutions passed at Administration. “We’re at a crossroads in global trade,” Mitre said “Right now the administration has put taxes on about 25 percent of goods flowing through LA and Long Beach, but they’re proposing to hit 50 percent of goods in the next round.” Mitre said that if these tariffs go into effect, it might impact cargo from Canada to San Diego. “I’m not just talking containers, I’m talking about apples, forestry products, auto- mobiles, all break bulk, steel—every- thing that we work on, coming in and going out, will be affected.” Mitre said pensioners should be helping active members by tackling the tariff issue — which is best done by voting themselves and getting other to vote in the midterms. “We need a Con- gress willing to be a check on Trump’s disastrous trade policies,” he said. Mitre also noted the unfortunate decline in the number of members who participate in union meetings. Like the tariff issue, he said pensioners can play a helpful role by educating active members and casuals about the need to participate in democratic union meeting — especially the need to reach members who don’t come from union backgrounds. “It’s a big problem, but we’re in a position to help with that problem,” he said. Labor Day march Mitre reported that this year’s Labor Day celebration in Wilming- ton, CA was a success with over 6,000 people — making it the largest parade on the West Coast. The South- ern California Pensioners Group spon- sored a pre-parade breakfast of pan- cakes, eggs, sausages and buns for registered longshore workers. “The average age of newly registered workers was 43 years old,” Mendoza said. He also spoke about Local 13’s political action efforts, explaining they have been very active and are trying to use the Local’s influence to help ILWU members and other workers. He closed by thanking pensioners for their work: “I appreci- ate what you have done to make my life better.” PCPA President’s report Mitre began his President’s report by recapping the ILWU General Con- vention held this past June, and not- ing the coming change in ILWU lead- ership. “For the first time in many years, we will have three new Teile Officers,” said Mitre, highlighting a few of the important resolutions passed at the ILWU convention, including one allowing Panama Canal Division mem- bers to vote in the recent ILWU Inter- national elections. He also called atten- tion to a resolution passed by ILWU’s Longshore Caucus which approved a $100,000 donation to create a fellow- ship at the University of California in honor of Local 19 member, Frank Jenkins Jr. (see September 2018 issue of the Dispatcher). Mitre said the ILWU has been fortu- nate in recent years because cargo has been both freely available and is booming. He reported that the ports of LA and Long Beach will move more containers this year than since 2007 on the eve of the Great Recession. One reason for this growth, for today’s high cargo volumes is the effort to avoid the new trade tariffs being levied by the Trump PCPA Poet Laureate Jerry Brady The convention’s second day started with a poem from Southern California pensioner Jerry Brady, the official Poet Laureate of the PCPA. The poem, “Lest We Forget” was an homage to longshore workers and the hard work required of them on the waterfront. ILWU Hawaii Pensioner Clayton Dela Cruz The first speaker of the morning was ILWU Local 142 pensioner Clay- ton Dela Cruz who serves as Director of the ILWU Memorial Association in Hawaii and Secretary-Treasurer of the Kelaha Sugar Pensioners Club. Dela Cruz spoke about the history, structure and funding of the pensioner clubs in Hawaii. He said the ILWU pensioner programs go back 60 years in Hawaii, with the ILWU Memorial Association helping to fund 20 pensioner clubs statewide. The groups gather every two years and have held 29 bi-annual conferences to date in Hawaii. “We held our meeting among the islands with funding help from the Memorial Association,” said Dela Cruz, who noted that some of the clubs are connected to county senior programs which allow the groups to use county resources for meeting sites and activities. Like their counterparts on the mainland, club meetings in Hawaii feature topical speakers, social activi- ties, excursions, participation in picket lines and political action including voter mobilization, education, phone banking and other “Get Out The Vote” efforts. Hawaii pensioners’ clubs are also affiliated with Hawaii’s Alliance of Retired Americans, a network of retired union members that enables them to work together for a stronger political voice. Benefits Specialist & ADRP reps ILWU Coast Benefits Specialist John Castanho joined with Benefit Plan Area Directors and coordinators for the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Pro- gram (ADRP) to provide delegates with news from each program. Also present were representatives from the ILWU/ FMA Benefit Plans Office (BPO). These experts gave short presentations and made themselves available to answer questions and provide updates about health and pension plans. Pensioners were reminded to update the Benefits Plan Office whenever they move or switch bank accounts to prevent any delays in getting checks or disrupting direct deposits. The Puget Sound Area Director Andrea Ste- venson also encouraged pensioners to get their paperwork in order for illness and end of life concerns — including a will, power of attorney and advance care directive — and submit copies to the Benefits Plans Office so they can have those documents on file and easily accessible. She said having that paper- work at the BPO makes it much easier on family members in case someone becomes incapacitated. The Convention bid farewell to Tyler Gorton, Area Welfare Director for the Columbia River and Oregon Coast Area, who is retiring in October. They welcomed Martha Hendricks who will serve as the new Area Welfare Director for that region. ILWU Canada Report Tom Dufrease, former President of ILWU Canada and current Presi- dent of the Canadian Pensioners Club, gave a brief report about their activities during the past year. He said pension- ers had successfully replaced a plaque commemorating the 1945 explosion aboard the S.S. Green Hill Park in Van- couver harbor that killed two seamen and six longshore workers. The orig- inal plaque had been removed and lost during a recent construction project. Dufrease also spoke about their annual ceremony honoring the Bat- tle of Ballantyne Pier, site of a famous dockworkers strike in Vancouver, BC, in June 1935. Dufrease said that shortly before this year’s ceremony, the monument commissioned by the ILWU to commemorate the strike was vandalized with a sledge hammer. He said the resulting publicity about the attack sparked interest from a local arts group to write a play about the Battle of Ballantyne that will be performed in 2019. “This act of vandalism has made a new generation aware of our history,” Dufrease said. 6 DISPATCHER • October 2018 continued from page 3PCPA and I wanted to come and pay my respects for all that you have done for us,” Adams said. Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley was also a speaker. He said that federal trade policy is “a growing problem of greed among employers.” He said that workers in Southern California, criticizing employers for how they pay workers: “I appreci- ate what you have done for us,” Adams said. PCPA President’s report continued from page 1
continued from page 6

He closed by explaining that pen- sioners have been working with other retirees and community groups to tackle issues including homelessness and better access to healthcare and dental coverage for all Canadians.

Oral History Committee

The convention heard a report presented by Connor Casey, Direc- tor of the University of Washington’s Labor Archives, who was joined by and ILWU historians Harvey Schwartz and Ron Magden. The trio serve on the PCPA’s Oral History Committee. Casey spoke about the ongoing efforts to pres- ertain records and provide access to the history of West Coast longshore work- ers and the ILWU. The effort is made possible with support from the Uni- versity of Washington, the ILWU, the Coast Longshore Division and PCPA.

Magden and Schwartz spoke about the Oral History Committee’s work to record life and work histories of ILWU pensioners. The project began in 2013 and has collected over 40 videotaped interviews. The interviews cover a diverse range of locals, regions, and occupations from a racially diverse group made up of male and female ILWU members.

Calling-out greed: PCPA Vice President and longtime Local 10 leader Lawrence Thibeaux criticized the practice of taking double shifts instead of sharing the work.

The resulting controversy – and organiz- ing by the union – forced Cal-OSHA to increase inspections and enforcement, which helped. Despite those improve- ments, two more farmworkers died while working outside in high heat between 2014-2016 – confirming the need for aggressive enforcement and stronger protection.

51st annual Pacific Coast Pensioners convenes in Portland

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Calling-out greed: PCPA Vice President and longtime Local 10 leader Lawrence Thibeaux criticized the practice of taking double shifts instead of sharing the work.

Strong advocate: Ty Gorden was thanked for his service as Area Welfare Director for the Columbia River and Oregon Coast. His role will be assumed by Martha Hendricks beginning this month.

Indoor heat kills & injures workers, so why isn’t there a law to stop it?

continued from page 3

effort that includes unions and safety advocates operating under the banner of “Worksafe” – a statewide network that includes the ILWU. Gratz and oth- ers sent a letter to Cal-OSHA this past June, detailing the criteria for a good index. The letter pointed to work-related heat illness as a clear example where a “heat-index” would be crucial to protect workers.

• The trigger for worker protection should be based on a “heat-index” that combines temperature and humidity. Industry opposes the index in favor of a weaker standard based only on “dry bulb” temperature. Gratz says a “wet bulb” temperature test that includes humidity provides a more accurate measurement and is crucial to protect workers.

• The trigger heat-index should be set at 80 degrees, the number originally proposed by Cal-OSHA experts. Industry lobbyists raised it to 85 degrees, a move Gratz and others described as a “step backward” that contributes to heat exhaustion, heat stress, other illness and death. Gratz says a “wet bulb” temperature test that includes humidity provides a more accurate measurement and is crucial to protect workers.

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In 2005, four farmworkers died while working outside in California’s produc- tive but often brutally hot agricultural fields. Organizing pressure from the United Farmworkers Union resulted in the first meaningful law being passed in the U.S. to protect outdoor workers from high heat. But two years later a young woman who was two-months pregnant, died after a hot day at work. When her father went public about the incident, he was fired for speaking out.

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Progress with outdoor protection

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Richard “Dick” Wise: Portland longshore leader

“Pound for pound, Dick Wise was the toughest guy I’ve ever known,” declared Local 8 pensioner Art Ronne, who became a longshoreman in the early 1950’s shortly before Wise arrived on the docks.

Richard Clayton Wise was a native of Portland who was born in the City of Roses in 1933 and remained there where he became a rank-and-file member, then elected officer of Local 8, and eventually played leadership roles in the ILWU at the regional and international level.

Wise was remembered by Ronne and other co-workers as a thoughtful leader, who was “extremely competent and knowledgeable; someone who really thought things out and was very methodical in his thinking.”

After graduating from Beaverton High School where Wise is said to have played “every sport with a ball in it,” he moved on to attend Portland State University and played football for the Vikings. He shocked his mother Thelma by joining the Army and training to become a paratrooper so he could fight in the Korean War. Fortunately, the armistice was signed and fighting ceased on the Korean peninsula before he was deployed. Following his military stint, Wise settled into working on the waterfront where he became increasingly active in the ILWU.

“Next to his wife, Dick loved the ILWU as much as anybody and was a real union superstar,” said former co-worker and current pensioner, Jerry Bitz.

“He wasn’t afraid to piss-off the employers, and ruled in favor of the union as an arbitrator, but he always used the contract to back up everything he said, so there wasn’t much they could do about it,” said Bitz, who added that Wise applied those same union principles to office staff at Local 8, by seeing to it that they also worked under a union contract.

Wise eventually served as a Coast Committeeman for the ILWU’s Longshore Division, a role that required him to relocate to San Francisco for several years. He also travelled to help dockworkers in other countries where he brought ILWU solidarity and organizing skills. At home he was tapped to serve as a Commissioner for the Port of Portland. After retiring in 1998, he served as a relief Oregon Area Arbitrator and loved to play golf.

Wise died in Portland on September 14, 2018. A memorial service was held on September 22. His Grandson, Nick Tufford, now serves as a Dispatcher at Local 8, and his son, Richard Wise, is an active member of Local 23 in Tacoma.

IN MEMORIUM

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TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:
Local 8: William C. Mayhew; Local 10: Edgar H. Casillay; Robert D. Hill; Local 13: Ronald W. Reese; Robert L. Brown; Adrian J. Gordon; Paul C. Michaelis; Dragon Spanjol; Anthony J. Desanto; Robert J. Knight; Local 19: Randall L. Latta; Robert E. Weather; John G. Cutter; Phillip A. Joost; Local 21: Tyler J. Gorton; Johnny A. Beck; Kent C. Taylor; Michael E. Senecal; Local 24: John W. Brucha; Local 34: Darrell A. Washington; Jacqueline E. Hart-Mayorga; Robert D. Hill; Local 54: Thomas H. Trunnell; Local 63: David J. Beun; Robert T. Huggins; John M. Carranza; Local 92: Gregory R. Nemyre; Local 94: Victor E. Gallardo; William C. Mayhew; Albert Royal; Larry T. Buchanan; Local 13: Albert Royal; Larry G. Guthrie; Vincent Kordich; Ernest M. Sedano; Benjamin Gonzalez; George R. Bradshaw; David J. Harrison; Richard P. Salkeld; Jack S. Williams; Local 19: Robert E. Hardin; Local 21: W. J. Johnstun; Local 34: Washington A. Tort; Local 40: Everett H. Roberts; Local 50: Lloyd E. Goodrich; Local 63: Gerald E. Peterson; John M. Carranza; Local 92: Elias P. Souza; Local 94: Donald Pulselli; Local 98: Kristi A. Hagen

DECEASED PENSIONERS:
Local 8: Loretta A. Schmit; Local 10: Stella Jameson; Douglas M. Stopforth; Local 21: Darlene Derrick; Local 23: Rita J. Maitrejean; Local 34: John W. Overberg; Local 40: June L. Overberg; Local 50: Betty J. Mattea; Gladys L. Cartwright; Local 63: John M. Carranza; Local 92: Peggy L. Champagne