ILWU’s Feed the Community Day lends a helping hand during hard times

The Southern California ILWU’s 23rd Annual Feed the Community Day, sponsored by Locals 13, 63, and 94, So Cal Pensioners, Auxiliary 8, and the ILWU credit union, provided 1,500 families with Thanksgiving meals during the ongoing pandemic. The ILWU continued its tradition of giving back to the community by giving away turkeys and all of the fixings for a traditional family holiday dinner.

The number of volunteers was kept to the bare minimum this year to keep in compliance with COVID-19 safety guidelines, but the ILWU was still able to hand out all of the meals as planned.

This year’s Feed the Community Day comes at a time when workers throughout the country are falling on hard times because of the COVID-19 driven economic crisis.

According to a Census Bureau survey, one in eight Americans reported that they didn’t have enough food to eat in the past week. The 26 million Americans struggling with food security is an increase several times greater than the most comparable pre-pandemic figure, the survey found. A Columbia University study found 8 million Americans have fallen into poverty since May as early Coronavirus relief funds dried up. Black and Latinx families were the hardest hit, the study said.

Nearly 12 million renters will owe an average of $5,850 in back rent and utilities by January when eviction and rent moratoriums are set to expire, the financial analytics company Moody Analytics warns. Last month, 9 million renters said they were behind on rent, according to a Census Bureau survey.

On the other end of the spectrum, US billionaires saw their network rise by 36% from March 18 to December 7, according to a new report by Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies. Their collective wealth now tops $4 trillion.

“This year has been so hard on many members of our community,” said Local 13’s Katy Witowski who chairs the Holiday Events Committee. “But with generous donations from ILWU members and pensioners and the hard work of our volunteers we were able to continue the tradition of giving back to those who need a helping hand during the pandemic.”
Why should we care about the election of two US Senators in Georgia?

SHOW UP AND DONATE

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

election laws require a winner to have gotten more than half the country’s problems. What a concept!

get a bipartisan pandemic relief bill. Both parties working to solve our members! He is the same guy that is working with both parties to

That can all change with the Georgia Senate races. Pro-worker sadlly, that is the record under Mitch McConnell. They have meddled

There is a runoff in the state of Georgia because no one in either of the Senate races got over 50% in the November election. (Georgia election laws require a winner to have gotten more than half the votes- a majority. That is why there is a special election. Election laws vary by state—each state has its own).

These candidates in Georgia are going to determine whether we

have gridlock in government or can move forward working together on solutions. That is why the ILWU is supporting Democrats Warnock and Ossoff. The ILA has asked the ILWU to help in these races in Georgia where a lot of our members (East Coast and Gulf Coast dockworkers) live. In response to the ILA request, the ILWU has sent Political Action Fund donations which are made up of voluntary donations from rank- and-file ILWU members. Also, there are dedicated phone banks that are available for union members to call Georgia voters about important this election is. Some volunteers are heading to Georgia to help on the ground get out the vote. Finally, we can all personally donate directly to these Senate campaigns online. A $100 donation from lots of ILWU workers can help win these elections. Whenever we visit these politicians after they win they let us know how much they appreciate the donations of our members. remember Money is the Mother’s milk of politics! Let’s help our friends in Georgia, by making a personal donation.

After the 2002 longshore contract fight (before most of you were in the ILWU) there was an appetite by many business interests to run to DC to get the government to meddle with our jobs. The ILWU has a DC office that spends all its time looking out for our interests. President Spinosa put together a rank and file committee from the Longshore Division to help the DC office fight for our interests. ILWU President Willie Adams just did the same for the non-Longshore Division locals. The Congressional members get their fill of lobbyists and are happy to see rank and file members show up in DC to advocate for their Unions. Donate, show up.

Respectfully submitted, Max Vekich, ILWU 52 Seattle, Coast Legislative Committee Chair

Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President, Mainland
William E. Adams, President
Respectfully submitted, Max Vekich, ILWU 52 Seattle, Coast Legislative Committee Chair

The ILWU Education Department will be hosting several webinars over the next four months. The webinars will address some of the aspects of the ILWU’s structure and activities—

from new organizing campaigns to political action. We will also examine what makes the ILWU unique, and the diverse groups of workers that make up our membership. Speakers will be drawn from local union officials, staff, and rank and file members, who will offer their experience and insights to participants.

With the Covid-19 pandemic limiting our ability to offer in-person workshops, these webinars offer a chance for members to connect with one another and learn more about the union.

These events will be open to all ILWU members and affiliates in good standing, with priority given to active members.

We hope you can join us at these special events.

January 26 (Tuesday): Political Action—Why maintaining a strong presence in the political arena is critical to the ILWU’s survival and how to get involved. Panels will include ILWU speakers engaged in the ILWU’s legislative action program who will discuss the union’s process for endorsements and why it is important for our union to remain active and engaged in the political process—whether on the local, state, or federal levels.

February 24 (Wednesday): New Organizing in the Age of Covid-19—How workers are building momentum in their first contract campaigns. Many new workers have signed up to join the ILWU—from veteran professionals, to childcare workers, to people working on research vessels. For anyone wishing to join a union, negotiating a first contract is always the biggest hurdle to gaining union representation on the job. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this process even more difficult. This webinar will feature some of the ILWU’s newest members discussing the challenges they faced in negotiating their first contracts in a time when in-person interaction is limited and the nation’s economic outlook is uncertain.

March 31 (Wednesday): The ILWU’s Divisions—A look at the diverse groups of workers who are part of the ILWU, with an emphasis on connections and potential cooperation. The ILWU is made up of workers in a vast variety of trades, including those working on the docks, in warehouses, on the water, in mines, offices, hotels, and retail environments, among others. This session will feature some of the diverse people who are a part of the ILWU and will explore the unique challenges faced by the ILWU’s different divisions, including a look at opportunities for working together to build a strong union.

April 27 (Tuesday): How the Union Works—The ILWU’s structure from the locals to the International. A guide to the ILWU’s internal structure, the role of the locals and the International, how decisions are made within the union, and what activities your per capita fees support.

Please register at http://www.ilwu.org/education/

Conklin’s Crossword

This crossword puzzle was submitted by ILWU pensioner Terry Conklin. Terry is a retired longshore worker who worked in Everett, WA for 25 years and in Seattle for 10 years before retiring in 2005. We will publish solution to puzzle in next month’s Dispatcher.

Across
15. Cut 42. Symbol 17. A great distance 28. The eternal soul (Egyptian)

Down
1. Thigh muscle 26. Guys
2. A grunt 27. Paper company
3. Seed covering 28. The eternal soul (Egyptian)
4. Muslim gold coin 29. An office
5. Working the docks 30. Put down
6. Mose puppy 31. Paper company
7. Musical C 32. Doubt expression
8. Musical 33. A sound of surprise
9. Female pig 34. A greeting
10. Summon 35. Whirlwind
11. Crabs 36. Pets
12. A grunt 37. Symbol
13. Bailey 38. Name
15. Cut 40. Spiritual self
16. Boo 41. Pal
17. A great distance 42. Symbol
18. Confederate soldier 43. A bone
20. Summon 45. Ecologies
21. Motor part 46. Pigeon sound
22. Boy 47. Floats
23. Right angle to the keel 48. Symbol
24. Sumlar I l'sunst 49. Symbol
25. Straighten 50. Pal
26. Guys 51. Allegro
**ILWU, ILA longshore workers receive 2020 AOTOS award**

On December 9, ILWU and ILA longshore workers were among those honored with the prestigious United Seamen’s Service (AOTOS) Award during an online virtual presentation. This year’s award ceremony honored the service of the entire American maritime community to the nation, with special recognition of four pillars of that community: the Maritime Administration; merchant mariners; U.S.-flag shipping companies; and longshore workers.

ILWU International President Willie Adams accepted the award on behalf of ILWU and ILA longshore men and women, marine clerks, mechanics and foremen. “Our brothers and sisters are being honored today as a national treasure,” Adams said. “This is their day. The nation, communities across the country, and the shipping industry owe them a debt of gratitude. They are the heart, soul and arteries of the nation’s commerce despite the personal risk and danger presented by COVID-19 globally,” said Lt. Gen. Kenneth Richard Wylie (Ret) Chairman, USS AOTOS Committee and event moderator. “These commitments deserve this most prestigious honor.”

You can watch President Adam’s presentation at [https://www.ilwu.org/aotos/](https://www.ilwu.org/aotos/)

**ADRP holds online training session amidst pandemic**

On November 30, coordinators, representatives, and volunteers for the ILWU’s Alcohol, Drug and Rehabilitation (ADRP) program held an all-day training via Zoom.

The ADRP program was created after membership pressure built over the years, beginning in 1956 when the issue was first debated openly at a Longshore Caucus meeting. The PMA and ILWU started a trial program in 1964 after arbitrator Sam Kagal asked the union and management what they were doing to help workers with addiction problems. Some locals, including 10, 13, and 21 had experimented with their own programs, but it wasn’t until 1980 that the ADRP was formally established to provide intensive help for longshore workers, clerks, and foremen.

Thanks to the pioneering efforts of George Cobbs, Bill Ward, Ed Torres, Chick Loveridge, and many others, the ADRP today helps hundreds of people get clean and sober each year up and down the coast. In addition to the formal treatment programs, ADRP volunteers provide a daily lifeline of support and encouragement for dozens of co-workers who they contact each week.

“The impact that this program has on our membership is invaluable,” said Benefit Plan Specialist John Cas-tanho. “For every dollar spent, we get a thousandfold in return. We get so much more in the way of resources to help ILWU members. This program is successful because of the work of the coordinators, representatives, and volunteers.”

Presenters at the training included Jackie Sims-Piljay, CEO of Piljay Associates, Richard Ayala Founding CEO of Bound to Change Counseling & Consulting, and Libby Timmons, Past-President of EAPF (Employee Assistance Professionals Association).

**Tell us about your TATTOO**

Local 10 Pensioner Joe Lavin:  
“I branded myself when I retired in 2012. I started on the waterfront in 1969. Down in LA, they all have tattoos but it is not as common up here. The red is for blood. We all bleed down here.”

Want to tell us about your tattoo? Send us a photo of your tattoo and story to roy@ilwu.org.
They’re not home for Christmas

Most members of ILWU Canada locals know that life onboard the world’s cargo ships is always tough. Most also know that ports in British Columbia are seen by the world’s seafarers as ports of refuge. That’s because our union — the ILWU — has a well-earned global reputation for solidarity.

That solidarity dates back to the formal launch of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) seafarers’ support program by Tommy McGrath, who was President of CBRT&GW Local 400 Marine Section. Tommy was the fiery, 5’3” leader of Local 400. He had a reputation that was larger than his physical size.

Tommy was revered in the BC labour movement. He was at the forefront of many progressive fights of the day — including the establishment of what has become a place seafarers turn to for help.

Today, the biggest issue seafarers face is the lack of respect, and response, for their human rights during the COVID pandemic.

Many of the world’s airlines have reduced services and many countries where seafarers tend to reside have imposed border restrictions — or even closed their borders to returning citizens. So, not only do seafarers face isolation and difficulties for their families, but they are facing this year. Most likely — next year, too. It is not a great life for most working on ships in the best of times. It is an enormous sacrifice to leave home for eight to 12 months to fend for your family. When their contracts are finally up, and they can head home to see families they have missed and meet children born in their absence and make graves of parents who buried while they were at sea, it is crushing to these workers to be told they can’t go.

To remain impressed on their ships because ship owners won’t fork out for scarce, expensive flights.

Over the holiday, reach out to a seafarer while you are at work. Give them a friendly wave, let them know they are part of our family, and that if they need assistance, the ILWU and ITF Inspectors Peter Lahay and Nathan Smith are here to help.

Let them know our ports have always supported them.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas with your families, and spare a moment to think about how much it means to Canada in ships.

— Peter Lahay
International Transport Workers Federation, Canada

They aren’t home for Christmas

Bridges’ Center awards: The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington holds its Annual Awards Banquet to celebrate the contributions of students, faculty, and workers to labor research and advocacy. Despite the challenges of converting a large banquet to an on-line format due to the pandemic, the Harry Bridges Center welcomed over 110 participants to the 2020 Labor Studies Awards Celebration on Sunday, November 15. William Adams, International President of the ILWU, provided the keynote address.

The Harry Bridges Center was established in 1992, when a grassroots fundraising campaign by ILWU members and pensioners gathered $1,000 each from 1,000 people to establish an Endowed Faculty Chair in Labor Studies in honor of longtime ILWU President Harry Bridges. Today, the Harry Bridges Endowed Chair is held by Kim England, Professor of Geography at the University of Washington, who has led the Bridges Center through a period of unprecedented growth, overseeing the expansion of the Bridges’ Labor Studies courses, research, and community outreach.

Bridges Center for Labor Studies forges ahead in uncertain times

The Harry Bridges Center welcomed over 110 participants to the 2020 Labor Studies Awards Celebration on Sunday, November 15. William Adams, International President of the ILWU, provided the keynote address.

The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington held its 2020 awards ceremony online via Zoom this year. ILWU President Willie Adams (bottom) gave the keynote address. The event was hosted by Professor Kim England (top) who is the program’s Endowed Chair.

What does this mean to seafarers? Well, it means it’s hard to get them home and hard to get replacements aboard. However, just because something becomes hard, it doesn’t mean seafarers should have their basic rights stripped from them.

Today, we routinely see seafarers who are trapped on ships for up to 20 months. I’ll say that again: 20 months. Think about that. If you agreed to work on a ship for nine months and some 11 months have passed since you were allowed to leave, what would you do? We know what you are thinking: you’d just walk down that gangway and head home.

Think again. These workers are on ships because they are exploitable. That’s right. They are hired exactly because they are exploitable — and usually cheap. If you are an exploitable worker, even though you do have some rights, most often you will choose to not ask that your rights be respected. That’s because your demands may mean you are blacklisted from future employment. Maybe you have a brother or sister employed through the same agency, or someone in your family is trying to get their first ship. They might be blacklisted too because you have demanded to go home to the Philippines, or to India, where there are still fights.

That is what the world’s seafarers are facing this year. Most likely — next year, too. It is not a great life for most working on ships in the best of times. It is an enormous sacrifice to leave home for eight to 12 months to fend for your family. When their contracts are finally up, and they can head home to see families they have missed and meet children born in their absence and make graves of parents who buried while they were at sea, it is crushing to these workers to be told they can’t go.

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To remain impressed on their ships because ship owners won’t fork out for scarce, expensive flights.
Sanitation workers in New Orleans have been on strike for nearly seven months now — and the ILWU is on the picket line in solidarity.

This fight is one of 2,500 miles away but, the strikers’ employer is based right here in Tacoma. When we learned about the workers’ treatment by TrueBlue Inc., we knew we needed to take action.

The all-Black workforce walked off the job on May 5 in protest of conditions under the ongoing COVID-19 cri sis, demanding a living wage, hazard pay, PPE, healthcare, and recognition of their independent City Waste Union.

Trash pick-up in New Orleans is old school. The workers are called “hoppers” because they still ride on the backs of trucks, hopping on and off to collect garbage across the city, unlike the semi-automated services seen elsewhere.

It was a dirty, dangerous job even before the pandemic. Garbage trucks are poorly maintained by the company, with hydraulic fluid leaking on workers during their shifts. Slips, trips, and falls are routine and nearly every worker has experienced a lost time injury during the course of their job.

It’s thankless, underpaid work. The hoppers only made $10.25 an hour before the strike and received no healthcare benefits.

And their employment is particularly precarious. The hoppers are not directly employed by the City of New Orleans or even by Metro Service Group, who has the contract with the city, but rather through a subcontracting temp agency called PeopleReady. You might know them better under an older name: Labor Ready.

With over 600 locations across the United States, in 2019, PeopleReady brought in $2.4 billion in revenue. Despite being a “temp” agency, many of their poorly paid employees are anything but part time: plenty of New Orleans’ hoppers have been working there for more than a decade.

In July, labor activists from ILWU Locals 19 & 52 in Seattle saw a piece in The New York Times about the strike and learned about the company’s presence here in Tacoma. These Seattle longshore activists asked the Young Workers if we would join the fight and help recruit picket support.

So for the past several months now, we’ve rallied each week to uplift the strikers’ demands, picketing TrueBlue’s office at 1015 A St in downtown Tacoma.

But the fight in New Orleans is about more than just bread & butter issues. Taking direct inspiration from the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike — and that strike’s legendary rallying cry: “I AM A MAN” — the hoppers see their struggle very much in the same terms as ’68.

Just as the Memphis strike was part of the Civil Rights Movement, so too is New Orleans part of the Movement for Black Lives. Moreover, Mem phis was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s last campaign, as detailed in labor historian Michael Honey’s Going Down Jericho Road.

King was drawn away from higher profile campaigns in Chicago and DC to support the strike and died there, when he was assassinated by a gunman on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. Effectively, he died on a picket line.

Less than a year before the Memphis strike, Dr. King was sworn in as an honorary member of ILWU Local 10. Those of us in Seattle and Tacoma also see this fight as part of that same struggle — and as a continuation of the ILWU’s historic commitment to fight racism and discrimination in all its forms, particularly in the wake of our historic Juneteenth shutdown earlier this year.

We’re building an impressive coalition here too, with members joining us from several groups, including the AFT, NEA, SEIU, UFCW, IUPAT, UAPD, DSA, the Puyallup Tribe and more.

We recently turned up the heat against TrueBlue through a call-in campaign — or “phone zap.” For an entire work day, from 9-5 activists jamed the company’s phone lines with messages and requests to speak to management, highlighting the strikers’ demands and insisting the company bargain in good faith.

It’s up to us to keep the pressure on the company and make sure they know this is an issue they can’t ignore.

So stay on the lookout: we might be calling on the rest of the ILWU to take further action soon.

Longshore activists in other cities have already started to ramp up their activity by taking the fight directly to PeopleReady’s doorstep, picketing their locations outside Seattle and in the Bay Area.

You can also help City Waste Union just by spreading the word. Even more importantly, if you can afford it, please donate to their strike fund at uwlove.com.

For more information on weekly actions, follow ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ilwu23ywc. #BlackLivesMatter

– Zack Patin, ILWU No. 23 Young Workers Committee

From left to right: Danny Arneberg, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, Local 23 President Jared Faker, & Brian Skiffington (August 7).

City Waste union solidarity

Week 11: Members of ILWU Locals 19 & 23, NALC, UFCW 367, UAPD, SEIU 925, and Tacoma DSA (October 15).

The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies forges ahead in uncertain times

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beyond. Labor Archivists Conor Casey and Crystal Rogers shared their current projects, including an on-going digi tal oral history collaboration with the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association. Afterwards, UW student and previous Bridges Center scholarship recipient Jasmine Fernandez spoke on behalf of United Students Against Sweatshops and Anabahayuw@UW, two student groups devoted to building labor solidarity on campus. Fernandez then presented a video they prepared of students reading the lyrics to “Solidarity Forever.” The video is available to view at https://app.vidhub.com/5JTFQjuPfT/hug.

Keynote Address by ILWU President Wilie Adams

To close the Awards Celebration, the Bridges Center was honored to welcome keynote speaker Willie Adams, International President of the ILWU.

Adams began his speech by congratulating and thanking the award recipients for exemplifying “the kind of thinking that would take us forward.” His gratitude extended to all workers during this pandemic, especially the frontline workers, “the heroes who don’t wear capes.”

Adams drew parallels between the tumultuous year of 1934 that gave birth to the ILWU and the many struggles in the current moment.

“Today in 2020, we are faced with police brutality, COVID-19 and an economy on life-support. Young people are rising up, taking to the streets, marching, voting and fighting for socioeconomic and political justice,” Adams said.

“What inspires me today is to hear so many of this year’s recipients talking about organizing and grassroots activism. To all of the students that are honored, we need your skills.”

Adams recognized the activists who took to the streets to protest the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others. “Police brutality and racist violence must be stopped. There are good cops, but they must stand up and intervene,” he said.

Adams noted the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on Black and Latino communities. “I lost three family members to COVID-19,” Adams said. “Hundreds of thousands of Americans have died who should not have died because no one was leading our country.”

Adams stressed the importance of using political action as one of many tactics available to workers. “As we march, we must vote. The ILWU is going to be engaged in the political process to win the two Senate seats in Georgia. Politicians aren’t the answer to labor and the working-class but we also have to use this tool as we fight,” Adams said.

As 2021 approaches, President Adams pushed all activists to consider, “What will be our vision, what will be our future?” Adams ended his speech with this piece of advice to the labor community at large: “We must continue to fight every ill of injustice, discrimination, bias, on gender, race, age, whatever. We have to continue and we have to be that voice. We have to be loud and we have to be in the streets. I encourage you, let’s continue to fight. Let’s continue to be vigilant. To the students, let’s continue to build these coalitions, and let’s remember those who came before us, whose shoulders we stand, tall and mighty. We must continue to fight, with diligence, with intelligence, ongoing as we go down this path.”

continued on page 8
NOTICE TO ALL ILWU-REPRESENTED WORKERS, ILWU MEMBERS, FINANCIAL CORE NON-MEMBERS AND NEW HIRES

This notice applies to all ILWU-represented workers, ILWU members, nonmembers and new hires working in the private sector in an ILWU bargaining unit, including members, nonmembers and individuals who at any time become financial core non-members by any means, including by choice, suspension or expulsion from union membership in any local or division affiliated with the ILWU, for the one year period following the date of this notice or until such time covered by a later notice of similar kind.

The information contained herein applies to ILWU International per capita and, for those working within the Longshore Division, also to the ILWU Coast Longshore Division Pro Rata fees or payments of any kind under the Longshore Division collective bargaining agreements. This notice also applies to local dues and fees paid to any affiliated ILWU locals or divisions, except those affiliates who have chosen not to be covered by this notice because they have issued their own separate notice under their own separate policies and procedures. (Accordingly, this notice shall be superseded by any notice issued by any affiliated ILWU local or division with respect to its dues and fees.)

Please be advised that individuals working under a union security clause contained in a collective bargaining agreement, notwithstanding the specific provisions of such clause, are only required as a condition of employment under such clause to pay uniform dues and any required initiation fees and may, by writing to the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer resign or decline union membership and choose to become a financial core non-member at any time. Such “financial core non-members” are deemed to be in compliance with any union security clause in a collective bargaining agreement, regardless of any specific wording to the contrary, so long as they timely pay all regular and periodic financial core dues or fees properly charged by their bargaining representative as explained herein.

Please be advised, however, that financial core non-members deprive themselves of the valuable rights of union membership in the ILWU and their ILWU local or division, and their wages, health and disability benefits, sick leave, paid holidays, pension contributions, retirement benefits, and other benefits to which they would be entitled, in the ILWU or in the Longshore Division, in the event of a closure,吊 odds of being laid off in the event of a lay off, and many other benefits. Financial core non-members will lose the right within a specified 30 day period of time to object to paying for the nonchargeable activities and expenses’ portion of his or her local dues or fees paid to his/her ILWU local, the per capita fee, which the local pays to the ILWU International, as well as any Coast pro rata fees paid to the ILWU Coast Longshore Division. In the event a financial core non-member employed outside the ILWU Coast Longshore Division properly makes such objection, he or she shall receive either the appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues or local fees, and per capita fees equal to the ILWU International’s nonchargeable percentage of 10% stated above. In the event a financial core non-member working within the ILWU Coast Longshore Division properly makes such objection, he or she shall receive either the appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues or local fees, and per capita fees equal to the ILWU International’s nonchargeable percentage of 5.28% stated above. In addition, such individual will also receive a reduction or an advance rebate of 10% of his/her per capita that is paid to the ILWU International.

The ILWU International Executive Board and the ILWU Coast Longshore Division have adopted the following Procedures on Financial Core Non-Members Objecting to Nonchargeable Expenditures (hereinafter called the “Procedures”). Under the Procedures, a financial core non-member of any affiliated ILWU local and division has the right within a specified 30 day period of time to object to paying for the nonchargeable activities and expenses’ portion of his or her local dues or fees paid to his/her ILWU local, the per capita fee, which the local pays to the ILWU International, as well as any Coast pro rata fees paid to the ILWU Coast Longshore Division. In the event a non-chargeable fee or deduction outside the ILWU Coast Longshore Division properly makes such objection, he or she shall receive either the appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues or local fees, and per capita fees equal to the ILWU International’s nonchargeable percentage of 10% stated above. In the event a financial core non-member working outside the ILWU Coast Longshore Division properly makes such objection, he or she shall receive either the appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues or local fees, and per capita fees equal to the ILWU International’s nonchargeable percentage of 5.28% stated above. In addition, such individual will also receive a reduction or an advance rebate of 10% of his/her per capita that is paid to the ILWU International.

Under the Procedures, an objection by a financial core non-member must be made in writing and post-marked within 30 days from the date of this notice or, alternatively, the date of becoming a new hire or becoming a financial core non-member under an ILWU union security clause and receipt of this notice, whichever is later, and addressed to the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer, 1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94110. To be valid, the written objection must specify the objectionee’s name, address, the name of his or her employer and the name of the local union or division which represents the objector. A written objection must be timely in order to be valid. Without waiving the 30-day filing period with respect to other notices of this type, please be advised that under this notice only, objections filed by current financial core non-members will be deemed timely if postmarked on or before February 1, 2021. Individuals who after the date of this notice become new hires or financial core non-members may file an objection within 30 days of the date they become a new hire or financial core non-member or the date they receive this notice.

Unchanged by a later notice, those financial core non-members and new hires who file timely objections will not be charged from the date they file a timely objection through December 31, 2021 for expenditures related to nonchargeable activities based on the applicable percentages noted above and also will be provided detailed, independently verified financial information concerning the breakdown between chargeable and nonchargeable expenditures of the ILWU International, the ILWU Coast Longshore Division (if the objector works within the Longshore Division) and of their ILWU local. Objectors will also be given an opportunity to file, within 30 days of receipt of such financial information, a challenge to the amount and calculation of any such nonchargeable expenditures and percentages, as well as an opportunity to have such a challenge resolved, if not voluntarily settled, through expeditious arbitration before a neutral arbitrator selected by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in proceedings conducted under AAA Rules applicable to objections to agency fees. Please request that the amount or portion of financial core fees pending the period for filing any objection and challenge as well as the amount reasonably in dispute pursuant to any challenge will be kept in an interest bearing Association (AAA) in proceedings conducted under AAA Rules applicable to objections to agency fees. Please note that the amount or portion of financial core fees pending the period for filing any objection and challenge as well as the amount reasonably in dispute pursuant to any challenge will be kept in an interest bearing Association (AAA) in proceedings conducted under AAA Rules applicable to objections to agency fees.

It is important to know that the vast majority of ILWU represented workers believe that the little extra in dues is quite a bargain for maintaining union membership and enjoying all the valuable benefits of full participation in the governing of the ILWU, and the negotiation of working conditions. For a few cents more each week, union members enjoy all the benefits of membership in the ILWU. We sincerely believe that after careful consideration, new hires and financial core non-members will agree that becoming and remaining a union member makes the most financial sense. If you are not a union member already but are eligible for membership under your Local’s constitution and rules, please contact your ILWU local to join the ILWU.

This notice may be superseded or amended by later notices as issued by the ILWU, the Coast Longshore Division or affiliated locals and divisions of the ILWU.

(rev. Nov. 2020)
Alois Jervis Lannon, former President of Local 6 and ILWU Washington Representative, passed away in August after battling a rare bone plasma cancer at the age of 82.

Radical roots

Lannon was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1938. He grew up as a self-described juvenile delinquent on East 12th St. and Third Avenue in Manhattan. Both of his parents were members of the Communist Party (CPUSA). His father, Al Sr., was a former seaman, maritime organizer for the CPUSA, and co-founder of the National Maritime Union which represented merchant mariners on the East and Gulf coasts, and on the Great Lakes.

The Smith Act

Lannon’s father was one of 17 suspects arrested in New York on June 20, 1951 for conspiracy to teach and advocate the overthrow of the US Government by force and violence under the Alien Registration Act. More popularly known as Smith Act, the Alien Registration Act was passed in 1940 in part to target ILWU co-founder Harry Bridges a part of the US government’s unsuccessful effort to deport him.

Second string red

Between 1951 and 1956, a total of 132 suspected members of the Communist Party were arrested and tried under the Smith Act. They were dubbed “second string reds” because they were part of a second wave of arrests of leftists that began after the Supreme Court upheld the convictions of 11 leaders of CPUSA in 1951 when it ruled that the Smith Act was constitutional in Dennis v. United States. In 1956, the Court would stop just short of striking down the Smith Act in Yates v. United States, but the ruling limited the scope of the law so narrowly that it became practically unenforceable.

Lannon followed in his father’s radical footsteps. He participated in Party-led youth groups and was active in the “New Left” of the 1960s. He eventually drifted away from the organized left when he became a union activist and eventually broke completely with the Communist Party after the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia that ended the “Prague Spring” political reforms that attempted to build “socialism with a human face.”

Moving West

In 1958, Lannon made his way to California following his parents who moved to San Francisco 3 years earlier. After serving a two-year prison term for his Smith Act conviction, Lannon’s father was dubbed by the FBI who made sure that he would be unemployable. With the help of Bridges, Al Sr., was able to get a job as a warehouse worker at an ILWU Local 6 shop.

Joining Local 6

After working several non-union jobs, Lannon began his relationship with the ILWU in 1962 when he attempted to organize a small group of non-union workers into the Local 6 bargaining unit at Merchandising Methods where he worked. He was assisted by Local 6 Business Agent Keith Eckman who would later become his close friend and mentor. Although the organizing effort failed, Lannon worked as a casual out of the Local 6 hall during the campaign and was later inducted into the local. He began working at Russell Bolt and Manufacturing Company, a nuts and bolts warehouse where became a shop steward.

As shop steward, Lannon organized social activities to encourage participation in the union. “As a shop steward I regularly attended and participated in monthly stewards’ council meetings, volunteering for everything,” Lannon said. “I initiated an Activities Committee which set up a Local 6 bowling league, a softball team, and held socials at the union hall. It was such a success at involving younger, inactive, union members that the rank-and-file Board of Trustees, with the support of the officers, gave us $500 to move forward. Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer George Valter had a fit, however, when I used most of that money to hire the John Handy Quintet—recent stars of the Monterey Jazz Festival—for a Sunday afternoon jazz concert at the Fisherman’s Wharf longshoremen’s hall. The concert was great, and, luckily, we broke even.”

Lannon continued his activism within the union, being elected as an overseas delegate in 1965 and writing articles for the Dispatcher.

Answering the call

In 1967, Lannon was living at St. Francis Square, a 299-unit apartment co-op developed with money from the ILWU pension fund in an effort to ensure affordable and integrated housing in the Western Addition neighborhood of San Francisco. Lannon was approached ILWU International Representative and neighbor LeRoy King who asked him to come to work for the Local to help negotiate six office worker contracts that were set to expire.

After successfully negotiating the contracts, Lannon settled into learning the ropes of servicing the six shops. “I made sure to include the members on all decision-making, from grievance settlements to contract negotiations,” Lannon said. “That’s the kind of union I understood the ILWU to be, and it worked for me just fine.”

Washington Representative

Then in 1968, Lannon was offered the job of ILWU Washington Representative so he and his family relocated to Washington DC where he pushed for improvements in federal laws like the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act, which regulated payments for injuries to dock workers. He also fought to protect ILWU jobs by opposing limits on log exports to Japan, and to improve safety regulations.

The position also enabled Lannon to work on progressive causes consistent with the ILWU’s values like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Poor People’s Campaign and Labor for Peace which opposed the US war in Vietnam.

Return to California

In 1971, Lannon returned to Local 6 and was hired to represent workers at McCormick-Schilling Spices and Nes- tle Chocolate in Salinas, CA. In 1975, he resigned from his staff position and was elected as a Business Agent in San Francisco. In 1982 he was elected Local 6 President after the retirement of Keith Eckman. He held that post until 1988 when, facing a tough election and battling alcoholism, Lannon decided to run instead for West Bay Business Agent and was defeated.

A new direction

After losing his election, Lannon began taking jobs out of the hall but he knew it was time for a change. At age 51, he got sober, received his GED, and began taking night classes at San Francisco State, eventually earning three degrees: BA, Labor Studies, BA, Inter-disciplinary Creative Arts, MA, History. He taught Labor Studies at City College, SF State, and Laney College, where he served was the Chair of the Labor Studies program. He authored two books, Fight or Be Slaves: The History of the Oakland-East Bay Labor Movement and Second String Red: The Life of Al Lannon, American Communist, a biography of his father.

In 2001 Lannon retired to Arizona where he continued to be politically active. He joined picket lines in support of strike hands and laundry workers, and became closely involved with the Southern Arizona Alliance for Economic Justice.” Lannon said. “I also joined with Quakers and others to lie down in the streets – a die-in – when the US invaded Iraq in March, 2003.”

In June of 2017 Lannon was diagnosed with myeloma, an incurable bone plasma cancer which Lannon believes was caused by his exposure to benzene when he worked as a commercial painter in New York at the age of 18. In 2020, Lannon began chemotherapy and moved back to California. He passed away at the age of 82. He is survived by his partner Katlin and son Erik.
The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies forges ahead in uncertain times

Honoring Supporters

The Harry Bridges Center and the Labor Archives of Washington depend on the support of a strong community of union members and labor activists. Each year members of that community are honored with the Robert Duggan Distinguished Supporter of Labor Studies Award, named for the labor lawyer and former longshore worker whose dedicated efforts helped to create the Harry Bridges Endowed Chair. In 2020, the award was presented to Pam and Tom Lux and the organizing they lead, the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association (PNLHA).

Since its founding in 1968, PNLHA has been the foremost advocate for preserving and educating about the history of labor in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and beyond. Under the leadership of its longtime former president Ross Rieder, the Association’s many activities laid decades of groundwork for the Labor Archives. In 2018, under the leadership of current president Tom Lux, the PNLHA established a dedicated endowment to honor the best labor history papers written by University of Washington students.

This year witnessed the passing of two of the Harry Bridges Center’s most stalwart supporters, Russell Alexander and Charles Bergquist, who were honored with a moment of silence at the Celebration. ILWU Pensioner Russell Alexander, retired from Seattle’s Local 19, was an annual fixture at Bridges Center banquets along with his wife Ursula and their family.

A Spark Is Struck

The spark first lit at the University of Washington by ILWU members and pensioners in 1992 with the creation of the Harry Bridges Chair has grown exponentially. Entering its twenty-ninth year, the Bridges Center is poised to reach, and Labor Studies courses (many offered for the first time) continue to see high enrollments. The Bridges Center is also expanding beyond the Seattle campus, with new initiatives on the UW Tacoma and UW Bothell campuses, and there are plans to launch a new student internship program in the spring.

To learn more and follow the Bridges Center’s activities, visit labor.washington.edu.

New Pensions:

Local 4: Laci D. Dyer; Local 8: Billie A. Miles; Local 10: Joao M. Gomes; Willie Hamlin; John M. King; Alfred S. Thibeudeau; Gail O. Bailey; Epluribus D. Harris; Brian D. Ong; Local 12: Jonathan D. Hardman; Local 13: Michael A. Castello; Victor Sanchez; Thelma J. Swanson; Saul Q. Dejesus; David Villa; Figueroa G. Chavez; David W. Fearn; Vincent Hodge; Paolo Di Girolamo; Kenneth A. Tarvin; Local 19: Steve E. Stuller; Brian N. Alford; Kenneth E. Cavin; David L. Mccinnis; Local 23: Richard P. Marzano; Morgan A. Fix; Local 34: William B. Meadors; Local 52: Eboja M. Aja; Sean W. O’Donnell; Local 63: Thomas M. Woodbury; Ray L. Jenkins; Ruben O. Nunez; Steven D. Witty; Local 63: OCU: Julie Ott; Garnet Carián; Local 94: John J. Onorato Jr.;

Deceased Pensions:

Local 8: Cihon S. Kairala; Donald Ronne; Timothy Madden (Kaleen); Local 10: Juanita R. Guldech (Joy); Carlo J. Cefalu; Robert B. Huber (Robert); Mario R. Rivas (Lesbia); David H. Brown; Arturo F. Estropia; Local 13: Bryan M. Roger; Miguel D. Martinez; Frank T. Gasper Jr (Lena); Nicholas B. Lomeli; Dino E. Vila; Local 19: Randy K. Brown (Ruth); Local 21: Mikkel E. Chappelle; Local 26: Ralph Rodriguez; Local 34: Percy Grech; Andrew N. Walker; Local 40: Charles P. Dobbins; Local 63: OCU: Cheryl Ervin; Local 54: Frank G. Dobales; Local 63: Manuel H. Camarena; Ronald J. Surina; Linda Palacios; Billy D. Ross; Charles J. Griesgraber; Arthur A. Conte; Local 92: George E. Harms; Lloyd H. Pellham; Local 94: Fred S. Splan (Elaine); Albert E. Kelley; Deceased Survivors:

Local 8: Joy J. Christner; Local 10: Gloria C. Johnson; Karen E. Gomez; Angela De Andrade; Local 13: Jo Ann M. Melgiza; Mary Tutanich; Local 21: Darlene T. Rea; Local 23: Barbara Kimbrough; Local 46: Ruth Banrgrover; Local 63: Kay K. Mattera; Hazel W. Wallace;