Taking action: IBU members picketed the MV Columbia in Ketchikan in late July. IBU workers on the Columbia, Flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway System fleet, were the first to strike this month – and the first to strike 42 years ago when the IBU was forced out in 1977.

By late 2018, the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific had been bargaining for 2 years to secure a contract for 400 workers at the Alaska Marine Highway System. The IBU represents the largest group of employees among several unions that represent public ferry system workers.

On February 19, 2019, the newly elected Governor released his proposed budget that called for cutting the ferry system by more than 1/3, along with slashing other public services in Alaska, including education, senior housing and community medical aid. As the budget cuts were announced, a group of businesses continued talking about privatizing the public ferry system – talk that continues to this day.

In the last negotiations before the new governor took office, the State gave the IBU a “supposal” for a three-year contract which included 31 tentative agreements – contract changes approved and signed by both parties, along with wage increases of 3%, 1%, 1%, and raising workers’ share of health insurance premiums to 15%. The State’s offer also included no adjustment to raise wages for crew members of the MV Lituya to help them reach parity with workers on other vessels. It also left intact a cost of living differential (COLD) that paid non-resident union members about $4 dollars less per hour than Alaskan residents – although the State agreed in principle to eliminate the COLD differential and boost the MV Lituya wages, but had not yet signed-off on those items. Members were adamantly opposed to approving a contract with higher health premiums. This made it impossible for the union to seek membership approval of the “supposal” package. The State responded by shutting down negotiations hours before the election of Governor Mike Dunleavy.

Background on health insurance

The State offers workers a choice of a standard plan or economy health insurance plans. Those who couldn’t afford the standard plan, which costs members over $350 per month, would choose the economy plan with high deductibles and more out-of-pocket costs, but no premium cost sharing. When the state demanded IBU members to start paying 15% of the premiums for both plans, members were determined to fight indefinitely. They had also not received a wage increase for 3 years, so this proposal would have set workers back even further.

State offers a 1-year roll-over

When the IBU returned to bargaining under the new governor, the State offered a one year “roll over” of the contract, meaning no changes to the terms and conditions, no wage increases or health increases. We were agreeable to this idea – until

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Long game strategy yields big gain for Bellingham port workers

ILWU Local 7 Clerical workers at the Port of Bellingham have ratified a three-year contract that covers receptionists, clerks, accountants, secretaries, and operation specialists who work at Bellingham’s seaside port facilities and nearby airport until 2022.

The Negotiating Committee was composed of veterans Bryson Tripp and Tony Flaherty — along with recently drafted member and natural horse-trader Nick Erb.

Four years ago, Flaherty and Tripp represented the same group of workers and helped secure their last contract negotiated under very different circumstances. The economy then was still under major duress and some port commissioners were indifferent and recalcitrant. So the bargaining team played the long game by developing a working relationship with the Bellingham community.

Enter ILWU Lead Organizer, Jon Brier, who held several trainings and coaching sessions that helped the group discover their power away from the bargaining table. By organizing and uniting the group, Brier helped them identify their natural allies in the community, such as other labor organizations like Jobs With Justice, and in turn amplify their power at the table with several very public displays of solidarity.

With this larger base in the community and with generous help from ILWU retirees like John Munson, the whole bargaining unit soon realized they could punch well above their weight.

The results were better than expected, but still far from what was needed to keep up with Bellingham’s rising cost of living. Since that last round however, Flaherty, Tripp, and other Port workers kept organizing, building new relationships, and participating in local solidarity efforts.

Students were treated to a dinner held in the Henry Schmidt Room, where they mingled with BALMA leaders, including President John Castanho, Vice-President Trelyn McCoy, Secretary Vanessa Hamlin, Treasurer Mike Villeggano, Secretary Angeliquley Meyer, along with volunteers Gina Villeggano, Noelle DeMartini and Latissa David Jeannette Morrow, Business Development Specialist for the ILWU Credit Union Credit Union, also attended.

Winners of the Jefferson Memorial scholarship were Jessica Gonzalez, Alfredo Lira, Christy Munson, the whole bargaining unit soon realized they could punch well above their weight. They also researched the Port’s financial situation and gathered data on comparable jobs at other ports in their region.

The organizing, solidarity and research paid off big-time in recent bargaining when they negotiated, and members ratified, an agreement to boost wages 18% over four years. Nearly half of the big increase is being delivered in the first year of the contract.

Well done Local 7 — way to organize, unite, and fight to win the long game!

Submitted by IBU Puget Sound Regional Director Peter Hart and IBU Puget Sound Passenger Business Agent Ryan Brazeau

CORRECTION:
The obituary for William “Bill” Watkins in the May, 2019 issue of The Dispatcher incorrectly stated that he had served a term as Local 10 President. His years of service included many positions, including Secretary-Treasurer, but not President.
O n June 18th, over 40 ILWU members, pensioners, and supporters gathered at the Ballantyne me-
monial at New Brighton Park in Vancouver, BC to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Ballantyne Pier and remember the militant history of Vancouver waterfront workers.

Recognizing the First Nations
Jouline Parent from Local 500 opened the event by acknowledging that the event was held on the unceded land of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

“We make this recognition at all of our labor events because it is not just history, it is also about moving forward,” Parent said.

Kill a Worker, Go to Jail
ILWU Canada’s Second Vice President, Dan Kask served as the master of ceremonies. He drew attention to the recent 61st anniversary of the collapse of the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge which could be seen just across the river. Nineteen workers died during the accident.

Kask then pointed out the banner behind the podium featuring ILWU Canada’s Kill a Worker, Go to Jail campaign. “The purpose of the campaign is to bring awareness to the short-comings of Industrial manslaughter laws in Canada and the lack of enforcement of those laws,” Kask said.

The crowd observed a moment of silence for the workers killed in the bridge collapse and for two ILWU members, Everett Cummings and Don Janz who were killed on the waterfront in the past year.

“Today means a lot for our union,” said ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton. “It means we are alive and can continue to fight on. Those four letters, ILWU, have given genera-
tions of our people something to live for. And as we know in the past, it has been the reason why some people have died—not because they wanted to, but because they stood up for the ILWU. When we stand up for this great union, it means we stand up for the rest of the labor movement.

We know what happens when you let your guard down if you relax from the fight—governments, police, and corporations will try and steamroll you even harder and faster. The only way we defend ourselves is with our strength and our solidarity.”

The Battle of Ballantyne Pier
Dave Lomas, Pensioner from ILWU Local 500, who has extensively researched the history of the battle, gave a detailed story of the Battle of Ballantyne.

Ballantyne Pier was the site of a pitched battle between 1,000 locked out dockworkers and police in Vancouver, British Columbia, on June 18th, 1935. The Battle of Ballantyne was a part of the long history of militant trade unionism by Canadian longshore work-
ers and ultimately laid the foundation for the formation of ILWU Canada.

After a decade of successful orga-

nizing and strikes by the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA), the employers broke the back of the ILA during a 1923 strike and replaced it with a company union, the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers’ Association (VDWWA). Workers eventually overcame this tactic by electing their leaders and forcing the union to address their interests and not the employers.

In 1935 The Shipping Federation provoked another major strike in the spring of 1935 and locked-out workers at the port at Powell River.

The conflict spread to other docks in the region. Vancouver longshore workers were also locked-out after they refused to unload ships coming from Powell River. Seattle longshore work-
ers, in an act of solidarity, refused to unload ships coming from Vancouver and Powell River that were loaded by non-union workers.

On June 18th, approximately 1,000 longshore workers and supporters marched through Vancouver towards Ballantyne Pier where non-union work-
ers were unloading ships. The workers were blocked at the pier by hundreds of armed police officers. The dockers came under attack from the police and Moun
ties. Workers were beaten with clubs as they tried to run to safety, while many others tried fighting back, using makeshift weapons. Police attacked the union hall with tear gas where the workers’ Auxiliary had set up a first aid sta-

tion. Several people were hospitalized during the three-hour battle, including a worker who had been shot in the back of his leg.

The battle was a tactical defeat for the longshore workers, but they contin-
ued the struggle to form a union inde-
pendent of the Shipping Federation, and in 1937 ILWU Canada was born.

Enduring lessons
The 2019 line-up featured several speakers who highlighted the enduring lessons of the Battle of Ballantyne Pier and the dockworkers struggle of that era.

“It’s a bloody reminder that the rights we enjoy today are the result of tangible sacrifices made by working people,” said President Laird Cronk.

President Stephen von Sychowski of the Vancouver & District Labour Council reminded the crowd that future victories are sometimes built on the lessons learned in defeats.

“Change could be delayed, but it couldn’t be stopped because long-
shore workers continued to fight and ultimately the demands of 1935 were achieved, and the ILGWU grew to become one of the largest and stron-
gest unions in our Province,” von Sychowski said.

This theme is echoed in the music of the Battle of Ballantyne Pier, according to director Sherry MacDon-
ald. “Lecture speaks to the mind, but drama speaks to the heart.”

In The Battle of Ballantyne Pier, you will see every day, average characters fall and get back up again and eventually become stronger for it and this is the story of unionism on the waterfront,” she said.

Local 500 member and member of the Young Workers Committee, Kyle Knapton said the key lesson of 1935 was rank-and-file participation in our unions. “What can we take away from this? The only chance we have against the attempts to undermine our rights as workers is to actively participate in our unions,” Knapton said. “The youth need to step forward and get involved at meetings, in committees attend events and continue to fight for our rights that our predecessors gave their lives for.”

Look for new ideas in future issues of The Dispatcher
A brainstorming session in July led by International President Willie Adams, Vice-President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr., and Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris, resulted in a host of new ideas, including many that will begin appearing in future issues of The Dispatcher:

- ILWU International officers hope to submit columns, as often as they can, of their personal reflections and insights.
- Space for ideas from young leaders in the ILWU will also be made available, along with an invitation for all members to submit ideas or questions to “a suggestion box.”
- Spring and Fall issues will include an article about family travel opportunities—emphasizing union hotels and attractions—as well as attractions to avoid if they’re being boycotted.
- The Dispatcher will begin profiling local unions—selected at random—looking at challenges, accomplishments and surprises that deserve to be shared.
- March issues will honor International Women’s Day, profiling female leaders and activists in our union and the broader labor movement.
- We hope to create a special section in future issues for members to share their story about a tattoo or nickname.
- Pensioners will be encouraged to share ideas and insights from their many years in the union, called, “I’ve got a story to share.”
- The Dispatcher remains open to your constructive ideas, suggestions and feedback. The editor offering different points of view are encouraged. Email to editor@ilwu.org

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Three generations honor Ballantyne struggle: from left to right, Skip Anderson (Local 514), Ricky Anderson (Local 500), Brock Anderson (Local 502), and Brian Anderson (Local 514).
E ach July 5th, thousands of ILWU members, families and friends gather to honor seven strikers who were killed in 1934 during the West Coast Maritime Strike that gave rise to today’s International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

This year marked the 85th anniversary of “Bloody Thursday” that was honored at events held from Vancouver, Canada to Los Angeles, and many points between.

Vancouver, Canada
ILWU Local 502 held a double celebration honoring the 75th anniversary of their founding struggle and Bloody Thursday. (From left to right): Local 502 members Aaron Hooi, and Jessica Ibsister, Local 502 President Tom Doran, ILWU International President Willie Adams, Local 500 President Rino Voci, Local 500 member Antonio Pantusa, ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, ILWU Canada’s 2nd Vice President and Local 502 member Dan Kask.

Honoring First Nations
Local 502 member Jessica Ibsister, asked everyone to recognize that today’s park is located in the traditional territory of Musqueam, Squamish and Tla’al-Waawuth First Nations people. She noted the ILWU’s support for indigenous rights, including the union’s backing for Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which published a report in 2015 containing 94 “calls to action” that have yet to be fully implemented. She then recognized Chief Rhonda Larabee of the Qayqayt First Nations, who delivered a historic photo.

“We are gathered here today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of ILWU Local 502. It was on this day in 1934 that representatives of the ILWU International presented the new charter to the longshore workers in New Westminster.”

ILWU Canada Second Vice-President Dan Kask followed, adding: “We’re also here to acknowledge the 85th anniversary of Bloody Thursday. It was on this day in 1934 in San Francisco that two men, Howard Sporty and Nicholas Bondar, were shot in the back by police. This event led to the great San Francisco General Strike and is remembered as an important step in the formation of our great union.”

Kask then recognized ILWU Canada President Emeritus Tom Dufresne, thanking him for leading their union for 16 years and “working tirelessly for the rights of waterfront workers.” Now retired, Dufresne is still consulted for his wisdom on the Fraser – Stories and History of ILWU Local 502.

Next up were former Local 502 officers Gerry White and Joe Breaks, now active pensioners who continue helping their union and played a key role in producing the book, “Longshore-ing on the Fraser – Stories and History of ILWU Local 502.”

Current Local 502 President Tom Doron was recognized and added some brief remarks, as did labor attorney Craig Bavis who presented the Local with a historic photo.

President Adams
International President Adams wrapped-up the event with his observations about the past and future of the ILWU.

“When I look out at those of you here today, I’m confident that we will continue moving forward. In 1934, the West Coast ports were like an open powder keg, and the spark of Harry Bridges and the union set it off. They lit the torch and darkness fled. Today, up and down the West Coast, including here in Canada, we are fighting for working class people. We are working class people. I hate it when people say they are middle class. We came from working class neighborhoods and working class families. Our parents and grandparents marched so we all could have a better day. Those who died in 1934 during the West Coast Maritime Strike are what I call the Magnificent Seven. Their graves contain more than just bodies, it’s where our honor, our pride and our dignity comes from.”

We have some big shoes to fill, but we are going to be alright – because we can depend on our rank-and-file. The strength of the ILWU has never been in its leaders – leaders are like the wind, they come and go over the land and we pass on, but the salt of the earth is the rank-and-file. Today we stand on this holy ground, where people before us were hurt and maimed. We have a history and pride that must be maintained – as long as we are willing to continue fighting for the working class and for our union.”

Southern California
Over one-thousand miles south, ILWU members from Southern California Locals in the Harbor Area began gathering early for the West Coast Bloody Thursday event on the West Coast, beginning with a somber memorial service in the morning and concluding with a massive afternoon picnic offering food and entertainment for thousands of family members and friends.

Morning reflection
The morning memorial at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena takes place each year to honor the fallen martyrs Dickie Parker and John Krudsen. About 100 people gathered at Parker’s gravesite to reflect on the sacrifices made by the first two West Coast maritime strikers to die in 1934 when the ILWU was born.

Parker and Krudsen were both shot and killed by company-employed security guards. The shootings occurred just after midnight on May 15, 1934 at Berth 145 in Wilmington. Dickie Parker died while being transported to the hospital. John Krudsen suffered for several weeks before dying from the gunshot wound.

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Time to reflect: local 13 members John Seixas (left) and Antony Rosellini reflected on the meaning of Bloody Thursday. “This is a fight for the middle-class,” Rosellini said. “People died to lay the foundation for the wages and conditions on the docks. We all have to work to carry that forward for future generations.”

Family time: Local 26 member Ernie Gomez with Jac and Luc Gomez.

Morning memorial: An estimated 100 ILWU members gathered at the grave-site of Dickie Parker to honor the sacrifices made by West Coast Maritime Strikers in 1934. From left to right: SCDC President Cathy Familathe, ILWU Local 13 President Ray Familathe, Local 13 member Angel Bianco, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, PCPA President Greg Metre, ILWU International Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr. and Local 13 Vice President Gary Herrera.

wounds. Public reaction to the kill- ings was impressive, with an estimated 8,000 people lining the streets from San Pedro to Gardena for the six-mile-long funeral procession.

Among those attending the July 5th memorial service were ILWU Interna- tional Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr., Local 13 President Ray Familathe, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, Local 13 Vice President Gary Herrera, Southern California District Council President Cathy Familathe and Pacifica Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) President Greg Metre.

The service started with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem, provided by Aali-ya Kane of Local 10. Union staff vol- unteered to serve food and ran-tracks that made the day a success. Artwork featured on “Bloody Thursday” buttons and t-shirts were produced by Local 10 artists Othuber Bahaye, Alonzo Gut- rence Thibeaux who explained why the concept of solidarity remains as relevant today as it was in 1934. Local 10 President Melvin Mackay warned that gains from past struggles could be lost unless members mobilize – and he urged everyone to join the campaign to save Oakland’s working waterfront from being given to developers for a baseball stadium and luxury condos. Local 34 President Keith Shanks read a poem asking union members to respect their union and not take it for granted. BALMA Treasurer Mike Vil- leggiante delivered a short essay about the impact of automation on the docks and the need to help a new generation of longshore workers get training and skills to manage the new technology. Historian Harvey Schwartz provided details and insight about the 1934 strike. Philosopher Gene Verna warned of lessons to be learned from the con- flict 85 years ago, and noting some disturbing political parallels between events then and now, including the rise of authoritarian leaders who divide the working class and threaten democracy. The event was closed by Anchor Brew- eway worker Garrett Kelly who delivered a brief but inspiring call for worker unity and action.

Lunch and entertainment followed with a sit-down buffet and outdoor grills. Kids enjoyed cotton candy, clowns, balloon art and face painting. Musicians performed during lunch and throughout the afternoon.

The events were produced by the Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA), which made a special point of thanking the ILWU Credit Union, Locals 10, 34, 75, 91 the Drill Team, Pensioners Club, Auxiliary 17 and “volunteer extraordinaire” Kel- ley Kane of Local 10. Union staff vol- unteered to serve food and ran-tracks that made the day a success. Artwork featured on “Bloody Thursday” buttons and t-shirts were produced by Local 10 artists Othuber Bahaye, Alonzo Gut-

Searching for treasure: Local 21’s Bloody Thursday picnic featured a “treasure hunt” for kids who found quarters, half-dollars and dollar coins hidden in the hay. Volunteers who helped organize the annual event included Brian Grimes, Daniel Rundell, Kelly Coffman, Rick Masters, Calvin Corl! and Rich Newman.

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IBU Members Win Strike at Alaska Marine Highway System

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they informed us that all 31 of the tentative agreements were now rescinded and off the table. They said we’d have to re-negotiate each of those in the next contract negotiations, a year out. They also made it very clear that there was no guarantee they would agree to the previously negotiated tentative agreements. This was unacceptable, so we chose to continue bargaining our contract. We felt the State was only surface bargaining – talking with no real intention of reaching an agreement, so we demanded that they provide us with a written proposal by May 15, 2019.

They responded with a written proposal that included a one-time lump sum payment of $1000 on January 1, 2021, to offset their proposal requiring members with the economy plan to begin paying part of their health premiums on January 1, 2021. The premium increases amounted to a $60 monthly increase for singles and $160 for a family, so the one-time lump sum would have a short-lived impact, covering only 6 months of higher costs for a family, along with the prospect of more increases in the future. The State’s “supposal” did include our proposal to increase the wages of crewmembers on the MV Lituya.

Our Negotiations Committee told the State that we couldn’t recommend their proposal, but would ask members to vote on it. I rode the MV Columbia as it travelled from Ketchikan to Juneau, to vote the members onboard. Patrolwoman Kristel Calibo flew to Kenai, then rented a car and drove to Whittier where she met the MV Aurora, then went to Homer where she met members working on the MV Tustumena so they could vote. All ballots were then brought to Juneau. Voting for crews on vessels arriving in Juneau were handled by Alaska Regional Director Trina Arnold and myself, who met crewmembers from the MV Tazlina, MV LeConte and MV Kennicott.

We joined Executive Committee Vice Chair Robb Arnold to vote the members of the MV Malaspina. We also offered an online ballot for the members who couldn’t get a paper ballot, including crewmembers of the MV Matanuska. On June 19, 2019, the votes were tallied, with members overwhelmingly rejecting the State’s proposal and authorizing the Negotiations Committee to call a strike.

Union goes into mediation

John Fagesau, President of ILWU Local 63-Office Clerical Unit (OCU), joined our negotiations team to lend assistance. We contacted the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, requested their help and went into mediation on July 15 and 17. During that process, the State agreed to increase the lump sum to $1300 and offered to include 3 of our 31 tentative agreements, but with no wage increases. After several rounds the Union gave the State a “last, best and final proposal” – informing them we would strike if they did not respond.

We waited until 4:00pm on July 17th and received nothing from the State. We left the meeting to vote our members on this new proposal and prepare for a strike.

Strike after talks broke down

When members voted on the State’s final offer, 80% voted to strike. On July 24, 2019, after the MV Columbia arrived in Ketchikan and passengers were offloaded, IBU Patrolwoman Kristel Calibo boarded the ship, and the crew walked-off with pride – marking the beginning of our strike at 2:00pm. Then the MV Tazlina crew finished unloading in Juneau at 4:30pm, and Executive Board Chair Earl Ingalls walked onboard to join the other vessel.

When the MV LeConte arrived at 8:30pm and the crew finished offloading then walked-off the vessel. The MV Matanuska was in the shipyard in Portland. Port Captain Staples from Ketchikan Central Office (KCCO) sent word to the Captains to have each IBU member “sign or get off the boat or we are calling reinforcements.” When the crew refused to sign, they were ordered to vacate the ship and walked-off at 2:00pm on July 25. Columbia River Regional Director Brian Dodge met with the crew on the next day and helped them organize a picket line outside the Fortland shipyard.

The MV Kennicott arrived in Ketchikan on July 25 at 3:00pm and Kristel tried to board the vessel, but State Troopers, requested by the Central Office, wouldn’t let her on the ramp. The MV Kennicott crew had received an intimidating notice from Captain John Falvey, General Manager of the Ketchikan Central Office, the same notice that was given on the MV Matanuska, asserting that IBU members had to declare whether they were striking or working. He said those who elect to strike would not be paid and ordered the Captains to hand each member the notice. Kristel was finally able to meet the crew outside the tube, near the guard shack at the Vigor Shipyard, and the majority walked-off. The MV Aurora arrived in Valdez on July 24. We had a phone meeting with the crew and they reported that management offered to leave them on the vessel with pay, but the following day they received the same “strike or work” demand letter, and members walked-off the ship as directed by the union. The MV Tustumena arrived in Kodiak on July 24 and received the same demand letter.

On July 25, crew members walked off the ship as directed by the union.

Unfortunately, it must be noted that a few crew members did not follow the union’s order to leave the ship. This internal matter will be taken up by the Alaska Region.

On July 30, the State sent a letter to members notifying them that their healthcare coverage would end on July 31, if they remained on strike. In addition, the non-union, substandard Interstate Ferry Authority (IFA) was pushing to get the MV Lituya moved off the terminal so IFA could run their ferry from Metlakatla to Ketchikan, replacing our service. Southern California Patrolman Mike Vera called upon his friends and family in Metlakatla who joined our members to stand guard on the picket line.

There was a tremendous amount of pressure from the employer on members. I am proud to say that IBU members didn’t waver in their commitment. They were prepared to fight until we got a settlement. And they did so with pride and honor.

Regional Director Trina Arnold was similarly impressed with the solidarity she saw during the strike.

“It was amazing to watch some of the passengers of the MV Malaspina get off the ship and join our picket line in Juneau at 3:00 am. In fact, the public support continued to grow each day. The cars would honk and wave as they drove by. A taxi cab owner lent us one of his cabs to get to and from town. It turns out he was a former member of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA) who used to work with us at the Marine Highway System. People were dropping food off for our picketers up until the end of the strike. Members offered one of the passengers a room in their home because she didn’t have anywhere else to stay. I realize this was hard on our members, but I know we will all remember the memories we have of the solidarity on our picket lines. We’ll be telling these stories to each other for years to come.”

Solidarity rallies were held on July 29, in Bellingham, Washington, organized by Terri Mast, IBU Secretary-Treasurer.
ILWU honors Bloody Thursday along West Coast on July 5th

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Portland

Portland-area ILWU members held their 45th Annual July 5th Memorial Picnic at Oaks Amusement Park where the event has been located for many years.

The effort attracted about 100 family members and friends from Locals 5, 8, 60, 92, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, Auxiliary 5, Columbia River Pensioners and the Local 8 Federal Credit Union. Each of these organizations also contributed donations that made the picnic a success.

To recognize the sacrifice of Pacific Maritime Seiners 85 years ago, a brief memorial service was held, ending with a wreath of flowers being placed into the current of the Willamette River while Paul Grannard played taps.

During the picnic, live music was provided by Local 8 member Dave Degman & the Rogue River Band. Volunteers served hot dogs, chili, chips and ice cream.

Everyone enjoyed the bingo games provided by Auxiliary 5.

Thanks to Local 8 Vice President Adam Wetzell, President Bruce Holte and Secretary Mike Stanton for their leadership.

John Farr and other volunteers ran the kitchen, while Tom Welage sold raffle tickets and Auxiliary 5 members coordinated the bingo games. Stellen Hill and his crew sold discount wristbands for the amusement rides and helped with permits.

Longview

Local 21 members held their Bloody Thursday picnic in a new location this year; Willow Grove Park along the shore of the Columbia River. The site is owned by the Port of Longview.

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Smokin’ hot! Grill-masters at the Seattle picnic included (L-R) Jarad Felker, Mark Williams, Robby Knutz, Nick Budinich and Charlie Wilbert.

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surer, and at picket lines in Juneau, Ketchikan, Valdez and July 28 in Kodiak. Solidarity messages were received from Tlingit and Haida First Nations, the Master, Mates & Pilots, Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, American Radio Association, Maritime Labor Alliance, International Longshore Association, Salaries’ Union Pacific, Utility Workers Union of America, BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union, Maritime Union of Australia, ILWU International, ILWU Alaska Longshore Division, ILWU Local 200 Alaska, ILWU-PCPA Pensioners, ILWU Local 13, ILWU Local 63 OCU, IBU SF Region, Puget Sound Region, Hawaii Region, Columbia River Region, Southern California Region, Region 37, IWW Longshore, Naknek-Is—Trade Union of Revolutionary Workers of Land Airway and Railway workers of Turley, Transportation Trades Department, Vice President Joe Bider, Senator Berny Sanders, Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Kamala Harris.

Sara Nelson, International President of Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO, sent us a message:

“The last Alaska ferry strike was in 1977, but right now workers are standing together and stopping service until they get an agreement after years of negotiations. We stand with IBU and MERAUNION @ MMPUnion who are honoring the strike in solidarity.”

Resolution and return to work

Beth Schindler, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, stepped in as we resumed mediation on July 27 and 28. We made some real progress, but then things stalled and she decided we needed a break.

The outstanding issues were the wage increases, health premium sharing for the economy plan, and the remaining tentative agreements – which included many protections for members, plus the COLD differential for non-resident Union members.

By July 30, the political environment was heating-up. Coastal legislators worried that pressure was mounting to get the ferries running. The union returned to mediation July 30, joined by ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris. The State brought in an attorney, Jim Baird, from Chicago, who management had used in the past to get a settlement. We went around the clock trading proposals until 1:00am, when we broke until 2:00pm the next day. ILWU President Willie Adams and Vice-President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera attended to show their support that afternoon. We went back into mediation and traded proposals until we reached a deal at 1:00am on August 2, 2019. We secured all 31 of the tentative agreements, along with modest wage increases. We limited the premium share to a more modest increase that would affect the economy plan during the last 6 months of the contract, offset by a one-time lump-sum payment from the State. We also reduced the non-residential differential by 20%.

During our final 2 days of mediation, we had a solid picket line outside our meeting – with supporters who played drums and chanted – refusing to leave until we got a contract. We heard them say, what seemed like thousands of times: “What do you want? A fair contract! When do you want it? NOW!”

President Sara Nelson of the Flight Attendants, sent the following message to us on Friday August 2, 2019, at 3:00am, upon hearing we reached a settlement. “Way to go, BREAKING NEWS: Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) just arrived at a tentative agreement with Alaska Marine Highway. And I hear it’s a good one! Picket lines are coming down. When we fight, we win!”

A special thank you to everyone who assisted in some way with planning, strategies, political outreach, rallies, messaging and more. Most of all, thank you to our amazing members in Alaska, for without their continued solidarity and commitment, this could not have been achieved. We dared to stand up and fight back at this turbulent time in Alaska, we kept our focus on getting a fair contract and we won! – Marina V. Secchitano

IBU President

Pensioners at the picnic: The July 5th event at Vasa Park in Seattle brought together several generations of longshore workers, including children who played in the lake and bouncy house.

Picnic in Portland: Sisters Ashley Evans, Stephanie Evans and Rachael Evans were at the Oaks Amusement Park with Geri Cranston and her brother Bobby. About 100 participated in this year’s event on banks of the Willamette River.

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**IMPRESSIVE DONATION:** Nine years ago, ILWU Local 502 became more active in local charities. Since then, the Local’s combined contribution to their local Children’s Hospital has reached $333,518. This year alone, the union donated $39,502. Local 502 members work on the Fraser-Surrey Docks, Westshore Terminals and Deltaport.

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**ILWU Honors Bloody Thursday Along West Coast on July 5th**

Continued from page 7 and the price was right, so “it was a no-brainer,” according to veteran pic-nic organizer Daniel Rundell. He said Brian Grimes deserved most of the credit for organizing this year’s event.

Popular attractions included the “BBQ Ship” and “ILWU Drink-Tank” – both fabricated by skilled ILWU members who donated their labor to the cause.

Bingo was popular with older members and prizes included ILWU swag of various sorts.

Another spectacular cake was created this year, honoring the ILWU. It was baked and decorated by Grimes’ cousin, a professional cake-artist. Mary Beth Beem, the Local’s historian and photographer, documented the event. Other contributors and volunteers included Kelly Collins, Rick Masters, Calvin Coiol and Rich Newman.

Pensioner and Auxiliary members also provided important help.

Seattle Puget Sound ILWU members gathered at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish. Pensioner San Huiunu organized the event with a solemn ceremony honoring members who passed during the previous year.

“We had yummy bbq with all the fixins’ and strawberry shortcake for dessert,” said Local 19 member Sarah Esch, who coordinated again this year.

She thanked Robert Willis for bringing his fancy corn roasting machine and the volunteers who made our picnic such a huge success,” including Brice Masters, Calvin Coirl and Rich Newman. Both raffles fine-tuned and strawberry shortcake for dessert. She thanked Robert Willis for bringing his fancy corn roasting machine and the volunteers who made our picnic such a huge success,” including Brice Masters, Calvin Coirl and Rich Newman. Both raffles benefited the West Seattle Food Bank.

Students also provided important help.

The Harry Bridges Institute believes that great unions make great families. We have always celebrated the rich histories of the working class, the men and women who have built this port and continue to make it the “economic engine of Southern California” (and indeed – all of the US).

The HBI is producing a series of short films about how great unions not only make great families but also recognize the good work that benefits and allows families to develop and be able to make positive contributions to our communities.

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**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:**

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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.

**ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION**

ADRP—Southern California
Taniako Love
2900 South Western Ave., Ste 205
Branche Palms Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 577-9266

ADRP—Northern California
Hunley Powell
8 Powell@benefitplans.org
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8633

**ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION**

DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Peninsula Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

**ADRP—Oregon**
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

**ADRP—Washington**
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98442
(253) 922-8913

**ILWU CANADA**
EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5W5
(604) 254-7911

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**NEW PENSIONERS:**

Local 4: Tammy Y. Pierce;
Local 7: Leroy W. Rohde; Local 8: Ronald A. McCorney; Mark W. Streater; Local 10: Frank W. Jefferson III; Douglas B. Simmons; Stephen J. Donegan; Kendall D. Hadley; James P. Walsh; James S. Curtis Jr.; Local 13: John Mardeisch; Don W. Good; Frank G. Negrete; Armando A. Aguilar; Tonko Baran; Ivan Glumac; Miguel Ramos; Yasuo Deguchi; Debra L. Hilde; Gregorio C. Abalos; Timothy J. Shaunheys; Mary S. Magana; John F. Adams; Harold E. Brown; Dale P. Wills; Guy A. Pugliese; Andrew M. Mekaru; Raymond G. Islas;
Local 19: Mario A. Oblak; Timothy S. Russell; Brian D. Olson; Edward C. Camacho; Curtis G. Treadwell; Thomas E. Vaughn; Ovillie L. De Rosia; James K. Rennville;
Local 21: Kirk C. Rex; Local 23: Gary L. Munford; Lon E. Bergstrom;
Local 26: Tracy D. Pearce;
Local 34: Bruce P. Baxter; Local 40: Kevin J. Clark; Matthew L. St Clair; Mark C. Hamlin;
Local 46: Rudy Soto Jr;
Local 47: Keith H. Bauch;
Local 52: Gretchen A. Van Dyk; William N. Day; Local 53: Barrett J. Tower; Local 63: Carl A. Tietz; Laurie S. Levinson; Kathleen A. Mackenzie; Thomas A. Norcio; Michael C. Sementilli; Priscilla R. Aparicio; Sandra L. Fellows; Local 75: Robert M. Defant;
Local 94: Patricia J. Willis; Eric G. Greenwood; Gilbert Cisneros, Jr; Local 98: Danyl D. Olson; Eric L. Heidlund;

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**DECEASED SURVIVOR:**

Local 8: Clarence W. Grebe;
Local 9: Raymond Richardson;
Local 10: Raymond J. Morales; Ivan Z. Glavan (Mary); Raymond S. Garcia; Lionel Nolasco; Local 19: Albert R. Keene, Jr.; Local 23: Gregory S. Swedens; Weldon F. Burgess;
Local 24: John M. Charboneau (Jeannette); Local 25: Monte G. Riley; Local 29: John A. Ryan (Denise);
Local 34: Mark Gonzalez; Local 47: George R. Catron; Local 52: Era Mae M. Winand; Local 63: Louis T. Cukrov; Jeffrey H. Powell; telitha J. Mc Gee;
Local 92: Donald D. Lukins;
Local 94: Eugene Erickson;

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**DECEASED PENSIONERS:**

Local 4: Nanna Adams; Local 8: Mary B. Barry; Local 10: Lila Ward; Everal Kole; Edrena Pinkston; Willie Childe; Local 13: Maria Padilla; Reinalda Garcia; Mary L. Beers; Charlene Hall; Virginia Y. Potts; Local 32: Beaud J. Neveu; Local 34: Judith E. Maguire;
Local 63: Darlene C. Felando;
Local 94: Gloria Rohar;

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**TRANSITIONS**