



# THE DISPATCHER

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**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.

## IBU Members Win Strike at Alaska Marine Highway System

**B**y late 2018, the Inland-boatmen'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 crewmembers 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 sea-side 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.



**Negotiating committee:** (From left to right) Tony Flaherty, Bryson Tripp and Nick Erb.

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*

# BALMA celebrates 2019 scholarship winners



The Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA) held their 2019 scholarship awards dinner on Tuesday, June 25th at local #10 in San Francisco. The event celebrates promising students chosen to receive support from one of six different scholarship programs. All applications were judged by an outside advisor not affiliated with BALMA.

Students were treated to a dinner held in the Henry Schmidt Room, where they mingled with BALMA leaders, including President John Castanho, Vice-President Trevyn McCoy, Secretary Vanetta Hamlin, Treasurer Mike Villeggiante, Secretary Angelique Meyer, along with volunteers Gina Villeggiante, Noelle DeMartini and Larissa David. Jeanette Morino, Business Development Specialist for the ILWU Credit Union Credit Union, also attended.

Winners of the Jeffress Memorial were Au’Jay Griffin & Reginald McKinney.



Harry Bridges Memorial recipients were Natalie So, Ayana’a Suduth, Tyler Lee, Maya Jenkins, Brandon Martinez, Kidest Befikadu, Aileen Villalpando, Emelyn Alvarez, Richard Lira Gonzalez, Alfredo Lira, Christy Lira Araujo, Nicole Elmore, Alyssa Gaskin, Krista Semenero, Dariyona Bridges and Maryalexis Gutierrez.

Frank Cresci Scholarship recipients were Sarah Sensabaugh and Janet Lira Gonzalez.

William “Bill” Chester Scholarship winners were Jessica Gonzalez, Ashley Jack, Ty’Jah Banks, Jazmin

Contreras, LaSarah Cheney, Luke Duhagon, Loryn Hall, Kiana Bozeman, Allyson Bacuyani, Geordan Scott, Joel Alem, Ayren Griffen and Gemma Lira Araujo.

BALMA Scholarship winners were Alfredo Orellana, Anthony Ong, Lillian Torres-Mendez. Kobe Kiener and Lanell Cheney.

ILWU Credit Union recipients were Kendal Reed, Olubori Babayo, Delilah Beverly, Trinity So, Jaleal Williams-Evans and Marco Anguiano.

## 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.

## DISPATCHER

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Communications Director and Managing Editor  
Roy San Filippo  
Editor

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# ILWU Canada honors the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Ballantyne Pier

On June 18th, over 40 ILWU members, pensioners, and supporters gathered at the Ballantyne memorial 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

Joulene 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 Jantz 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 generations 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 workers and ultimately laid the foundation for the formation of ILWU Canada.

After a decade of successful organizing 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.



**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).

The conflict spread to other dockers in the region. Vancouver longshore workers were also locked-out after they refused to unload ships coming from Powell River. Seattle longshore workers, 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 workers 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 Mounties. 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 women’s Auxiliary had set a first aid station. Several people were hospitalized during the three-hour battle, including a worker who had been shot in the back of his legs.

The battle was a tactical defeat for the longshore workers, but they continued the struggle to form a union independent 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 of the Vancouver Federation of Labor. “The themes of bad faith bargaining, union-busting, and employer intimidation—these are not just challenges of the past.”

“Battle of Ballantyne speaks to the struggle that we go through every day, every time we bargain a collec-

tive agreement—in 1935 we saw what a conspiracy between the employer and government coming together to undermine workers looks like,” said Graeme Johnston President of the BC Ferry & Marine Workers Union. “We workers continue to fight in the streets, in the board rooms, in their union halls, to build power and fight back against the employer and to get the rights that they deserve.”

## History lesson

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 longshore workers continued to fight and ultimately the demands of 1935 were achieved, and the ILWU grew to become one of the largest and strongest unions in our Province,” von Sychowski said.

This theme is echoed in the musical, *The Battle of Ballantyne Pier*, according to director Sherry MacDonald. “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 400 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 have time to write, providing their views on union concerns in the ILWU and beyond.
- ✓ 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. Letters to the editor offering different points of view are encouraged. Email to [editor@ilwu.org](mailto:editor@ilwu.org)

# ILWU honors Bloody Thursday along West Coast on July 5th



**Double celebration:** Local 502 held a celebration commemorating the 75th anniversary of their founding struggle and Bloody Thursday. (From left to right): Local 502 members Aaron Hoolsema, and Jessica Isbister, 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.

Each 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 in 1944, along with a memorial recognizing the 85th anniversary of Bloody Thursday. Speakers and special guests included ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, President Emeritus Tom Dufresne, and International President Willie Adams. A day filled with entertainment and education drew 200 attendees to the waterfront at New Westminster Pier Park – site of the former Pacific Coast Terminal that operated when Local 502 was chartered in 1944. Before any food was served or the face-painting and photo booths were opened, those attending were asked to reflect on their waterfront's recent and ancient history, going back thousands of years.



**Hungry crowd:** Coast Benefits Specialist John Castanho and other volunteers served tamales, beans, rice and enchiladas to the hungry crowd at the Bloody Thursday celebration in San Francisco.

## Honoring First Nations

Local 502 member Jessida Isbister, asked everyone to recognize that today's park is located in the traditional territory of Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh 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 traditional welcome, noting:

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of ILWU local 502. It was on this day in 1944 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 Sperry and Nicholas Bordais, 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 advice and serves on the Board of British Columbia's Labour Heritage Centre in Burnaby.

Dufresne's remarks were typically brief and gracious, as he thanked members and families for attending both the solemn and celebratory events that day.

The next speaker was Secretary-Treasurer Sussanne Skidmore of BC's Federation of Labour, well-known in the region for leading social justice campaigns.

## President Ashton

ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton explained Local 502's origins that began 75 years ago and the relevance of those struggles to the present.

"We can't forget where we came from because it provides us with a path to travel in the future," he said. "Our union was born out of struggle, and we continue to live in struggle, because that is who we are. This is what gives us strength and purpose. Those of you in Local 502 just went through a hell of a struggle in your last longshore contract battle against an employer who wanted to break and crush us. But we stood tall. We rose above what they expected us to do. It was solidarity—the strength of the whole—that carried our great union forward in the past and helped us win again last month. So today, as we celebrate the birth of our union, let's remember those who were murdered on this day in 1934. Let's celebrate the birth of Local 502 that took place 75 years ago. And let's always remember that the betterment of the whole overpowers the want of the individual."

Stepher Crozior, President of the New Westminster and District Labour Councils followed Ashton, as did long-time New Westminster City Council member Chuck Puchmayr who worked seven years as a longshoreman with Locals 500 and 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, "Longshoring 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. I look at the diversity in Local 502, and see all the young workers, women and old-timers who have taught us so much about our history. 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, we 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 largest 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 entertain 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 Knudsen. 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 Knudsen 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 Knudsen suffered for several weeks before dying from the gunshot

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**Family time:** Nine-year-old Navea Beacham with her auntie Brenda Lacey celebrated at the Local 10 hall in San Francisco.



**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 gravesite 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 Blanco, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, PCPA President Greg Mitre, ILWU International Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr. and Local 13 Vice President Gary Herrera.

wounds. Public reaction to the killings 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 International 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 Mitre.

The service started with a beautiful solo rendition of the national anthem, followed by a benediction and prayer. PCPA Poet Laureate Jerry Brady recited his poem honoring the sacrifices of Parker and Knudsen.

Local 13 President Familathe thanked all the members and pensioners from ILWU harbor-area ILWU Locals who attended the memorial.

“We come here to pay our respects to John Knudsen and Dickie Parker. We also honor our other union brothers who have fallen, including the tragic accident this year on May 15th when Jose Santoyo was killed on the job,” Familathe said the struggles of 1934 should continue inspiring current and future generations so that the union’s legacy can be preserved for future members.

**Procession and picnic**

When the brief service and the cemetery concluded, a group of members with classic cars joined the Longshoremen’s Motorcycle Club to form a mock funeral procession that followed an empty hearse provided by All Soul’s Mortuary in Long Beach. The cars and bikes headed to the Harbor Sports Complex where families were gathering for the Bloody Thursday picnic. The site has been used since 2017 because it is one of the few that can handle the 2,000 family members and friends who attend each year.

The picnic featured free hamburgers, fries, tacos and snow-cones. Kids were entertained with giant slides, bouncy houses and carnival-style games. Live music was performed in the park throughout the afternoon.

“This is more than a picnic or just time to hang out with family,” said Local 13 member John Seixas. “It’s also a time to reflect on the sacrifices that were made by workers up and down the coast. It was their sacrifices that laid the foundations for the ILWU.”

Local 13 President Familathe addressed the crowd at the picnic, reminding everyone of the sacrifices made by Parker, Knudsen and other strikers along the West Coast. “They were fighting for good wages and conditions on the waterfront and unfortunately lost their lives. Today we have good contracts, but the struggles we face today will affect how future generations work on the waterfront.” Familathe encouraged everyone to turn out for the next LA Harbor Commission meeting in July where the issue of automation would be debated again. Other speakers at the picnic included Local 13 Vice President Gary Herrera, Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Buscaino and LA Harbor Commissioner Diane Middleton – all of whom recognized the effort by members who joined the automation mobilizations.

This year’s Harbor Area events were organized by a Committee that included Nacho Enriquez, Melon Caesar Hall, Mary Lou Taliulu, John Seixas, Franc Bodnar, Paul Zuanich, Donnie Ciamataro and a host of volunteers.

**SF Bay Area**

The “Bloody Thursday” events that saw two San Francisco strikers shot in the back by police, happened almost two months after the “first blood” was spilled at the Port of Los Angeles. But the general strike that followed the July 5th incident in San Francisco won massive support from workers throughout the city who organized a general strike and generated impressive public sympathy. Public support for striking longshore workers captured national attention and pressured President Franklin Roosevelt to settle the strike on favorable terms for the union.

85 years later. Bay Area ILWU members still gather every July 5th to re-create the bloody sidewalk scene where Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise were fatally wounded. Chalk outlines of the men’s crumpled bodies are adorned with flowers and wreathes, just as they were 85 years ago.

Longtime ILWU Local 10 leader and Bay Area Pensioners President, Lawrence Thibeaux served as the Master of Ceremonies. He introduced Local 10’s Scott Barton who played “taps” on his bugle, followed by the Local 10 Drill Team that served as an Honor Guard for the fallen martyrs. A beautiful and soulful rendition of the national anthem was provided by Aaliyah Washington-Purry, followed by Paul “from ‘da hall” Williams who sang Amazing Grace.

Seven speakers then followed with reflections on the 85th anniversary of Bloody Thursday, led by Law-

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 Shanklin read a poem asking union members to respect their union and not take it for granted. BALMA Treasurer Mike Villeggiante 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. Pensioner Gene Vrana warned of lessons to be learned from the conflict 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 Brewery 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” Kelley Kane of Local 10. Union staff volunteered to serve food and run errands that made the day a success. Artwork featured on “Bloody Thursday” buttons and t-shirts were produced by Local 10 artists Olubori Babaye, Alonzo Gutierrez, Jennifer Hale, Paul “from ‘da hall” Williams.



**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 Coirl and Rich Newman.

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## Walking for a cure:

The South Sound Multiple Sclerosis walk was held on Saturday April 13th at the Chambers Bay Golf course. The co-captains of the ILWU Local 23 team, Holly Hulscher and Lisa Cole, walked along with other longshore family members and friends while proudly wearing union made team t-shirts. The Local 23 team raised a total of \$14,000 this year to help fight Multiple Sclerosis. Money was collected from two fundraising events, raffle ticket sales and donations raised by the walkers. "I'm proud to be a member of the largest team to participate in the walk" said longtime-walker and retired Longshore mechanic Mike Belaya. "I'm always impressed with how our union always responds by giving back to our community when it's called for."

# 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 "supposal" did include our proposal to increase the wages of crewmembers on the MV Lituya.

## Union members vote

Our Negotiations Committee told the State that we could not 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 Krissel 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 Fageaux, 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 \$1500 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, 86% voted to strike.

On July 24, 2019, after the MV Columbia arrived in Ketchikan and passengers were offloaded, IBU Patrolwoman Krissel 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 offloading in Juneau at 4:30pm, and Executive Board Chair Earling Walli boarded the ship and walked-off with the crew. Regional Director Trina Arnold and Earling then boarded the MV LeConte at 8:30pm and did the same. Arnold met the MV Malaspina

at 3:00am in Juneau where 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 (KCO) 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 Portland shipyard.

The MV Kennicott arrived in Ketchikan on July 25 at 3:00pm and Krissel 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. Krissel 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 ships. 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 Inter-Island 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 waiver 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 taxicab 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 treasure 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 Trear

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# ILWU honors Bloody Thursday along West Coast on July 5th

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## Portland

Portland-area ILWU members held their 85th 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, 40, 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 Strikers 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 Grainnard 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 Wehage sold raffle tickets and Auxiliary 5 members coordinated the bingo games. Steffen 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.



**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 bounce 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.

# IBU Members Win Strike at Alaska Marine Highway System

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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 Assn., American Radio Assn., Maritime Labor Alliance, International Longshore Association, Sailors' 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, IBU Longshore, Nakliyat-ls – Trade Union of Revolutionary Workers of Land Airway and Railway workers of Turkey, Transportation Trades Department, Vice President Joe Biden, Senator Bernie 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 MEBAUNION @ 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



**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 Dock, Westshore Terminals and Deltaport.

## ILWU honors Bloody Thursday along West Coast on July 5th

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and the price was right, so “it was a no-brainer,” according to veteran picnic 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 Dunk-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 vol-

unteers included Kelly Coffman, Rick Masters, Calvin Coirl and Rich Newman. Pensioners and Auxiliary members also provided important help.

### Seattle

Puget Sound ILWU members gathered at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish. Pensioner San Huniu opened 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 Local 19 member, Mike Callanan, for grilling-up some tasty oysters.

While some went swimming in the lake, younger ones used the bouncy

## 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.

### ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

**ADRP—Southern California**  
**Tamiko Love**  
 29000 South Western Ave., Ste 205  
 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
 (310) 547-9966

**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 98424  
 (253) 922-8913

### ILWU CANADA

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

### ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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

castle, water slide, and different games designed for kids. Ali Vekich put together a 50/50 raffle with money going toward the Young Workers Committee. Teresa Neufang gathered a bunch of awesome raffle prizes for a drawing that benefitted the West Seattle Food Bank. Both raffles were a huge hit. Cosette Hill worked super hard to provide awesome shirts and swag that was sold at the picnic. Esch said the event was “well-attended, with about 900 participants!” She gave a “big super special shout-out

to the volunteers who made our picnic such a huge success,” including Brice and Nicole Lenz, Svava Alumbaugh, Charlie Wilbert, Randy Wilbur, Mark Williams, Kainoa Mokiao, Kullen Fernandez, Warren Fairbanks, April Benjamin, Donald Vanison, James Bump, Joe Toro, Thomas Galloway, Tim Darby, Tyrone Harvey, John Persak, Justin Hirsch, and everyone else who helped load and unload the rental truck that transported equipment and supplies to the park.

## TRANSITIONS

**NEW PENSIONERS:**  
**Local 4:** Tammy Y. Pierce;  
**Local 7:** Leroy W. Rohde; **Local 8:** Ronald A. Mccrory; Mark W. Streater;  
**Local 10:** Frank W. Jefferson III; Dwight B. Simmons; Stephen J. Donegan; Kendall D. Hadley;  
**Local 13:** John Mardesich; Don W. Good; Frank G. Negrete; Armando A. Aguilar; Tonko Baran; Ivan Glumac; Miguel Ramos; Yasuo Deguchi; Debra L. Hilse; Gregorio C. Abalos; Timothy J. Shaughnessy; Maria 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. Olsen; Edward C. Camacho; Curtiss G. Treadwell; Thomas E. Vaughn; Orville L. De Rosia; James K. Renville;  
**Local 21:** Kirk C. Rea; **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 E. Bausch;  
**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. Defanti; **Local 94:** Patrick J. Willis; Eric G. Greenwood; Gilbert Cisneros, Jr; **Local 98:** Daryl D. Olson; Eric L. Hedlund;

**DECEASED PENSIONERS:**  
**Local 8:** Clarence W. Grebe;  
**Local 10:** Raymond Richardson;  
**Local 13:** Raymond J. Morales; Ivan Z. Glavan (Mary); Raymond S. Garcia; Lionel Nolasco; **Local 19:** Albert R. Reece, Jr.; **Local 23:** Gregory S. Svendsen; 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. Wieand; **Local 63:** Louis T. Cukrov; Jeffrey H. Powell; Telitha I. Mc Gee;  
**Local 92:** Donald D. Lukins;  
**Local 94:** Eugene Erickson;

**DECEASED SURVIVOR:**  
**Local 4:** Nanna Adams;  
**Local 8:** Mary G. Barry; **Local 10:** Lila Ward; Everal Kole; Edrena Pinkston; Willie Childs; **Local 13:** Maria Padilla; Reinalda Garcia; Mary L. Beers; Charlene Hall; Virginia Y. Potts;  
**Local 32:** Beulah J. Newman;  
**Local 34:** Judith E. Maguire;  
**Local 63:** Darlene C. Felando;  
**Local 94:** Gloria Rohar;

## GREAT UNIONS MAKE GREAT FAMILIES

Join us  
**Thursday September 12, 2019**  
 Doors will open at 5:45  
 We cordially invite you to attend a (free) screening of  
**Families of the Waterfront:**  
**The Ibarra / Cornejo Family**  
 At the John Olguin Auditorium at the Cabrillo Aquarium  
 3720 Stephen M. White Drive, San Pedro 90731

The Harry Bridges Institute believes that great unions make great families. We have always celebrated the true heroes 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 negotiate the good wages and benefits that allows families to develop and be able to make positive contribution to our communities.

Doors will open at 5:45 pm for light refreshments.  
 We intend to start promptly at 6 pm and anticipate a program of no more than an hour so don't be late.  
 If you need additional information, you can call Larry Loy at 562-786-1813.