



# THE DISPATCHER

www.ilwu.org

VOL 79, NO 1 • JANUARY 2021

## THE INSIDE NEWS

ILWU celebrates the inauguration of the Joe Biden and Kamala Harris	2
Warnock & Ossoff win GA Senate races	3
ILWU denounces attack on the US Capitol	3
ILWU members continue the tradition of holiday giving	5
TRANSITIONS	8
BOOKS & VIDEO	8



ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee hosts online meeting [page 6](#)



## COVID-19 pandemic: A year of record highs and devastating lows

The global pandemic has pushed the supply chain to the brink and claimed at least 12 Longshore lives

ILWU Longshore workers have been loading and unloading cargo nonstop on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic since February 2020, when cruise ships first arrived in U.S. West Coast ports with infected passengers and their cargo, igniting questions about how to protect workers and the community from the virus.

Shortly thereafter, in late February and early March, states of emergency were declared in Washington, California, and Oregon, followed by shelter in place orders up and down the West Coast. ILWU workers were promptly deemed essential and have continued to work through the health crisis.

**Workplace safety protocols**

The ILWU acted early to negotiate for protective equipment and procedures with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA).

“By negotiating for safer COVID-19 worker protocols, well before state and federal legislators got to it, ILWU workers demonstrated that workers united in a labor union have the power to not only make their own worksites safer than they would be otherwise, but also to strengthen the economy and the response to crisis by keeping the ports open and operating for the greater good,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams.

Most of the PMA employers followed the negotiated guidelines, including enhanced cleaning, illness

tracking and other protocols, giving Longshore workers some measure of protection as they continued by necessity to ride shuttle busses among the port terminals and interact with other workers to get the job done.

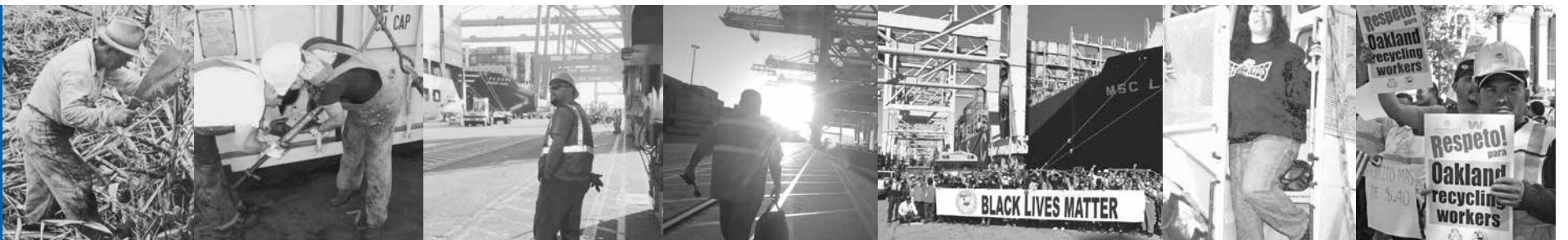
“In some instances, when PMA employers disregarded the protective protocols, employer compliance was obtained only after ILWU representatives and workers threatened to stand by on health and safety, which is our contractual right,” said Ramon Ponce de Leon, President of ILWU Local 13.

The protocols laid out by the union and the PMA employers initially succeeded in keeping a much-feared COVID health crisis at bay and kept marine terminals operating,

*continued on page 4*

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.





# ILWU celebrates the inauguration of the 46th President of the United States Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris

On January 20th President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were sworn in during a scaled back inaugural ceremony on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Twenty-five thousand National Guard troops were brought in to secure the Capitol because of the threat of violence from Trump supporters who assaulted the US Congress two-weeks prior.

The ILWU released a statement congratulating the incoming Biden-Harris Administration:

“The International Longshore and Warehouse Union congratulates the 46th President of the United States Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on their historic inauguration today. ‘Today marks a new direction for our country,’ said President Willie Adams. ‘The hope of unions and the working class has been restored.’

“After four years of division, we look forward to working with the Biden administration to solve the many crises facing the American people today. The new administration must confront a daunting set of chal-

lenges: the worst public health crisis in 100 years, the worst economy since the Great Depression, massive wealth inequality, and a political crisis brought on by a sustained attack on our democratic institutions by the outgoing president.

“With these crises comes the opportunity for new beginnings. The American people voted overwhelmingly for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. We have put our trust in their leadership to not only undo the damage from the last four years but set a new course that addresses the country’s deep racial inequities, confronts the existential threat of climate change, restores voting rights to all Americans and rolls back the decades long assault on the rights of workers to organize and join a union.

“This task does not fall on the new administration alone. A union’s strength rests on an active and engaged membership. This is also true for our country. Today we celebrate this inauguration. Tomorrow, we roll up our sleeves and get to work by healing our divisions, restoring faith in our democratic institutions and building an economy that benefits and uplifts all workers.”



### First days actions

President Biden, who has pledged to be the most pro-union president in history, got to work quickly. With a bust of labor leader Cesar Chavez on the desk behind him, Biden signed several Executive Orders reversing actions taken by his predecessor, including changes to the U.S. response to the pandemic, measures to ease some of the financial strain resulting from COVID-19, rejoining the Paris Climate Accords and World Health Organization, initiating immigration reforms, making changes to the U.S. census count of immigrants, and actions to advance racial equity throughout the U.S. government.

### Shake-up at the NLRB

In a move that was praised by labor leaders, Biden also fired the Trump-appointed general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Peter Robb, a former management-side labor attorney who played a key role in Ronald Reagan’s crushing of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) strike in 1981 and firing of more than 11,300 air traffic controllers. Robb brought a staunchly pro-business voice to the NLRB, an agency which is tasked with overseeing union elections and upholding workers’ rights to organize.

## ILWU Educational Webinar Series

The ILWU is hosting a series of leadership webinars as part of our educational programming. We encourage all members and affiliates to sign up for any of these upcoming events.

The webinars will run from 6:00-7:30 PM on the dates specified.

**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 veterinary 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/>

Questions may be directed to ILWU Education Director Robin Walker at: [robin.walker@ilwu.org](mailto:robin.walker@ilwu.org)

## Tell us about your TATTOO



### Philip Schill, Local 21

*My grandfather, Earl Schill, was a longshoreman in Longview, WA and retired when I was just a kid. Growing up, I wanted to be just like Grandpa and become a longshoreman. Unfortunately, he passed away the year after I graduated from high school in 1986. My dad quit while he was still a casual.*

*I applied for every drawing. After years of attempts, it finally happened and in March of 2005, I became an unidentified casual. In 2008, when I advanced to the B-board, I got a tattoo in remembrance of my grandpa.*

*On the lower cuff of the sleeve you can see his registration number, 92036, passing me the hook with my registration number through my arm at the top-92796.”*

Share your story. Email [roy@ilwu.org](mailto:roy@ilwu.org)

## DISPATCHER

Roy San Filippo  
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS  
William E. Adams, President  
Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President, Mainland  
Edwin Ferris, Secretary-Treasurer

The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/Aug issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. The *Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to The *Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



# Democrats sweep Georgia Senate runoffs, ending Republican control of the Senate

On January 5th, Georgia voters went to the polls and elected Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff to the United States Senate. Rev. Warnock is the senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta—a position once held by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—and will be the first African-American senator from the State of Georgia and only the second African-American from the South elected to the Senate since Reconstruction. Jon Ossoff, who was a former intern for the late Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis, will be the first Jewish senator from Georgia.

The Senate will be evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Vice President Kamala Harris will be in a position to cast any tie-breaking votes in the chamber, effectively giving control of the Senate to the Democrats.

“This historic victory in Georgia will enable the incoming Biden administration the ability to appoint cabinet members and enact policies without the obstruction of Mitch McConnell,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams. “After four years of incompetence, chaos and a lack of leadership, there is a lot of work that needs to be done, starting with an effective vaccine distribution system throughout the country so we can finally get this deadly and destructive virus under control, and stabilize the economy for workers.”



## ILWU denounces attack on the US Capitol

The ILWU and was among dozens of labor unions that denounced the shocking attack on the United States capitol building on January 6th, by supporters of Donald Trump as the Senate met to officially certify the electoral college win of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Thousands of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol following a rally which included a speech by Donald Trump. One Capitol police officer was killed by the mob and a second officer took his own life a few days following the attack. On January 13th, Donald Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives in a bipartisan vote. He is the only President in United States history to be impeached twice.

“I was saddened, angered and outraged watching the attack on our democracy yesterday. Donald Trump, after weeks of spreading dangerous conspiracy theories and lies about his election loss, incited a mob of supporters who then assaulted the Capitol Building with the intent of preventing Congress from certifying the 2020 election. Trump’s role in instigating this attack on the US Congress was despicable and impeachable,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams in a statement released on Twitter.

“They will not succeed in preventing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris from being our next President and Vice President, but those who participated in or supported this action represent a dangerous and growing threat to our republic. The labor movement has a vital role to play in countering this threat.

We must answer the division and demagoguery of Trump with work-


ing class solidarity and democracy. We must work to strengthen voting rights throughout the country to ensure everyone has the ability to participate in elections and we must continue to organize and build strong unions to bring democracy, economic justice and a voice for workers to every workplace.”

The ILWU’s Titles Officers released a statement on January 8 denouncing the attack.

“We condemn the riots and violence that took place at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 as a heinous act against the American people and our democracy. On the day of the certification of the U.S. Presidential election, we stood in shock as we witnessed an uncontrollable violent mob of domestic terrorists storm the Capitol in an effort to intimidate elected members of Congress from counting the states’ electoral votes because they did not like the results of the election and refused to admit defeat,” the statement said.

“Words cannot describe how reprehensible these actions are against our most sacred and valued tradition: our democracy. These anti-democratic acts were incited by President Trump, who has spent the past four years using his office to stoke division within our nation. Trump has marginalized workers, immigrants, women, people of color, and anyone he perceives as his enemy. His rhetoric has encouraged a rise in hate crimes, and he has repeatedly refused to condemn acts of violence perpetrated by some of his supporters. He has single handedly deteriorated the reputation of our country. Although promising to ‘Make America Great Again,’ Trump has splintered our country in a time of heartache and suffering.”

INTERNATIONAL  
LONGSHORE &  
WAREHOUSE UNION



1188 FRANKLIN STREET, 4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA 94109  
(415) 775-0533  
(415) 775-1302 FAX  
www.ILWU.org

January 8, 2021

To: All Locals and Affiliates, Pension Clubs and Auxiliaries

Brothers and Sisters,

We condemn the riots and violence that took place at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 as a heinous act against the American people and our democracy. On the day of the certification of the U.S. Presidential election, we stood in shock as we witnessed an uncontrollable violent mob of domestic terrorists storm the Capitol in an effort to intimidate elected members of Congress from counting the states’ electoral votes because they did not like the results of the election and refused to admit defeat. Words cannot describe how reprehensible these actions are against our most sacred and valued tradition: our democracy.

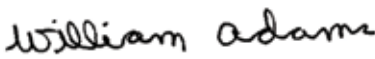
These anti-democratic acts were incited by President Trump, who has spent the past four years using his office to stoke division within our nation. Trump has marginalized workers, immigrants, women, people of color, and anyone he perceives as his enemy. His rhetoric has encouraged a rise in hate crimes, and he has repeatedly refused to condemn acts of violence perpetrated by some of his supporters. He has single handedly deteriorated the reputation of our country. Although promising to “Make America Great Again,” Trump has splintered our country in a time of heartache and suffering.


In the midst of so much darkness, let us remember the positives from January 6, 2021. Against all odds, Raphael Warnock won his runoff election, becoming the first Black Senator for the state of Georgia. Jon Ossoff won his runoff election, becoming the first Jewish Senator for the state of Georgia. As of January 20, 2021, the Democratic Party will have the majority of all three branches of government: the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Presidency.


As we look to the future, it is critical to our survival as workers and as a union that we come together as a nation and heal our wounds. Although we cannot change the hate in the hearts and minds of others, we have to make sure that the events of January 6<sup>th</sup> is not the beginning of a greater condition.

The ILWU has a duty to uphold our founding mantra of “An Injury to One is an Injury to All.” Our union will always be on the front lines fighting for social, economic, and racial justice. We need to find a way to set our differences aside and work together. The future of our democracy depends on our participation, not our silence. We must fight for a better tomorrow and a better America.

In solidarity,

  
William E. Adams  
International President

  
Bobby Olvera, Jr.  
International Vice President

  
Edwin R. Ferris  
International Secretary-Treasurer

WEA/BO/EF/akj cwa 39521

DISPATCHER • JANUARY 2021 3



# COVID-19 pandemic: A year of record highs and devastating lows

*continued from page 1*

which is a testament to their efforts. In fact, following a dip in cargo movement in the spring of 2020, imports came roaring back to record-breaking levels in the summer and fall, and ILWU workers were lauded for their courage and hard work.

## ILWU adapts, breaks records

Port of Los Angeles Executive Gene Seroka, in his State of the Port speech in January of 2021, said, “Our container business in 2020 was the most erratic we have ever seen, with volumes plunging nearly 19% in the first five months of the year, followed by an unprecedented second-half surge. Our ILWU longshore workforce did a great job adapting to the huge swings in volume, as did port truckers and everyone else involved in moving cargo through our Port.”

“Longshore workers are proud of the work we’ve done through the pandemic, loading American exports that keep the local, state and national economy going, and unloading imported products necessary to stock our supermarkets’ shelves and fight COVID-19,” said ILWU Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon. “We’re moving containers that contain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, face shields, gowns and gloves, as well as more complex life-saving equipment such as ventilators, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and cardiopulmonary bypass devices.”

By year-end, ILWU workers had moved 9.2 million containers through the Port of Los Angeles alone, and an additional 8.1 million through the Port of Long Beach.

## Pandemic’s deadly impacts on the docks

Sadly, the boom of cargo imports coincided with Americans experiencing “pandemic fatigue” and then-President Trump continuously calling the pandemic a hoax. Community adherence to stay-at-home orders and mask

mandates waned, and successive waves of illness grew to astronomical levels. By January of 2021, nearing a million infected in the Southern California port communities alone, more than three million statewide, and 140,000 in Oregon and 310,000 in Washington, workplace safeguards could not sufficiently protect the men and women who worked on the docks.

Local 94 President Danny Miranda observed COVID infections increasing and has, like many ILWU workers, lost friends to the virus. Miranda cited the shuttle buses between terminals, working together in the hold of a ship, lashing side-by-side with a partner, and pulling slings while discharging break-bulk cargo as some of the many ways that contact is unavoidable.

***“The ILWU will continue to fight in the workplace and in the public arena for the health and safety of our workers. Saving lives is our number one priority.”***

**— Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon**

Since November 30, 2020 through the first 25 days of 2021, the number of COVID-19 infections among Longshore workers at the twin Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach alone has almost surpassed the total cases reported in the final eight months in 2020.

At the time of publication, at least 1,068 ILWU workers on the West Coast have reported testing positive for COVID-19, and tragically, at least 12 have died from the virus.

Pacific Coast Pensioners Association president Greg Mitre said that the deaths of fellow ILWU workers, pensioners and auxiliary members is hitting everyone hard. “Not being able to see them, not being able to have a service for them, it’s really impactful,”

said Mitre. “Out of respect, we want to show the family that the person was well liked and respected.”

## Sounding alarm on supply chain

Local, state and federal officials were among those who have sounded the alarm at the prospect of not having enough healthy port workers available to load and unload the ships that export American products and import medical supplies necessary to fight the global pandemic.

State Senator Lena Gonzalez, State Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell, Congressman Alan Lowenthal, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Los Angeles Councilmember Joe Buscaino, and Long Beach Councilmember Cindy Allen wrote to state officials on Jan. 12:

“As we continue to weather the current COVID-19 surge, especially in Southern California, port workers contracting COVID-19 could have disastrous consequences for the movement of goods, food, and medical supplies that Californians are depending upon in this time of crisis. This includes especially critical pandemic response goods such as a personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitizer, medical equipment, and more. Moreover, emergency regulations recently promulgated by California’s Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board could further exacerbate constraints on critical supply chains if workers fall ill by requiring continuous testing of all employees and taking exposed individuals out of the workforce.”

Despite nonstop efforts from union officials and elected leaders, Longshore workers still do not have elevated priority in getting the vaccine as of the time of publication. While the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine finally promises a light at the end of this very dark tunnel, distribution remains haphazard.

## Number One priority is saving lives

“We’re a full year into a global pandemic, and Longshore workers have seen both record-breaking cargo imports and the heartbreaking deaths of our colleagues,” said Mike Podue, President of ILWU Local 63. “These losses connect us all on an emotional, visceral level. They also fuel our continued effort to bring our union strength to bear as the ILWU fights to implement and maintain safeguards for dockworkers up and down the West Coast.”

Pensioners President Mitre said that pensioners have organized to help one another avoid contact with the deadly virus. “We asked for volunteers and had eight or 10 at a time, sometimes as many as 15, volunteers to pick up groceries and prescriptions, and safely drop them off with no contact, no questions asked. People are really going above and beyond.”

The Coast Longshore Division’s web site lists all West Coast Port Counties, with COVID infection and mortality risk updated daily with information from the Center for Disease Control, at [ilwulongshore.org/covid-today](http://ilwulongshore.org/covid-today).

ILWU officials at every level continue to fight. Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon said, “The ILWU will continue to fight in the workplace and in the public arena for the health and safety of our workers. Saving lives is our number one priority.”

# 2021 ILWU International Convention will be held virtually

**B**ecause of the ongoing pandemic, the 2021 ILWU International Convention, originally scheduled an in-person event in San Francisco, will be a held as on online event.

There are a number of serious and consequential roadblocks for holding an in-person event based on current San Francisco ordinances, hotel restrictions, and guidelines from the Center Disease Control. For these reasons, it is impossible to predict whether or not we can safely and effectively host an in-person convention in June 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused devastation around the world since the beginning of 2020 and has continued to spread in a frightening and spectacular fashion. In the United States alone, millions of people have been infected with this insidious virus and over 400,000 have lost their lives to COVID-19.

Currently, we are experiencing the worst surge of the pandemic, producing record numbers of daily infections and deaths. Hospitals are at the breaking point. We do not take this information lightly, especially when it concerns our members’ health and safety.

The ILWU International Officers and staff explored every available option for safely and effectively holding the ILWU Convention during a pandemic.

At this time, only one option allows us to eliminate the risk posed to the health and safety of everyone (delegates, officers, and staff) and ensure that every delegate has a fair chance to participate. For these reasons, we can only guarantee a safe and equal convention experience for all by holding a fully virtual convention.

Delaying this decision is not an option. The officers and staff must

move forward with preparations for the 2021 ILWU International Convention and eliminate any remaining financial liability associated with hosting an in-person event.

We collectively share in the great disappointment of not having an in person ILWU International Convention in 2021. However, the protection of the health and safety of our members and staff must take precedence above all other considerations, especially during this deadly global pandemic.



# In Memoriam

*We honor and grieve those in the ILWU family whom we have lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are just a few of our fallen loved ones.*



**John Amaro**  
Local 13



**Abraham Amezcua**  
Local 13



**Martin Briones**  
Local 13



**Eddie Greenwood**  
Local 63



**Lidia Lopez**  
President of Auxiliary 8



**Humberto Marquez**  
Local 13



**Rudy Moreno**  
Local 13



**Joseph Radisich, Sr.**  
Local 63 Pensioner



**Jaime Salazar**  
Local 13



**John Stuckey**  
Local 13



*The Dispatcher would like to thank the families of the loved ones above, who gave us their permission to share their photos and names on this page. We would also like to acknowledge all of the ILWU workers, pensioners and auxiliary members who have lost their lives to COVID-19. May they Rest In Peace.*

*An Injury to One is an Injury to All*



# ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee hosts online meeting

ILWU Canada hosted an online Young Workers Committee “Burgers and Beer” event on the evening of December 7th for young workers across all regions and divisions of the ILWU to meet and discuss their ongoing work over the past year. Over 50 ILWU members and casuals from every region attended the online meeting. ILWU Canada’s Second Vice President Dan Kask was the event facilitator.

## ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton

ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton was the first speaker. He spoke about the way the Young Workers Committee has developed leadership and organizing skills that strengthen both the union and the broader community.

“Young workers are the future of our union. Our founding father Harry Bridges was a young worker himself,” Ashton said. “New ideas come from young workers. Sometimes our ideas become stagnant and we need new ideas to reinvigorate who we are as a union. What ILWU Canada has realized over the past 10 years that we have been doing the Young Workers Committee, is that we are learning to internally organize. We are teaching people the skills to create better things for our union and our community.”

## YWC Local Reports

COVID impacted the efforts of Young Workers Committees throughout the ILWU, but their work continued despite the pandemic.

Hazel Pemberton from Local 19’s YWC kicked-off the YWC local reports. Pemberton spoke about the committee’s work this year with the Seattle Committee to Stop Police Terror, voter registration efforts, and participation in actions to support striking New Orleans sanitation workers that were organized by the Local 23 YWC.

Local 502 YWC member Paul Gill spoke out their online fundraising efforts for the Surrey Food Bank. Gill said the food bank is experiencing record volume because of people losing their employment because of COVID. He said they raised a record amount of donations this year.

Local 23 YWC members Nyef Mohamed and Tyler Rasmussen detailed an impressive year of activism for the YWC in Tacoma. Their work included: support for workers organizing a union at Burgerville; on-the-ground support for striking working at seven fruit packing warehouse in the Yakima Valley; a May Day banner drop with banners reading—“COVID-19 is a labor issue”, “Everybody organize”, and “You have rights, join a union”; a Bloody Thursday webinar; support for health care workers who went out on strike fighting for PPE; and demonstrations at the TrueBlue temp agency in Tacoma in support of striking sanitation workers in New Orleans (see the December 2020 issue of the Dispatcher for details).

“Each of these workers has a different set of issues and a different set demands,” Rasmussen said reflecting the diverse set of struggles they supported this year. “But they all have something in common—the struggle between workers and the boss. To understand this is to understand why Tacoma’s young workers choose stand with doctors in white lab coats or even spend 14 consecutive weeks standing on picket line for workers in New Orleans we will never meet. We keep our eyes and our ears open to community voices while remembering the ILWU’s history, commitment to racial justice and inclusion, and how those ideas are spelled out in the 10 Guiding Principles.”

Brittni Paquette gave a report on Local 508’s newly established Young Workers Committee. Paquette said they kicked off 2018 with well-attended meetings and had big plans for the year including a fundraiser, social groups, and providing support to striking United Steel Workers. Their YWC was sidelined by COVID and had to learn and adapt along the way.

Local 5 member Andy Anderson gave an update on the impact of COVID on the membership of Local 5. While every shop in the local has been impacted, workers at Powell’s Books have been especially hard hit. They said that in March, almost the entirety of the Powells workforce of 400 was laid off. These were permanent layoffs with recall rights, Anderson said. Currently about 2/3 of the Powells workforce are still laid off. They said Local 5 has started a worker relief fund and

**“Don’t let anyone discourage you or tell you it’s not your time. It is your time. Now is the time to learn about our union and to help make the world a better place.”**

**— ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris**

the local has been holding online social events, and the Black Lives Matter Committee has been active.

Local 5 has set up a COVID relief section on their website. Those wishing to help Local 5 members can go to <https://www.ilwulocal5.com/Support/> to donate or click the Powells partner link to shop for books at Powells. 7.5% of all sales using the partner link will go to the COVID-19 relief fund.

## Historian Peter Cole

Professor Peter Cole, a historian at Western Illinois University was the guest speaker. His book, *Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durban and the San Francisco Bay Area*, is a comparative history of longshore workers in Durban, South Africa and ILWU Local 10. He looks at the way these workers have historically have harnessed their power and commitment to multi-racial internationalism and solidarity to promote labor rights, social justice, and racial equality.



**Building strong unions and a strong community:** “We are teaching people the skills to create better things for our union and our community,” said ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton. ?

Cole said that in listening to the local reports, what was discussed what right in line with the ILWU’s history and traditions that he has written about.

“I am interested in what a lot of you are talking about on this call,” Cole said. “Not just what you do fighting for your rights on the job but also how this union can be a force for good in the community and the world.”

Cole gave two historical examples of the ILWU’s impact beyond the workplace. “The ILWU took a very vocal stand against the persecution of Japanese people in 1942 at a time—just a few months after Pearl Harbor—when there was widespread prejudice and discrimination against Japanese people in the United States, including the mass internment of 125,000 Japanese Americans and immigrants,” Cole said. “The ILWU was one of the few institutions in

Industrial Union. Local 8 was a multi-racial union representing 4,000 dockers in 1919—a time when the deliberate exclusion of African-American and Asian workers was the norm for American labor unions.

## United Way Labor partnership

Neal Adolph, United Way Lower Mainland Labour Director spoke about their organizations 30-year partnership with Canadian labor movement and work to ensure that workers and their families have access to social services in their community. Labor organization working with the United Way include the BC Federation of Labour, Canadian Labour Congress, Fraser Valley Labour Council, New Westminster & District Labour Council. Vancouver and District Labour Council

“My whole job is to make the community better in partnership with the labor movement,” Adolph said. ILWU Canada’s Young Workers’ Committee has been working with the United Way to raise money and distribute donations of food and supplies using local distribution hubs to help workers who have been lost employment due to the pandemic.

Dan Kask said that helping workers who are struggling is a form of working class solidarity. “This is a community-solidarity project, not a charity thing. If your neighbors can’t put enough food on the table, it’s because the boss doesn’t pay them enough,” Kask said.

## ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris was the events final guest speaker. He encouraged the union activists to persevere during these tough times. “I had a great time at your Young Workers Conference in 2019. It’s been a tough year and it’s a shame we have to meet this way,” Ferris said. “We are adapting to this virus. It’s going to be with us for awhile. The next 100 days are going to be tough, especially in the states because of the failed response of the federal government. I’m inspired by all your work. Don’t let anyone discourage you or tell you it’s not your time. It is your time. Now is the time to learn about our union and to help make the world a better place.”



**W**ith workers feeling the pinch of COVID shutdowns and hunger and food insecurity on the rise throughout the country, ILWU members along the coast continued their tradition of fundraising, toy drives and holiday giving to assist struggling workers and their families.

ILWU Local 4 held its first annual Christmas food drive in December. With food and monetary donations from Local 4 members, Foreman's Local 92, pensioners and others, Local 4 donated 4,356 pounds of food and a cashiers check to the FISH of Vancouver food bank in the amount of over \$800 to help feed the local community in these rough times.

“Our local recognized a need in our community and was pro-active in making a difference,” It’s gratifying knowing we, as a local, can do our part to help feed people in our neighborhoods when they need a little help.

Local 23 members continued their generous programs of holiday giving that included a toy drive and school gift cards.

Every year during the holidays Local 23 donates a \$200 Fred Meyer gift card to one student from each elementary school in Pierce County. The students are chosen by school counselors/principals based on their continuous good efforts and positive attitudes throughout the year, despite their struggles outside of the classroom. With this year being so trying and difficult for many Pierce County families, Local 23's membership made it possible for 3 students to be chosen from each elementary school, totaling \$100,000.00 in gift cards.

Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burks and Holly Hulscher comprise the Local 23 Toy Drive Committee under the direction of the ILWU Local 23 Trustees. The committee does most of the shopping for the toys at the local Fred



**Local 4 food drive:** From right to left: Local 4 Dispatcher Troy Olson , James Fitzgerald FISH executive director, and Fish of Vancouver volunteers.

Meyer, because it is a union store, and because they offer discounts (even on sale prices) as a result of the large volume of toys being purchased.

This year looked a little different for the toy drive to keep everyone safe. Members and pensioners were able to make their donations through the credit union over the phone or in person) Also the Toy Drive Committee did the shopping for each group and labeled the bags with each name to help with separating the toys for each organization. When the toys were distributed to the local organizations who work with the kids in need they had a 15 minute time slot where they picked up the pre-bagged toys at an outdoor tent at the hall and everyone wore masks.

This year, Local 23 members and pensioners combined to bring in more than \$51,400 worth of toys, which were distributed to more than 960 children represented by 16 local organizations.

In addition to the chance to help the community, there are bragging rights on the line. The Toy Drive Committee puts on a friendly competition between Longshore workers who typically work at different terminals and different Longshore groups. This year the Longshore gate/rail and Mechanics who work at Evergreen took first place (\$16,519) and the pensioners, who set the table for us weren't too far behind at \$12,166 for second place. Longshore who present their receipts in the secretaries' office can win prizes ranging from steel printed photo ornaments (by donating \$100 or more) to lottery prizes (every \$100 you donate gives you a chance) like framed historic Longshore photos from the Ron Magden collection, hand-made hooks from Mike Neff, a Mahogany ILWU plaque from Lance Anderson, framed photos and steel art from Mike Belshay and

Seahawks chairs and a sled from Lisa Cole, to name a few.

“The community really appreciates the effort,” said committee member Mandy Peterson. “After the holidays each year our Local receives a number of ‘thank you’ cards, not just from the organizations, but from the individual families and children whose holidays were made brighter thanks to the generosity of our members.”

With the help of Foreman's Local 98 and pensioners and budget of just over \$35,000.00, Local 19's Christmas for Kids Program supported 11 different non-profits to help children in the greater Puget Sound area. This year, the program added two new organizations which broadened the scope of the children that are helped. The kids and families supported are unique in every way except one: they are all struggling. The program supports agencies for children in foster care and children of incarcerated parents; some kids have had an emergency and are in Harborview Hospital, other are homeless teens and families who are just financially struggling.

This year instead of flooding a Fred Meyer store when they opened and spending several hours fulfilling lists of gifts, requests came in the form of gift cards, making shopping this year much easier.

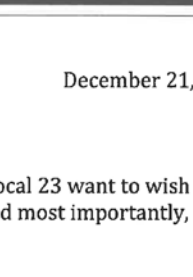
The generosity of Local 19 was shown by the abundance of gifts members brought in after taking a “tag” from one of the Christmas trees to donate to a specific child. Money was also set aside to send a check to ILWU Local 5 to help out with their displaced workers.

There was a big need out there and I made many children in need have a brighter holiday.



**Local 23 toy drive:** COVID couldn't stop the annual toy drive in Tacoma. ILWU members and pensioners stepped up again this year to help those in need.

**International Longshore and Warehouse Union**  
LOCAL 23  
(253) 383-2468  
1306 ALEXANDER AVE. E.  
FIFE, WASHINGTON 98424



December 21, 2020

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

As we approach the holiday season, the officers of ILWU Local 23 want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and most importantly, bid farewell and good riddance to 2020.

This year has been a year of challenge on many fronts. We're all continuing to navigate through the uncharted waters of a global pandemic, have seen protests and civil strife throughout the country, and just completed a very heated presidential election. Needless to say, 2020 was one for the ages.

That being said, the entire membership of ILWU Local 23 definitely rose to the challenge when it came to the importance of continuing our social responsibility of giving back to our local communities.

This year, we proudly broke our record for giving as a local, raising and donating over \$196,800 to local charities, community groups, and other organizations in need during these difficult times. Some of the highlights include:

- \$100,000 to Pierce County School children. Three students in need from every elementary school in Pierce County were selected and their families were each given \$200 gift cards for holiday expenses.
- \$51,449.99 was raised for the annual ILWU Local 23 Toy drive, a new record! Partnering with community groups, this drive purchased up to 2 toys apiece for 960 area kids.
- \$13,653 was donated to St. Leo's Food Connection, continuing a long-standing partnership with ILWU Local 23.
- \$7,000 to the Mary Bridge Foundation Toys 4 Kids Holiday Drive, purchasing presents for children in the hospital over the holidays.
- \$5,000 to Pacific Lutheran University Peoples Gathering to promote racial inclusion, dialogue, and diversity in the workplace.
- \$1,200 to Tacoma Schools Summer 253 Jobs Program.
- Local 23 additionally continued to show support in other areas as well such as the Propeller Club, workers in need, the Rainier School BBQ, scholarship programs such as the Buffalo Soldiers, and many others.

These efforts could not be made without a tremendous amount of help and effort from the rank and file, Pensioners Group, Auxiliary #35, and Local 98 Foremen. Special thanks to Holly Hulscher, Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kim Boespflug, Melissa Burks, Meghan Mason, and Auxiliary #35.

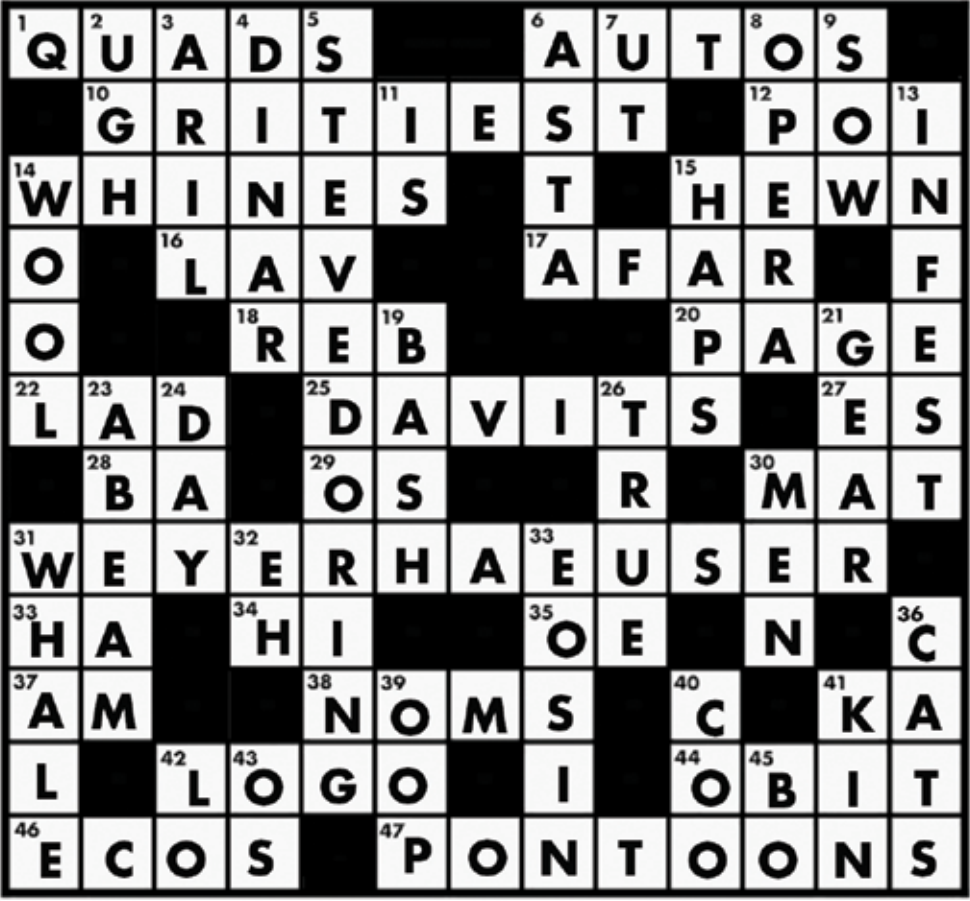
All of these donations were made after a vote of the Board of Trustees, and a vote of the full membership, so the biggest thanks goes out to each and every member. We may not have had a picnic or Christmas party this year, but we did help thousands of people in the community, mostly kids. Thank you Local 23 for continuing to live up to our motto, "An Injury to One is an Injury to All."

In solidarity,

Jared Faker President	Dave Boespflug Vice President	Scott Miller Secretary/Treasurer	Perry Smith Trustee
--------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------



December solution  
for Conklin's Crossword



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—Northern California  
Hunny Powell  
HPowell@benefitplans.org  
400 North Point  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
(415) 776-8363

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

STAY SAFE,  
WEAR A MASK



TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 13:** Jack M. Mendez; Frank Trama Jr; Ruben Munoz; Matt T. Vranjes; Gregg M. Pincetich; Mark H. Hughey; Dyvette K. Collins; Susan K. Duncan; David R. Guzman; **Local 19:** Warren M. Fairbanks; Timothy A. Dunn; Keith M. Pardee; Vanessa Rasberry; Daniel M. Bunt; **Local 23:** Richard G. Castaneda; **Local 29:** Melvin L. Gee; **Local 34:** Paul H. Duncan; **Local 50:** Chris C. Connaway; **Local 52:** Mark Barnett; **Local 63:** John W. Porter; John A. Massey; Shirley A. Deckard; George Randolph; Richard G. Riveira;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

**Local 10:** Nathaniel E. Rice; Anthony Mcrae; **Local 13:** John R. Stuckey; Humberto Marquez; Abraham Amezcua; Jaime Salazar; **Local 19:** Matthew Gallardo; Robert E. Green; **Local 23:** John P. Kelly; Jeff W. Cooper; **Local 63:** Walter E. Greenwood;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Harold Roller; **Local 10:** Victor Paillet; Javier Castillo (Mary); Thomas G. Jameson; Jose G. Chavez Jr; Louis H. Narcisse; **Local 13:** Jack D. Oilar; Richard C. Gonzales; John Espinoza Sr; Neil S. Davis; Bobby G. Dykes; Roko Alaga; Edward

Sanchez Jr; Jim R. Ponce; Sanford N. Akiona; Robert C. Bowles; Earl Rayson; Floyd E. Elliott; Steven M. Kaupiko; **Local 21:** Delbert G. Kissinger; **Local 23:** Joseph J. Jurun; Rex D. Keyes; **Local 34:** Robert E. Richardson (Gloria); David F. Burton; **Local 40:** Daniel Shalduha; Kurt R. Millspaugh; **Local 52:** Peter Kolloen; **Local 63:** Fred A. Oro; **Local 63:** Louis T. Garcia; **Local 91:** Earnest L. Fridia; Erska L. Barnett; **Local 92:** Dale E. Peterson; Clinton Van Fleet; **Local 94:** Zvonimir Stipicevich; Billy G. Witty; Ernest A. Silvas; **Local 98:** Steven K. Baretich;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 7:** Shirley D. Regnier; **Local 8:** Dorothy Baxter; **Local 10:** Drucillia A. Cook; Alice Robertson; Mable Jones; Jessie M. Branner; Ophelia Bingham; **Local 12:** Gertrude T. Palmer; **Local 13:** Lela J. York; Elsie R. Cottone; Mary H. Townsell; Jo-Alene Diffie; Betty L. Kirkruff; Mary Malnar; Josephine M. Bustamante; Therese A. Misuraca; Mary F. Freeman; **Local 19:** Teresa M. Morrison; **Local 24:** Ellen G. Mc Fadden; **Local 34:** Dolores C. Curry; Kathleen L. Colacicco; Maxine Sousa; **Local 92:** Sarah A. Hebert; **Local 94:** Jean Ensminger;

ILWU BOOK & VIDEO ORDER FORM

ORDER BY MAIL

___ copies of <b>Solidarity Stories</b> @ \$17 ea. =	\$_____
___ copies of <b>A Spark Is Struck</b> @ \$13.50 ea.=	\$_____
___ copies of <b>The Legacy of 1934</b> @ two for \$5 =	\$_____
___ copies of <b>Harry Bridges</b> @ \$10 ea.=	\$_____
___ copies of <b>The Big Strike</b> @ \$9.00 ea. =	\$_____
___ copies of <b>The Union Makes Us Strong</b> @ \$20 ea. =	\$_____
___ copies of <b>Eye of the Storm</b> DVD @ \$5 ea. =	\$_____
___ copies of <b>We Are the ILWU</b> DVD @ \$5 ea. =	\$_____
___ copies of <b>A Life on the Beam</b> DVD @ \$5 ea. =	\$_____
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	\$_____

No sales outside the U.S.

We regret that U.S. Customs and postal regulations create too great a burden for our staff to maintain book sale service to our members and friends outside the United States.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order (U.S. Funds) payable to "ILWU" and send to

**ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109**

Prices include shipping and handling.

Please allow at least four weeks for delivery. Shipment to U.S. addresses only