For the first time in over a decade, ILWU Locals marched in a show of strength at the Los Angeles Kingdom Day parade to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year’s parade theme was “Equality For All Humanity, Our Next Step.” The three-mile parade route in South-Central Los Angeles started at Western and MLK Boulevard, then went the length of MLK to end at Leimert Park where there was a festival with music, games and food vendors. The event attracted thousands of participants and spectators, and was broadcast live on three local television stations.

Approximately 75 ILWU members from Locals 13, 94 and 56 participated in the parade which was led by the ILWU Local 10 Drill Team. Local 13 member Geraldine Hecker-Popov and Local 13 Executive Board member Melon Caesar co-organized the event. Local 13 provided funding that paid for special t-shirts, along with ILWU caps and snacks for the marchers. A bus that transported members from the ILWU Memorial Hall in Wilmington to the parade area was provided by Los Angeles Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Hecker-Popov said she attended the Kingdom Day parade last year with her children where she saw other unions participating but not the ILWU. She was determined to make sure that the ILWU had a presence this year.

She brought the issue to the Local 13 Executive Board and membership meeting. Both bodies approved supporting the Local’s participation in the parade.

Ceaser said participation in the parade is part of an effort build a stronger awareness of the ILWU in continued on page 5...
LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Fellow workers,

On behalf of the ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee, I want to invite you to join us in Chicago from April 17-19 for this year’s Labor Notes Conference.

In 2018, our committee raised money and received support from our local to send ten young workers—all age 21 and casual longshore workers from Tacoma—to join dozens of other members of the ILWU and IBU for three days of workshops, classes, panels, and networking.

There were close to seventy members of our union there, alongside several maritime workers the ILA and MMT, among the more than 3000 other labor activists from across the country and around the world.

For most of us, attending Labor Notes in 2018 was our first time, but we were there with longtime veterans of these events, such as ILA Local 1422’s Leonard Riley (of Charleston 5 fame) and many others.

This year, we’re fundraising again to send five Young Workers in 2020. We’re also asking our local to send a few members—and asking your local to do the same. We want to see you in Chicago to learn new skills and make bread with you and build the union with you.

At Labor Notes’ biannual conferences, or at local “Troublemakers Schools” like those in San Francisco and Seattle in recent months, rank-and-file activists, local leaders, and staff are given opportunities to brush up on their organizing skills and learn creative tactics for everything from the bargaining table to the shopfloor, picket lines, and building community coalitions.

The emphasis is on rank-and-file power and learning from and alongside other working people just like us. Last time, we got to hear from fighting silver miners in Idaho, autoworkers organizing in the “right-to-work” South, West Virginia’s striking teachers and more!

We also have a lot to teach and some recent wins to share as well. So we want to see anybody and everybody from the union there, but if you’re an IBU ferry worker who recently struck in Alaska or one of many who helped win with Anchor Union last year, or who’s fighting for a union at Tartine Bakery right now, we especially want to see you there, to learn from you, and organize with you.

For info on registration and hotels, go to labornotes.org/2020. And please continue to support our work by following ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee on Facebook, or Instagram and Twitter (@ilwu23ywc).

In solidarity,
Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President, Mainland
Zack Pattin
ILWU No. 23 YWC

The ILWU will be holding a Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD VIII) in Sacramento, CA May 3-8, 2020.

The theme of this year’s training will be: Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today.

“Our union must continually educate new leaders in order to survive and grow. LEAD helps cultivate critical skills for activists and helps nurture a strong rank and file. Everyone has a role to play in our union and leadership training helps pave avenues for action on all levels,” commented ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris. “Most of the leaders in this union—myself included—have attended LEAD. I value the education I received at the conference when I attended in 2010 and hope others will be inspired and engaged from this important program. Education is a critical tool for our union’s future.”

Topics at the training will include:

• Increasing strength and unity through member participation;
• Building union power in times of economic and political uncertainty;
• Improving communication—both within the union and with the general public;
• How to run effective union meetings;
• Inspiring young worker involvement;
• Internal and External Organizing campaigns;
• Lessons from the ILWU’s history, its diverse membership and divisions.

Instructors include active and retired ILWU members, labor activists, and staff from the international and university labor centers.

Local unions and affiliates may nominate participants, who are each required to fill out an application and hotel reservation form. Priority consideration will be given to new officers and rank and file activists who have not yet participated in any previous LEAD programs. For reasons of space and diversity, each affiliate should expect to send no more than two participants, but a waiting list will be taken in case of cancellations or non-participation by some locals.

The LEAD budget will cover participants’ hotel stay, breakfast, lunch, training materials, facilities, and instructors. Participants will be housed together in double rooms but may upgrade to a single room at their own expense. Any reimbursement for expenses such as lost wages, or travel will have to be covered by the participant or his or her local or IBU region, or by area fundraising activities.

In cases where financial hardship is an obstacle to participation, a request for assistance should be submitted to the International along with a written statement about the circumstances involved and the amount of assistance requested.

Educational Services Director Robin Walker is also available to help answer questions.

Interested members should apply online through the ILWU website: www.ilwu.org/training.

Please submit applications no later than 5pm, March 27, 2020.

Local 23 2019 Toy Drive raises $49,469

The 2019 ILWU Local 23 Toy Drive was the most successful year ever. Members and pensioners donated $49,469 which helped over 960 children in need with two toys a piece.

The Toy Drive Committee purchased most of the toys, jackets and bikes from the local, union Fred Meyer store with discounts to make our donations go even further. There were also many other toys that members purchased themselves and donated. Longshore mechanics assembled several bikes so they were in good working order for the children.

Under the leadership of our trustees, our toy drive committee members, Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burkes and Holly Hulscher along with many other Local 23 family, friends and ILWU Auxiliary 33 volunteers are proud to be part of such a generous membership making a difference in the local community.

Holiday gift cards for local schools

Local 23 purchases over $32,000 worth of gift cards each year which are given to 158 schools. A student from a local elementary school is nominated by a teacher or school counselor for trying hard and being in need. Each student chosen receives a $200 gift card from a local union store.

The program was started in 1999 with the Tacoma School District and Local 23 was able to expand to 17 different school districts.

St. Leo’s Hospitality Kitchen

During the holidays and year round, Local 23 members, pensioners, family and friends volunteer at the St. Leo’s Hospitality Kitchen serving food to community members in need. They volunteer the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Longtime volunteer, Byron Baydo said “I am so blessed for the ILWU and the life it provides for our families. Helping those in need is an honor for our union brothers and sisters and we’re grateful to do it.”

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Former ILWU International President David Arian who also served as Vice President of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, was remembered one year after his passing with a ceremony that dedicated a street and bench in his honor on February 8th in San Pedro. The event was attended by rank-and-file ILWU members from all over Southern California, elected officials, friends, family and community members who were influenced by Arian’s life and work.

Speakers included ILWU International President Willie Adams, Local 13 President Ray Familathe, Los Angeles City Council members Joe Buscaino and Mike Bonin, Los Angeles Supervisor Janice Hahn, Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka, Harbor Commissioner Diane Muldrow, and Dave’s daughter Justine Arian-Edwards. Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams also attended the ceremony.

On January 10th, the port approved the renaming of Miner Street south of E. 22nd Street, to be known as “Dave Arian Way.” Before the renaming ceremony, a plaque naming a nearby bench in Dave’s honor was also unveiled. The bench overlooks the Angels Gate Lighthouse where ships enter and leave the port. It was one of Dave’s favorite places to sit and reflect on the many issues facing the port.

President Adams described Arian as a maverick and visionary. “Dave’s legacy is felt worldwide,” said Adams, who noted that the ILWU received condolences from Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. “But Dave never forgot that he was a rank-and-file. Dave represented the best of the working class and he fought for the people who couldn’t fight for themselves. He was one of the last of the ILWU giants.”

Familathe’s remarks emphasized Arian’s deep roots and history in San Pedro and his commitment to improving the port and investing in the workers who operate the docks.

“Dave was about labor and the community. He loved the ILWU but he loved this community,” said Familathe. “Dave was about investing in human capital. And as we expand this port, we hope that human capital will continue to be invested in.”

Dave’s daughter Justine recalled how her father taught her to drive on the street that will now bear his name. It will be a great honor to walk and bike along Dave Arian Way with my children,” she said, adding that a committee is being formed to organize an annual march or political event to honor Arian’s memory and legacy.

Dave Arian Way: (L to R): Coast Committeeman Cam Williams, ILWU International President Willie Adams, and Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon were on hand to celebrate the life of Dave Arian during the street naming ceremony in San Pedro.

Executive Director Gene Seroka, Harbor Commissioner Diane Muldrow, and Mike Bonin, Los Angeles Supervisors Janice Hahn, Port of Los Angeles

Tartine bakery workers launch union campaign

Popular Bay Area bakery with loyal customers, delicious baked goods and dramatic expansion plans now has an overwhelming majority of workers organizing to join the ILWU.

Tartine workers kicked-off their union campaign on February 6 when employees at each of the company’s four Bay Area locations asked management to recognize their new union. Goals include better pay, benefits, a voice in decisions and a written contract.

A healthy majority of the more than 230 Tartine workers have already signed union cards, but instead of recognizing their new union, management responded with a union-busting campaign. It began quietly with voluntary, informal chats led by the couple who founded the bakery, but quickly shifted to nastier “captive audience” sessions with a team of four professional union-busting consultants. Workers say their employer no longer feels like the small, street corner bakery in San Francisco’s Mission District that’s now transformed into an international corporation with outside investors.

Veteran employee John Lapp from Tartine’s Manufactary, says union support has grown steadily – and is needed now to ensure workers have a real voice. “Having a union contract with all the important things in writing is the only way for us to have accountability and rights on the job,” he says. He and other Tartine workers got an inspirational boost last year when workers at the nearby Anchor Brewery organized and joined the ILWU. Anchor workers also endured an anti-union campaign, but the brewery management took a more cooperative approach when it was clear workers were united and well-organized. That unity helped win an impressive contract with significant wage and benefit improvements.

Tartine workers have filed for a union election that will be supervised by the National Labor Relations Board. Workers in San Francisco will vote on Thursday, March 12, Berkeley workers vote Friday, March 13.

Employee Pat Thomas who works at the original Tartine Bakery in San Francisco says, “people say San Francisco is a union town and that’s proving to be true. Many of my personal friends in the San Francisco music community have told me how proud they are of what we’re doing. I think people are taking a lot of inspiration from our effort.”

One group of Tartine workers at San Francisco’s International Airport terminal are already covered by a Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union contract, one that covers most food-service workers at the airport. The effort by workers at three other San Francisco locations and one bakery in Berkeley has received strong community support, including concern from local political leaders who have criticized Tartine’s union-busting campaign.

Employee Mason Lopez, who works at the Tartine Bakery in Berkeley, says support from customers has been impressive. “Customers see our buttons and tell us they’re supporting our union. There’s a lot of support out there to back us up, and not much sympathy for companies that try to bust unions,” they said. Future issues of The Dispatcher will cover this ongoing story.

Lots of community support: Tartine workers have a large and loyal customer support base that is supporting their effort to join the ILWU.
A s 2019 drew to a close, U.S. Representative John Lewis of Georgia, released a brief statement that he had recently been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

“I have been in some kind of fight — for freedom, equality, basic human rights — for nearly my entire life,” added the 80-year-old Congressman and Civil Rights icon, who’s now undergoing treatment near Washington, D.C.

The revelations triggered an outpouring of sympathy and support from across the nation, including a statement from ILWU International President Willie Adams, who said Lewis was “a part of our longshore family,” and praised him for being an “unfailing supporter of the rights and dignity of working Americans.”

ILWU connections
Lewis’s longstanding ILWU connections were forged over many decades because of a shared dedication to racial and economic justice, lifelong support for unions and workers, and the fact that his youngest sister, Rosa Tyner, was a member of ILWU Locals 10 and 91 for 23 years. As a young girl, Rosa recalled her oldest brother John coming home to visit the family and sharing stories about his struggles in the Civil Rights Movement. Their mother, Willie Mae, would always urge John to “stay out of trouble,” to which the young man responded by promising to make only “good trouble.” Rosa moved back to Alabama after becoming a pensioner, while her brother John continues serving in Congress where he represents much of Atlanta Georgia in the House of Representatives.

Memoir of the Movement
The story of how Lewis and a group of brilliant, courageous young women and men emerged to lead one of the great social movements of the Twentieth Century is captured in his fine autobiography: Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement. It begins with observations by the young boy who helped his family survive by raising chickens and picking cotton. Born in 1940, Lewis and his fellow activists were raised at the end of the Great Depression and beginning of the Second World War. Some, including Lewis, had great-grandparents who passed along stories of “slavery times.”

Rural poverty
Lewis pulls no punches in describing the indignities and brutal oppression of racism that he witnessed while growing up, but notes that the poverty afflicted a majority of both whites and blacks around him. They were all burdened by debt and miserable pay that stemmed from the “tenant farming” system. It recalls that his mother and father once picked up to 400 pounds of cotton a day for a total of $1.40. His parents continued working during his childhood, earning 50 cents a day for farm or domestic work. Lewis describes in great detail the backbreaking, miserable labor that he and others performed, explaining how it motivated him to attend school, which he did despite resistance from his parents who needed help in the fields.

Church lessons
Lewis was still a young boy when his parents nicknamed him “preacher,” because he delivered sermons and conducted funerals for chickens that died in the family coop. He attended church each Sunday with his family and kept a sharp eye on the injustices that surrounded him: chain gangs of black men who labored under armed guards, miserable schools, atrocious roads, public exclusions and filthy restrooms that were part of the Jim Crow system. “I was obsessed with learning all I could about the world beyond the one I knew,” explains Lewis, who visited the school every day and devoured black newspapers and magazines that came from Chicago and other cities.

Key turning points
During his first year in the county’s only high school for black students, Lewis recalled reading a newspaper story about the Supreme Court ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education, which held that segregated schools were unconstitutional. The next year, in 1955, he heard a radio broadcast of the young Martin Luther King Jr., someone Lewis deeply admired for his work in the Civil Rights Movement. Their tactic soon spread to Greensboro, North Carolina and beyond. Lewis quickly connected with brilliant activists at his seminary and around Birmingham, as the city became a hotbed of organizing. James Lawson, who studied nonviolent action tactics in India, trained Lewis and other young activists in 1958, including Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette, Marion Barry. Across his dorm hallway was the charismatic James Bevel, who was worldly, wise, and totally devoted to scripture — while also proclaiming his intention to become “a chicken-eating, liquor drinking, woman-chasing Baptist preacher.”

Sits-in shock establishment
Lewis and other students organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville in 1959 and 1960. Their tactic soon spread to Greensboro, North Carolina and beyond. Lewis quickly became a leading figure of the Nashville Movement — a student-driven effort based on Gandhi’s nonviolent resistance. He participated in another tactic known as the Freedom Rides, first developed in the 1940’s and resurrected in 1960 by courageous students who were trained to desegregate buses and terminals in the face of brutal violence and bombings. These continued on page 5

Profile in Courage: John Lewis
Lewis, Verna Porter, and Lewis Wright.

ILWU family member: This 2011 photo shows U.S. Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, surrounded by ILWU pensioners during their trip to Washington, D.C. Lewis says he has devoted his life to building a “beloved community” where all people are respected and care for each other. Appearing in the back row are Don Hopkins, George Cobbs and Ralph Rooker. In the front row are Rich Austin, Congressman John Lewis, Verna Porter, and Lewis Wright.
ragous nonviolent tactics embraced by Lewis, King and others were based on a broader strategy of winning public support and organizing political power to change the nation’s attitudes about racial injustice.

**Leadership positions**

Lewis had become a prominent student activist in the early 60's and was elected to lead the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1963 – winning him an opportunity to speak at the historic March on Washington that same year. Years of intensive work by SNCC in the south helped pave the way for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, followed by the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Meanwhile, more blood was being spilled.

**The bridge**

In one of his most famous and terrifying experiences, Lewis and Rev. Hosea Williams led a nonviolent march in 1965 across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, headed toward Montgomery. Organized by SNCC and Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the pair led over 500 marchers into a line of violent racist state troopers. Lewis, who had been hit by a tear gas canister, was later beaten severely by the troopers. Lewis and others were removed as SNCC leaders but the movement continued, led by Stokely Carmichael, more and more members would have attended.

**Conflict with militants**

These and other setbacks triggered angry militants who grew impatient with nonviolent strategies to win majority support in the fight against racism, for civil rights and dignity. Lewis, who continued to advocate nonviolence, was removed as SNCC Chair in 1968, when black nationalists emerged, led by Stokely Carmichael who replaced Lewis.

**Surviving the darkest days**

Within two years of Lewis leaving SNCC, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in April of 1968, while helping sanitation workers win a strike for justice. Robert Kennedy was assassinated the same year in June while campaigning for social and racial justice. Lewis and many political activists grew disheartened, but he never turned toward the violence and hyper-militancy that swept some others into political dead-ends.

**Like a pilot light**

Lewis, who has been arrested 40 times, says he views his contributions to the movement as a kind of “pilot light,” that can remain lit for the long haul. He contrasts his approach with a firecracker — that’s loud but leaves only ashes. His continuing belief in nonviolence, reconciliation and overcoming race, religion and class conflicts, makes him a consistent voice for peaceful democratic reform.

**Elected to Congress**

Lewis was elected as the US Representative for Georgia’s 5th congressional district, a seat he won twice over fellow civil rights activist Julian Bond in 1986. He remains in the position today and holds several leadership positions.

**Presidential Medal of Freedom**

In 2010, President Barack Obama awarded Lewis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honor. During the White House ceremony, Obama said: “There’s a quote inscribed over a doorway in Nashville, where students first refused to leave lunch counters 51 years ago this February. And the quote said, ‘If not us, then who? If not now, then when?’ It’s a question John Lewis has been asking his entire life. It’s what led him back to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma after he had already been beaten within an inch of his life days before. It’s why, time and again, he faced down death so that all of us could share equally in the joys of life. It’s why all these years later, he is known as the Conscience of the United States Congress, still speaking his mind on issues of justice and equality. And generations from now, when parents teach their children what is meant by courage, the story of John Lewis will come to mind — an American who knew that change could not wait for some other person or some other time; whose life is a lesson in the fierce urgency of now.”

**For more about the life of John Lewis and the Civil Rights Movement, consider his award-winning autobiography, Walking with the Wind.**

**March organizers:** Local 13 member Geraldine Hecker-Popov (left) and Local 10’s Drill Team delighting spectators. Andrade said. "It’s important that we show up to these events and show our support and solidarity with our fellow ILWU members," Andrade said.

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**ILWU locals turnout in force for 35th annual Kingdom Day Parade in Los Angeles**

**Honoring Ida Taylor:** Former Federated Auxiliary and Auxiliary 8 President Ida Taylor was the ILWU honoree during the march. Taylor served two terms as Federated Auxiliary President and 11 years as the President of Auxiliary 8. She retired earlier this year.

**March organizers:** Local 13 member Geraldine Hecker-Popov (left) and Local 13 Executive Board member Melon Caesar were co-organizers of the ILWU march in this year’s Kingdom Day Parade. Both women said they want to make sure this is a regular event for the ILWU.

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**Continued from page 1**

Los Angeles. “The ILWU is well known in the harbor area, but not a lot of people in this part of LA know who we are,” she said.

It was an early start for ILWU members who gathered at the Memorial Hall at 6:45 AM for a 7:30 AM departure. Before boarding the bus, Local 13 member Reverend Henry Pollard Jr., led the group in prayer.

After a long wait in the staging area, the ILWU contingent started marching with Local 10’s Drill Team delighting the crowd along the route. Spectators cheered at their performance and joined in with chants of “I-L-W-U.”

Auxiliary 8 President Ida Taylor was honored by the Local at the march for her years of service to the Federated Auxiliary. Taylor served for two terms as the Federated Auxiliary President and 11 years as President of Auxiliary 8. She retired earlier this year.

Also featured in the ILWU march were Local 13 member Geraldine Hecker-Popov, Local 10’s Drill Team and a large contingent from Local 56.

**Surviving the darkest days**

Within two years of Lewis leaving SNCC, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in April of 1968, while helping sanitation workers win a strike for justice. Robert Kennedy was assassinated the same year in June while campaigning for social and racial justice. Lewis and many political activists grew disheartened, but he never turned toward the violence and hyper-militancy that swept some others into political dead-ends.

Like a pilot light

Lewis, who has been arrested 40 times, says he views his contributions to the movement as a kind of “pilot light,” that can remain lit for the long haul. He contrasts his approach with a firecracker — that’s loud but leaves only ashes. His continuing belief in nonviolence, reconciliation and overcoming race, religion and class conflicts, makes him a consistent voice for peaceful democratic reform.

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For more about the life of John Lewis and the Civil Rights Movement, consider his award-winning autobiography, Walking with the Wind. Onward and at Risk is filled with exciting illustrations and action.

**For an excellent history of grassroots civil rights organizing in rural Mississippi, see**

**Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America.**

Readers of all ages can enjoy his 3-volume set of graphic novels, March, filled with exciting illustrations and action. For an excellent history of grassroots civil rights organizing in rural Mississippi, see I've Got the Light of Freedom, by Charles M. Payne.

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**Honoring Ida Taylor:** Former Federated Auxiliary and Auxiliary 8 President Ida Taylor was the ILWU honoree during the march. Taylor served two terms as Federated Auxiliary President and 11 years as the President of Auxiliary 8. She retired earlier this year.

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ILWU Canada backs workers in long, bitter lockout

D

ozens of ILWU Canada members joined union and community support-
ners on January 24 who joined a mass picket line formed to
support 800 locked-out refinery
workers in Regina, Saskatchewan.
They’ve been unable to work
for shutting replacement workers
into the dangerous refinery. Out-
side, striking workers and support-
ers have organized a consumer boy-
cott of the company’s retail stores.
After enduring two months in harsh conditions on the Saskatche-
wan prairie, the lockout lines remain
strong.

“When we heard about your
struggle, we knew that we had to be
here,” said President Ashton.

“We came because the
battle you’re facing reminds us of our Battle of
Ballantyne during the 1930’s when employers
used police to try and break our lines on the
stairs. Today, you’re showing unity of the labor movement across the
country can allow us to hold the line and hold it strong.”

– ILWU Canada President
Rob Ashton

IBU workers fight for fair contracts in Columbia River warehouses

A

year of difficult negotia-
tions with a prosperous
employer who keeps
demanding concessions has left
workers at the Kelly Point ware-
house on the Columbia River
with no choice but to organize
and resist.

The Kelly Point warehouse, along
with a nearby facility known as Front
Avenue/Rivergate, are both owned by
Georgia Pacific, a century-old pulp and
paper corporation that generates annual
revenues of $22.5 billion. In 2005,
Georgia Pacific was purchased by Koch
Industries, the corporate conglomerate
owned by the notoriously anti-union
Koch brothers.

The list of concessions being
demanded by Georgia Pacific would
harm workers and their families in a
variety of ways:

• Georgia Pacific/Koch want the right
to abandon the defined-benefit pension
plan at any time.
• The 401(k) savings plan that they’re proposing to replace the
protected-benefit pension would be poorly funded with much less
than they contribute now, and
provide a lower retirement benefit.
• Their proposed wage increase won’t
keep up with inflation.
• They want to take away the right
to use arbitration for settling disputes
about national holidays and leaves.
• The company want to destroy
longstanding policies that set disci-
pline for specific infractions.

These take-aways are just some
of the reasons why the IBU decided
the company’s offer was not worthy
of membership consideration or vote.
The union notified management on
February 14 that there would be no
vote renewed their demand for federal
mediation.
The company has plenty of
resources available for a fair settle-
ment. In addition to Georgia Pacific’s
annual revenues that exceed $20 bil-
ion, Koch Industries, had estimated
revenues of $269 billion in 2018. Like
many corporations, they’ve used their
wealth and power to take advantage
of $489.5 million in state and federal
subsidies over the years, most of it
during the past decade.

“In the last nine years, Georgia
Pacific provided wage increases total-
ning 10% - but during that same time
the cost of living increased 22.4%,”
said IBU President Marina Secchi-
tano. “That adds up to a 3.00 per
hour shortfall in today’s wages, which
is unfair considering the profits and
subsidies that GP has taken.”

Secchitano added that Georgia
Pacific controls much of the lucra-
tive paper-goods market in the coun-
try, including Bounty paper towels
and house-brand items for Costco,
Walmart and supermarkets.

On February 19th, workers met
at their union hall to discuss the con-
tract. They elected a new member to
their Negotiating Committee and con-
firmed the decision to seek help from
a federal mediator.

“In the past we’ve been able to
organize and protect our pension
benefits and other priorities, and this
moment is no different,” said Beclly Prout
who’s now a member of the Negoti-
ating Committee and has worked in the
warehouse for 10 years.

Workers at the nearby Front Ave-
nue/Rivergate facility are now begin-
ning their contract negotiations. Stay
tuned for an update on both contract
issues in future issues of The Dispatcher.

Biking the Coast for the Union’s Cause

L

ocal 13 members Paul Zua-

nich and Gabriel Zuniga

will

join Local 54 pensioner Vic-
tor Gallardo to ride electric bikes – not Harleys – down the West
Coast on an adventurous 1,750
mile fundraising journey that is
scheduled to launch on June 11.

Biking port-to-port

The trio, and all others who want
to join this team, expect to depart from
the Port of Bellingham and visit every
ILWU local and port along the way
before concluding in Los Angeles on
July 5 – Bloody Thursday. Go to www.iwuw2ride.coast.org, the site created
by Local 63 Administrator Robert
Maynez, to see the exact date and time
the ILWU team will be in your port.
The team’s goal is to gather donations
from ILWU members and community
friends while uniting the entire ILWU
for Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation
– a charity that funds children’s cancer
research and family assistance.

About Alex’s Lemonade Stand
Foundation

When four year old Alexandra
Scout was in the hospital, she told her
mother that she would hold a lemon-
ade stand to help other children. With
her brother’s support, Alex raised over
$2000, and that’s how Alex’s Lemona-
de Stand Foundation was born. Before
her passing at age 8, Alex raised more
than one million dollars. Childhood
cancer strikes without regard to eco-
nomic status, gender or ethnicity. Each
$50 raised equals one hour of impor-
tant research. Alex Scott would have
turned 24 this year. Supporters around
the world are committed to continuing
Alex’s inspiring legacy. The Indepen-
dent website Charity Navigator rates
the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Founda-
tion ahead of both the American Can-
cer Society and Susan G. Komen for
the Cure Foundation, when it comes to
high efficiency and low overhead.
Last year ILWU Walk the Coast, with
donations from ILWU locals, industry
crpanies and community support-
ers raised $110,000 for our Union’s
chosen charity – part of the $630,000
Note: our fundraiser is now
continued on page 8
President Adams speaks at Northern California Propeller Club: ILWU International President Willie Adams and PMA President Jim McKenna spoke at a meeting of the Northern California Propeller Club on February 4 in Oakland. Both leaders addressed the issue of competitiveness of West Coast ports. Adams and McKenna agreed on the need to press Union Pacific, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroads to reduce rates for transporting containers to and from West Coast ports. On average, rail companies now charge $200 more per container on the West Coast than they do for similar services on the East Coast. Adams also urged the PMA to join the ILWU in a joint lobbying effort to end inequities with the federal Harbor Maintenance Tax. Funds collected at West Coast ports are now being used to subsidize infrastructure improvements at East and Gulf Coast ports. Finally, Adams and McKenna both pledged to oppose to the Oakland A's ballpark and luxury condominium development proposal at the Port of Oakland's Howard Terminal that will hurt longshore operations and surrounding neighborhoods.

Rallying to keep Alaska’s communities connected: Deep cuts to Alaska’s public ferry system motivated many to attend a large rally in Juneau this February.

Holiday giving in Seattle: For the 2019 Christmas Season, Local 19 joined with efforts from Local 19 Pensioners, Clerks Local 52 and Foreman's Local 98 to support ten agencies throughout King and Snohomish Counties. With just over $21,000 in donations, Seattle-area ILWU members were able to bless a wide age-range of children in the Puget Sound area. They were also able to arrange a visit to the Harborview Trauma and Burn Center with Santa.

Alaska ferry fight continues

Ever since Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy slashed funding for the Alaska Marine Highway ferries last year, the Inlandboatermen’s Union of the Pacific (IBU), ILWU’s Marine Division, has been organizing a fight-back campaign.

Coalition to fight back

The partnership with unions and communities throughout the state is called Friends of Alaska Marine Highway. The campaign’s message is that Dunleavy’s cuts are devastating dozens of communities where people and businesses exist along isolated stretches of Alaska’s 33,000 mile coastline.

Empty store shelves

“These communities depend on ferry access for groceries and health care,” said Trina Arnold, IBU’s Alaska Regional Director. She says several towns in the coastal communities now face “urgent food shortages with empty store shelves.”

Cuts hurt health care access

“There’s also no practical way for people to reach clinics and hospitals,” says Arnold, who’s heard reports about patients unable to get care and family members being unable to visit relatives.

Native communities hit hard

The roughly 100,000 Alaska native people are being especially hard-hit by the Governor’s ferry cuts. Many live in coastal communities, including Angoon, Hoonah, Kodiak and Kake where the ferry has literally provided a lifeline.

Mobilizing for more service

On February 11, IBU and ILWU members coordinated actions with partners in Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Anchorage, Petersburg, Dutch Harbor, Cordova, Haines, Skagway, Wrangell and Kake. Several of the events attracted hundreds of community members, so the total turnout was over 700 in 10 different cities, towns and villages. The message at each action was the same: “Governor Dunleavy, restore ferry service, save our system and communities it serves.”

Union & native leaders

Union leaders, including IBU President Marina Secchitano, IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terni Mast, IBU Alaska Regional Director Trina Arnold and ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris attended the event in Juneau at the state capitol building.

“It is absolutely immoral what is happening to the residents of coastal communities in the state of Alaska. The Alaska Marine Highway System provides these communities with essential transportation services and convenient access to food and supplies. The State of Alaska needs to recognize that many of its citizens are suffering and put the ferries back into service immediately,” said ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris.

The union officials were joined by Richard Petersen, President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Also participating was the Yeex K’u Oo Alaskan Native dance group. Several state legislators came outside to join the rally in front of the capitol building. Leaders from other maritime unions belonging to the Maritime Labor Alliance also participated, including President Don Marcus of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, plus President Marshall Armey of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.

Inside and outside strategy

After rallying outside the capitol, many union members and residents went inside to visit with legislators, part of an organized grassroots lobby effort planned well in advance with the Maritime Labor Alliance.

“The Governor’s cuts are destroying hundreds of good ferry jobs and endangering dozens of communities – especially Native communities – so we have to keep fighting and organizing public support,” said IBU President Marina Secchitano. “Fortunately,” she added, “the response has been very positive.”

Deep cuts to Alaska’s public ferry system motivated many to attend a large rally in Juneau this February.

Holiday giving in Seattle: For the 2019 Christmas Season, Local 19 joined with efforts from Local 19 Pensioners, Clerks Local 52 and Foreman’s Local 98 to support ten agencies throughout King and Snohomish Counties. With just over $21,000 in donations, Seattle-area ILWU members were able to bless a wide age-range of children in the Puget Sound area. They were also able to arrange a visit to the Harborview Trauma and Burn Center with Santa.
Local 502 members hold prayer service for longshore workers

A ten-day prayer for all longshore workers was held by members from Local 502. Longshore union locals and their families were invited to a reading of the scriptures, prayer and full, free, vegetarian buffet at the Sikh Temple. More than 500 people were served. The Temple is located next to the Fraser River which is close to the original base of Local 502. Some the terminals served by the local are located on the river.

Members from Vancouver's local 500 also hold an annual prayer at the Sikh Temple in Vancouver for all longshoremen. This event in New Westminster will be held during the annual Labor Day long weekend. Blessings will be sought for the well being, success, good health, and happiness of all longshoremen and their families in every local. Everyone is invited regardless of belief or no belief and encouraged to join their brothers and sisters for a meal.

Biking the Coast for the Union’s Cause

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“Jesse ‘Nacho’ Enriquez, Chairman of Local 13’s Bloody Thursday Commemoration, where the journey will end, has canoed through the jungles of Belize and from Molokai to Oahu. When asked if he would include the bike team in the July 5 program, Nacho said, “Of course. That would be stellar. When they come riding in I’ll announce what they have accomplished. That would be great.” ILWU Credit Union V.P. Rob York said he is planning a fundraiser in the Bay Area and wants to encourage the credit unions in other areas to lend their support.

On-site support

The riders will need spare batteries, parts, food and extra clothing. These necessities will be provided from beginning to end by a supply “sag-vehicle” supported by their partnership with The Cyclist, a Costa Mesa-based bicycle company that has years of experience with electric bikes, GPS routing and long distance bike rides. Paul’s sister-in-law, Ride Coordinator and Local 13 member Donna McNamara, is in charge of logistics, lodging and food. If you want to join the team or support the ride on the road, she is the person to contact donna.mcnamara@zunia.com.

Help always appreciated

1. ILWU locals and friends are invited to join the ride. spread the word, contact the much needed local press, plan to make a donation and host the team when they arrive in your port. This tour will pass through or overnight in Bellingham, Everett, Anacortes, Port Gamble, Port Angeles, Seattle Tacoma, Olympia, Aberdeen, Astoria, Longview, Vancouver, Portland, Newport, North Bend, Eugene, Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, Port Huwemer with the 1750 mile finish on Bloody Thursday in Los Angeles.

2. Contact local authorities and inquire about any needed permits and possible escorts. Invite the police and members of the community – especially civic and social groups to JOIN the ILWU and encourage them to come to life. “I hope Dispatcher readers will pass the word, contact local newspapers, hold a small fundraiser, join ILWU Ride the Coast for a block, a mile, ride from one port to another or more.” He urges those interested in joining this Union ride to contact Paul at: paul@zunia.com or, for webpage and donation assistance, email: Robert Maynez robmaynez@aol.com.

“...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.

From left to right: Rupidner “Rivial” Dhilliwal, Intrepid Singh Hehar, Kamal Singh Thabal, Sukhbir Singh Hehar.

A Helping Hand...