



THE DISPATCHER

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THE INSIDE NEWS

IBU Hawaii Region report	2
Longshore Negotiating Committee begins preparation in San Francisco	2
ILWU elected officials give unprecedented interview with Port of L.A.'s Gene Seroka	3
Looking back at the 2002 lockout	4
Judge Jackson confirmed as next Supreme Court Justice	6
Election recommendations	6

Cut out the poster to hang in your hall or office 7

Local 30's Mark Blankenship retires	8
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TRANSITIONS 8



Local 19 Education Committee celebrates Women's History [page 2](#)



Surrounded by family and friends, Max Vekich was sworn in as the newest member of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) at a ceremony in Washington D.C. on March 25th. From left to right: FMC Commissioner Max Vekich, Marcee Stone-Vekich, and Senator Maria Cantwell.

Max Vekich goes to Washington

ILWU Local 52 pensioner Max Vekich was sworn in as Commissioner at an in-person ceremony held at the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) in Washington D.C. on April 25th.

Commissioner Vekich was previously sworn in to the FMC on February 10th in a virtual event. He was first appointed by President Joe Biden in June of 2021. (See the March 2022 issue of the *Dispatcher* for a full article on Commissioner Vekich's appointment to the FMC.)

The ceremony was attended by Vekich's family, friends, as well as representatives from all sectors of the maritime industry, and a delegation from the ILWU. U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington, who chairs the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, administered the oath of office. Senator Cantwell had championed Vekich's appointment in the Senate.

Senator Cantwell noted Commissioner Vekich's vast experience that he will bring to the FMC, saying, "Max is a 40-year, career waterfront person who knows how to move products and knows what working

on the docks is all about. I had the great fortune of serving with him in the Washington State Legislature and I was a big fan then."

Cantwell continued, "I'm proud to say that you are going to help all of us in the nation, not just Washington farmers, but all of us as only the second labor guy on the Commission, the first ILWU guy on the Commission, and the first Commissioner from the State of Washington."

Commissioner Vekich acknowledged the support he received for his nomination from all levels of the maritime industry, employers, port officials, and labor. "It's not common for employers to say, 'we want a longshoreman—a union guy—in a political job,' but they did," Vekich said. "We get more by working in the system and with employers to achieve common goals. Now we have infrastructure changes and plans. Our infrastructure is not what it should be. The greatest country in the world should have the best infrastructure in the world. I think we're turning the corner; we're going to get there. We will make jobs a priority, and we will make infrastructure a priority."

"This is a proud day not only for the ILWU, but also for our industry

and our country," said ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris, who was a part of the ILWU delegation at the ceremony. "I can't think of a more qualified person to fill this position than Max. With 40 years of experience working on the docks, he knows the issues and challenges faced by the workers who move the cargo through our ports every day. As a former legislator, Max also understands the political and policy side needed to be an effective FMC Commissioner and get the job done for our country."

In addition to Secretary-Treasurer Ferris, the ILWU delegation in attendance included ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Sam Kreutz, Coast Committeemen Frank Ponce De Leon and Cam Williams, Local 34 President Sean Farley, Local 63 President Joe Gasperov, Coast Legislative Committee Chair Dan McKisson (Local 19), Gary Herrera (Local 13), Brock Graber (Local 23), and Dennis Young of the Alaska Longshore Division. Also in attendance were Master, Mates & Pilots President Don Marcus and representatives from the Northwest Seaport Alliance. The *Dispatcher* was on hand to capture the historic moment as well.

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Women on the Waterfront - Our Past and Future: Local 19 Education Committee celebrates Women's History

March 31 was a bright, spring day in Seattle. ILWU members at the Local 19 Hall were buzzing in anticipation of a new and innovative event organized by the Local 19 Education Committee celebrating women on the waterfront. The event brought together women ILWU leaders spanning several generations to discuss the challenges they faced in the male-dominated longshore industry and the progress they have seen because of the hard work of retired and active ILWU women who fought to make the industry more equitable and accessible to all genders.

People filtered into the warehouse through the roll up door and engaged with the interactive materials that included a sign-in book and photo collage of longshore women. They reminisced and exchanged stories as they found their faces and the faces of women they know. Unity was in the atmosphere; rank and file, elected officials, casuals, and families with generations of longshore workers were all in attendance. I met a lot of new people, those who perhaps don't normally go to events, but this event drew a conscious crowd. This was an event people were waiting for and very proud to attend.

As the program began, the approximately 100 attendees quieted, sat down, and drew near the stage, eager to hear what would be said at this first-ever Local 19 Women's Event. I saw people listening intently

with a desire to understand. The first speaker, Local 52 member Kesa Sten, delivered an enthusiastic speech titled "Umpiring of Privilege in Everyday Life" that described the constraints of being a woman in the working world and the institutional and systemic disparities women face in their daily lives. She spoke about the subtle—and not so subtle—ways women are talked over, dismissed, and their contributions overlooked and the impact that has for the women in the workplace. These are the realities—not theories—that women encounter every day.

Local 19 member Alison Steichen followed with a short speech to introduce the moderator, Sarah Esch, Local 19 Alternate Dispatcher and Delegate. Steichen boisterously said, "If anybody ever

continued on page 5



Kevin Castle (56876) holding a photo of herself (front) hooking up a line to offload tallow circa 1987 taken by a Seattle Times photographer.

Photo by Ali Vekich

IBU Hawaii Region Report



The IBU Hawaii Region announced a new organizing effort in Pearl Harbor, HI.

The IBU Hawaii Region is extremely proud to announce our latest organizing drive at Pearl Harbor, HI. The Bowhead company employees who sail on the the *Torpedo* and weapons recovery vessels of the Marine Operations Department, used their voice to let it be known they want to be union.

The union filed the official petition in early April and the NLRB mailed out ballots to each eligible employee on April 22, 2022. The Ballots will be counted on May 24, 2022. I am confident we will have a unanimous result in our favor with this unit.

Personally, as a vested member of the IBU and Regional Director of the IBU Hawaii, I feel this drive could be groundbreaking, as we tap into a new pool of labor on the base of Pearl

Harbor. There is a lot of work going on behind those base gates, whether it be shoreside or maritime related; there is no shortage of workers. The ILWU and IBU will be ready for any more groups who also choose to be exercise their collective bargaining rights.

The drive would not have been successful to this point without the support of the ILWU and its organizers, Will Chang and Matthew Yamamoto, and International Vice President (Hawaii) Sam Kruetz. The ILWU International and the Local 142 leadership have been extremely supportive of the IBU here in Hawaii. Our members and I are grateful for all the time, effort, and resources that they have contributed to not only this cause, but others as well. There is a true feeling of solidarity within the ILWU here on this island, especially on our waterfront.

— Capt. Michael Anderson Jr.
Regional Director, IBU Hawaii

Preparing for a Longshore victory: Members of the Longshore Division's Negotiating Committee and Safety Committees have been meeting at the ILWU International Offices since mid-April preparing for the upcoming bargaining sessions with the Pacific Maritime Association. The priorities for bargaining were set through the union's democratic process at the Longshore Division's Caucus in February. Bargaining will begin sometime in May.



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ILWU elected officials give unprecedented interview with Port of L.A.’s Gene Seroka

ILWU International President Willie Adams and Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon gave an unprecedented, pre-negotiations interview with Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka on April 12. The interview was broadcast to the public and the media in the port’s April 2022 port report and has gathered thousands of additional views online.

Pres. Adams and Coast Committeeman Ponce De Leon highlighted the good work and hard sacrifices of the men and women of the ILWU through the pandemic and countered some misinformation that has generated fears and concerns about potential labor disruptions at West Coast ports by the usual anti-union forces.

The conversation with Executive Director Seroka also touched on the ILWU’s ongoing efforts to ease supply chain congestion, infrastructure funding for West Coast ports, and the need for comprehensive training programs for longshore workers, marine clerks, and foremen.

‘We are going to get an agreement’

The officers addressed some recent news articles about negotiations that were written in an inflammatory way to generate clicks for struggling news outlets.

“Everybody needs to tone it down and stop all the rhetoric,” Pres. Adams said. “The ILWU and the employers have been negotiating since the 1930s. There are adults on both sides of the table. Sometime in May, we are going to sit down. We are going to get an agreement.”

Coast Committeeman Ponce De Leon spoke about the successful bargaining that has been ongoing with the employers throughout COVID-19 to secure the health and safety precautions, and PPE necessary to keep the West Coast ports open as safely as possible and ensure that cargo continued to move.

“Over the last past few years, we sat down and collectively bargained agreements to get through COVID,” Ponce De Leon said. “We sat down and bargained an agreement to keep moving, to keep people safe, to make sure our ports were open. We didn’t close any of our ports up and down the whole West Coast. We made sure that our stores and hospitals had the PPE and supplies that they needed.”

Investing in West Coast ports

Another topic that was discussed was the need for more infrastructure investments in West Coast ports. Pres. Adams talked about working with The Biden-Harris Administration and California Gov. Gavin Newsom to get billions of dollars of infrastructure money to help ILWU workers keep cargo moving.

“What we do in maritime is bipartisan,” Adams said. “We want to make sure that our ports are functioning at 100 percent. We are putting the investment in there for good, working-class jobs for our communities. At the end of the day, the ILWU, we’re on the side of the American people and the economy.”

Training

Another key issue discussed was training for the longshore industry. Seroka talked about the training center at the Port of Los Angeles that recently broke ground.

“This will be the first goods movement training campus in our nation,” Seroka said. “The ILWU is going to be an important partner in this, from development to planning through to bringing in men and women to get trained here. Gov. Newsom announced a budget line item of \$110 million to match with our 20 acres of land here in L.A. and \$40 million worth of investment.”

“If we don’t train for the future, there’s not going to be a future,” Ponce De Leon said in response to Seroka. “I am glad that you and your leadership at the port have stepped up to push for the training center. The ILWU is going



From left to right: Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon, ILWU International President Willie Adams, and Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka.

to be involved in it. And I’m going to challenge PMA. They need to be fully invested in developing this such the training programs, not only for longshore, not only for our mechanics, but for our clerks and foremen as well.”

“The younger generation needs to know that we’re committed to them,” Adams added. “This training center is for the younger generations to upgrade their skills going into the future. They need to know as proud Americans that they can get a job down here on this waterfront and have the skills. They need to know that and that we’re leaving something behind for them that’s tangible. The White House has been committed, and the State of California has been committed. But the PMA, they’ve been missing in action for a while. And you know what, they have to step up.”

Towards a 24/7 supply chain

Since the issue of supply congestion started to dominate the news cycle in 2021, the issue of 24/7 port operations has been discussed by policy makers as a solution. Ponce De Leon underscored the fact that the ILWU workforce has always been ready to work 24/7, and that the other links in the supply chain – from distribution centers, truckers, and rail – need to match the ILWU’s commitment.

“We’ve always had the ability to work 24 hours a day, but it takes our employers to order us to fill those jobs,” Ponce De Leon said. “Port Envoy John Porcari said it best: ‘Our third shift goes underutilized.’ There’s a reason that it goes underutilized. We’re not being ordered to go to work. We don’t have chassis. We don’t have gondolas. We don’t have the movement of goods that we need to have on that hoot shift. The message from the Biden Administration to go to work 24/7 wasn’t pointed at the ILWU. We already have that in our contract. It was a measuring stick for everybody else to keep up.”

“All we offer is our labor,” Adams added. “We don’t make business decisions. The men and women of the ILWU are the best workforce on the planet, bar none. We do it right.”

The 22-minute video of the interview was produced by an multi-E Emmy-winning producer and is available for viewing on YouTube under the title “Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka Interviews ILWU Leaders.”



ILWU Canada Convention and election: Stay tuned for election results for the position of ILWU Canada Secretary-Treasurer and a report on the ILWU Canada Convention.

Locked out and Taft-Hartley'd: Looking back at 2002 lockout

September 27th will mark the 20th anniversary of the 2002 lockout of approximately 10,500 ILWU dock workers at 29 ports from Bellingham, WA to San Diego, CA by the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), the employer group that represents major shipping lines and terminal operators.

During the 2002 longshore negotiations, the ILWU battled not just the PMA led by their President and CEO Joseph Miniace, but also a hostile Administration in Washington, D.C and a coalition of major shippers including Nike, Gap Inc., Home Depot, Target, Wal-Mart, and other major retailers who banded together in the West Coast Waterfront Coalition (WCWC) just a few months before bargaining began. The WCWC served as the PMA's "alter ego." They lobbied politicians in Washington and waged a PR campaign against the union during an agreed-upon press blackout between the PMA and the ILWU.

Despite the combined forces arrayed against the union, the ILWU not only survived a major lockout by the employer, government threats, and a public relations battle waged by the country's biggest retailers, it also emerged with a standard-setting contract.

Main issues

The two main issues in the negotiations were Maintenance of Benefits (MOB) and jurisdiction. The employer sought to make cuts to the union's health care and to introduce new computerized marine clerk positions without guaranteeing that they would remain ILWU work.

The ILWU's position on technology in 2002 was the same as it was 42 years prior. In the 1960 Mechanization and Modernization agreement negotiated by Harry Bridges, the union embraced technological changes and, in return, the contract recognized that all jobs created by new technology would be ILWU jurisdiction.

ILWU President Emeritus James Spinosa, who was the ILWU International President in 2002, said, "I told Miniachi straight across the table that these jobs are not for sale. We're ready to meet changes in the industry, but we're not going to give up our right to our jurisdictions."

ILWU pensioner Rich Austin, Sr., who was a member of the 2002 Negotiating Committee representing small ports in the Puget Sound, recalled in a recent interview with the *Dispatcher* that the PMA began the 2002 bargaining with a different posture than they had in previous negotiations that he was a part of.

"The Negotiating Committee spent time putting together our proposals that were passed by the Longshore Caucus. We handed them across the table to the employers and we had the expectations that they would respond in good faith," Austin said. "They came back with a return document that was completely unacceptable. It didn't bother to respond to our proposals. It became very apparent that what they were going to do is try to frustrate negotiations. I believe they were pushing government intervention that would relieve them of the obligation they had to negotiate in good faith."

Government intervention

The Bush Administration took an early interest in the 2002 negotiations. They pressured the union to accept an unfair contract offer because they feared labor disruptions on the West Coast would negatively impact their preparations for a planned invasion of Iraq.

Spinosa said in an interview with the *Dispatcher* in February 2002 that the biggest battle that the union faced was government intervention. "The Bush Administration was sending people out here and trying to force us into giving concessions to the employers and give in to their demands, especially around technology," Spinosa said. "But we stood fast and got ourselves a good contract. A terrific contract in the end."



Bay Area ILWU members protest at the Port of Oakland during the 2002 lockout by the PMA.

Economic terrorism

The pressure applied by the Bush Administration included a phone call from Tom Ridge, Director of Homeland Security. He told Spinosa that if the ILWU engaged in any strike activity, the union would be looked upon as "economic terrorists."

In an interview with historian Harvey Schwartz, ILWU attorney Rob Remar said that before the lockout, officials from the Bush Administration were applying pressure on the union to accept the PMA's proposal.

Government threats

According to Remar, Andrew Siff, an attorney with the Department of Labor, threatened the union with the militarization of the ports in the event of any ILWU strike actions.

Remar challenged Siff on this and told him that he believed that the government was making empty threats. "We don't believe for a minute that the government would do these extreme measures because you have no reason to," Remar said. "And he turns around and says, 'Yeah, but we do have a reason. We're going to war in Iraq.'"

"We were not quite sure whether the threat of war with Iraq was real or whether that was a tool of manipulation. It turns out it was real. But the government men sure were in a mind to be very belligerent with us," Remar said. "Their answer was, 'We're going to war with Iraq. We need to have the ports secure for that. If we have to step on you guys to make that happen that's what we are going to do.'"

"What was really amazing is that Andrew Siff was telling me about the plans to go to war in Iraq, back in June and July of 2002," Remar recalled in the 2008 documentary *The Eye of the Storm*. At a meeting with the Coast Committee and Siff at a restaurant near the ILWU International offices in San Francisco, Robert "Big Bob" McEllrath, who was then ILWU International Vice President (Mainland), was singled out by Siff and threatened. According to both Remar and McEllrath, Siff rattled off personal details that he knew about Big Bob and his family. "We meet Siff and he starts off by giving us this Gestapo routine where he starts telling us things about the union and about

individuals that he knows from their intel," Remar said.

After listening to Siff list details about his life and family, McEllrath kept his cool. "I just sat there and stared at him," McEllrath said. "This is what he told us, 'Look, the government ain't got time to screw around with you guys. We're going to war. You are going to accept this contract that's on the table.' I said, 'No, it's a bag of sh—.'"

Ending the media blackout

Early in negotiations, the ILWU agreed to a press blackout with the PMA. The WCWC was used as a public relations conduit and went on the attack against the union in the press. At the July 2002 Longshore Caucus, members voted to end the union's press blackout and develop a public relations campaign of their own to tell the ILWU's side of the story and to publicize the threats against the union by the Bush Administration. The Negotiating Committee established a Public Relations Committee that was tasked with establishing a public and political campaign with the goal of getting the government out of negotiations.

The Caucus also committed to promoting the union's Political Action Fund because the employers-orchestrated pressure by the Bush Administration demonstrated the importance of the union's political work. Throughout bargaining, the Legislative Committee was doing important work in Washington, D.C. getting the union's message to members of Congress about the ongoing negotiations.

AFL-CIO lends support

AFL-CIO's Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson addressed the Caucus and committed AFL-CIO staff and resources to assist the ILWU. "It's your fight and our fight," she said. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka sat in on the negotiations as a sign of support and solidarity.

Locked out

The lockout began on Friday, September 27 at 6 p.m. as the evening shift was due to report to work. ILWU members returned to work Sunday morning, Sept. 29, but were locked out again by the afternoon. After the lockout was announced, ILWU members up

continued on page 5



Workers demonstrate against the 2002 lockout at the Port of Tacoma.

continued from page 4
and down the West Coast began to set up around-the-clock picketing.

“The employers chose to lock the gates and shut down the West Coast,” said Pacific Coast Pensioner Association President Greg Mitre, then a member of Local 13. “When they did we marched back and forth in front of the entrances to all the terminals, showing the employers we were solidified in our resolve to man our docks and make sure nobody else was going to move any cargo except the ILWU.”

During the lockout, the Negotiating Committee members stayed at their posts. On Oct. 1, the ILWU sent a five-person delegation to the federal mediator’s office in Oakland to discuss mediation. The PMA showed up with armed guards and the ILWU promptly left. “When we arrived at the mediation service today, [PMA] had about 20 people with them along with armed thugs in the hallway,” Spinosa said at a news conference. “This is totally unacceptable. This hasn’t happened since 1934 when employers tried to strong-arm our negotiations.”

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) Director Peter Hurtgen issued a statement that day describing the PMA’s use of armed security as “inappropriate and a breach of bargaining protocol, particularly when the meeting is under the auspices of the FMCS.”

On Oct. 2, the Negotiating Committee agreed to accept the offer of federal mediation. This seemed like the only way to get PMA back to the table. Talks continued until Oct. 6, when the PMA rejected the union’s offer to extend the old contract for seven days to clear the cargo backlog. The Bush administration asked the union if it would agree to a 30-day contract extension; the ILWU agreed but the PMA refused.

Taft-Hartley’d
After the PMA refused to extend the contract, the Bush administration under provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act sought a court order to end the lockout and open the docks. On October 9, Judge William Alsup of the Federal District Court in San Francisco issued a temporary injunction that ordered the ports opened. It was the first time Taft-Hartley had been invoked to end an employer lockout.

The union feared that the Bush Administration would use the provisions of Taft-Hartley to force the union into making concessions to the employer. Under Taft-Hartley, violation of the injunction is punishable in a Federal Court by fines. PMA’s effort to use the courts to pressure the union failed when a Federal judge rejected the employer’s false claims that the ILWU was violating the injunction by engaging in a work slowdown.

Building solidarity
While the lockout ended, the fight for a fair contract did not. The community rallied behind the ILWU. The ILWU reached out to the labor movement for support and unions in the United States and all over the world responded. The Annual Labor Day Parade in Wilmington, CA drew a crowd of 10,000 people that year, its largest-ever turnout at the time. The AFL-CIO sent a representative to read a statement from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. Two days later, a news conference was held at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor attended by 300 union members and elected officials including Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson, who joined (then and current) Local 13 President Ramon Ponce de Leon to lead the crowd in a chant of “Bush stay off the docks.”

The ILWU sent out a field team to do direct outreach and bring the union’s message to members of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and Teamsters on the Gulf and East Coasts, updating them on the ILWU’s contract talks and renewing pledges of solidarity.

Support from dock workers around the world was also strong. The ILWU received pledges of support from the International Transportation Workers’ Federation (ITF) and the International Dockers Council (IDC). The ITF’s 40th Congress unanimously passed a resolution urging “maximum solidarity and support to the ILWU.”

An ILWU delegation went to Japan to meet with the two Japanese dockworker unions, Zenkowan and Zenkokukowan. The two unions donated a combined \$12,000 to the ILWU’s struggle and the Zenkowan sent an IWLU delegation home with their union’s flag to be hung in the negotiating room to remind employers of Japanese dockworkers’ solidarity with the ILWU. Solidarity delegations from the Maritime of Australia, the New Zealand Seafarers Union, and the New Zealand Waterfront Workers Union traveled to Southern California and rallied with ILWU members during the lockout.

Agreement reached
In late November, negotiators, with the assistance of Peter Hurtgen, head of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, developed a tentative agreement on a new contract. Roger Boesflug, then president of ILWU Local 23, termed the contract “the richest contract we’ve ever negotiated.” ILWU members received a 58% increase in their employer-funded pensions, which the November 2002 issue of the *Dispatcher* described as “the big-

gest pension increase in the history of the labor movement.” The contract also provided a modest pay increase over the six-year contract.

The ILWU agreed to the PMA’s technology changes, but the new contract ensured that all the longshore clerks would keep their jobs until they retired. “In exchange for implementing the new technology,” Spinosa wrote in the November 2002 issue of the *Dispatcher*, “the union also secured the jurisdiction over the new jobs the technology will create and all the remaining clerk jobs. None of these will be outsourced. We also won back jurisdiction over yard and rail planning jobs that have been outsourced in the past. Although some clerk positions will be lost to the new technology, every currently registered ILWU marine clerk will be guaranteed five days of work a week as a clerk for the rest of their careers on the waterfront.”

Ratification
The Coast Longshore Caucus voted overwhelmingly to recommend that the membership approve the contract. On Jan. 22, the Longshore Division ratified the membership vote: 7405 in favor of the contract and 888 against. The 89.3 percent for ratification was by the largest contract ratification margin in the union’s history.

Portions of this article draws from the forthcoming book *Labor Under Siege: Big Bob McEllrath and the ILWU’s Fight for Organized Labor in an Anti-Union Era, An Oral History* by Harvey Schwartz and Ron Magden, which will be published this summer by the University of Washington Press. It is available for pre-order at Powell’s Books: <https://www.powells.com/?partnerID=35751>

Women on the Waterfront - Our Past and Future: Local 19 Education Committee celebrates Women’s History

continued from page 2
gives you guys sh— about your pink hard hat, your painted fingernails, or your outfits, just remember that the second female United States Supreme Court Justice did so with a beaded collar and lace gloves.”

Esch introduced the panel, which consisted of five senior ranking and pensioner women: Sandra Blake, Local 19 Class A member; Cyndi Anderson Hoblet, Local 19 pensioner; Mary Fuller Fairbanks, Local 19 pensioner; Rachelle Morris, Local 19 Class A member; and LeRin Farrison, Local 52 marine clerk. These women delivered a spectacular and awe-inspiring program, eloquently sharing their experience.

With questions like, “How do you deal with disrespect on the job?” The panel did well in producing a variety of responses. In true longshore form, Farrison answered, “If you bark at me, I’ll probably bark back.” Further questions included: “How has the waterfront for women changed since your first day?” Blake answered, “I

really like the young, fresh people that are just like, ‘this is ridiculous - it’s dinosaur age!’ What we’re doing to women and minorities is dinosaur age, I see it every day.”

The call for women in leadership was clear from the panelist table, especially from pensioners Mary Fuller and Cyndi Anderson. The question was asked, “How do you think women can work together to make the waterfront better for each other now and for the women that come after us?” Fuller illustrated the importance of persistence and said encouragingly, “Run for dispatcher, run for LRC, run for president. I ran for dispatcher every single year at Local 19 and never made it once. I transferred to Local 52 and hey, guess what? I was elected dispatcher.”

Barriers to leadership for women were explored, including imbalanced family duties, fear of being shot down and lack of encouragement and support. In response to the question about how women can work together to make the waterfront better for each

other, Morris replied, “If folks weren’t talking very nice to me, people stuck up for me and changed the direction of the conversation. Those people make our union stronger. We need to uplift everybody.”

We were honored to have Kevin Castle, the first female Local 19 crane operator in attendance. She recited a poem she wrote about 10 years ago titled, *Crane Operator*, recalling her experience on the job. Terri Mast, Secretary-Treasurer of the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific (IBU), the marine division of the ILWU, was in attendance. She reviewed the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912, a great moment in women’s labor history.

My hope comes from seeing male allies at the event being intentional in showing their support. There were just as many women as men at the event. In a male-dominated industry, they set the standard pertaining to attitudes and ideals. If men began to demonstrate encouragement and advocacy towards women, a new culture could be established. A Local 19

Class B longshore worker named Tony Cappiello said, “I enjoyed hearing from the pensioner ladies about the change from their time and how things have become more accepting, progressive and welcoming. I was proud to be a part of it.”

This event has been in the works for a long time. I am young in the industry and did not experience this event’s early stages through the years. Several woman were persistent in attempts to organize this event, including Jodi Itman, Sandy Blake and Ali Vekich. I would like to thank the recently elected Local 19 Education Committee Chair, Brad Herman, who gave the Women’s Event Planning Committee, including A, B and casuals, *carte blanche* and really supported us in taking charge. We feel optimistic and empowered by the novel attendees and the ideas that are being shared.

– Alia Lighter (58391), Local 19



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmed as next U.S. Supreme Court Justice

On April 7, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court by a vote of 53-47. This historic appointment makes her the 116th justice to be confirmed and the first Black woman to serve on the nation’s highest court. Three Republicans joining all 50 Democrats to vote to confirm her appointment.

Prior to Judge Jackson’s confirmation, five women have served on the Supreme Court: Sandra Day

O’Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Amy Coney Barrett. Two Black men, Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, have served. No Black women have previously served in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson’s nomination highlighted the overall lack of representation in the legal profession: Only 4.7 percent of lawyers are Black and just 70 Black women have ever served as a federal judge.

Judge Jackson was born in Washington, D.C., in 1970. Her father was a public-school teacher, and her mother was a school principal. She was raised in Miami, FL, where she attended public schools. She participated in regional debate competitions and was a national oratory champion in high school. Judge Jackson went on to graduate from Harvard College magna cum laude in 1992, and later enrolled in Harvard Law school after working briefly as a staff reporter and researcher at Time Magazine. While at

Harvard Law School, Judge Jackson served as Supervising Editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated cum laude in 1996.

Following her graduation, Judge Jackson clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Patti Saris of the District of Massachusetts, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Bruce of the First Circuit, and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Judge Jackson then entered private practice where she practiced commercial litigation.

Judge Jackson also served as Assistant Special Counsel to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a federal agency created by the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 to establish and maintain a system of sentencing guidelines for the federal courts. She then served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender. Judge Jackson is the first-ever former public defender to serve on the Court and the first Justice with significant experience representing criminal defendants since Justice Thurgood Marshall.

She spent seven years as a federal trial judge before being elevated in 2021 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which is seen by many as the nation’s second-most important court because of the high-profile cases that come before it. This Circuit also has served as a launching pad for several other Supreme Court justices before Judge Jackson.

“The historic confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court is an important milestone and a proud moment for our entire country,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams. “During her confirmation hearing Judge Jackson conducted herself with dignity and grace. Her breadth of legal experience makes her one of the most qualified candidates ever to be nominated to the Court. Congratulations to Judge Jackson on this extraordinary achievement.”

MAY IS OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICAL & DENTAL PLAN CHOICE

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and/or dental plans during the Open Enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2022. Any changes made will be effective July 1, 2022. In addition to the May Open Enrollment period, members may change their medical plan and/or dental plan once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan for the first 24 months of registration. After 24 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under the Mid-Year/Annual Review hours’ requirement will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Los Angeles, Portland/Vancouver and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choices are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan or the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 46, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92; and the Washington State area, Locals 19, 23, 32, 47,52 and 98.

DENTAL CHOICE: For Los Angeles Locals 13, 26, 63 and 94, the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Harbor Dental Associates or Dental Health Services. For Southern California Locals 29 and 46, the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For San Francisco Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91, the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Dental Health Services, or Gentle Dental San Francisco. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals 18, 34 and 54, the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For Portland/Vancouver Locals 4, 8, 40 and 92, the dental plan choices are Oregon Dental Service/Delta Dental of Washington, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan or LifeMap-Willamette Dental. For Washington Locals 7, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 47, 51,52 and 98, the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of Washington or Dental Health Services.

Information on the medical and dental plans, and forms to change plans, can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Office.

All Medical and Dental Program Choice Forms and enrollment forms, as applicable, must be completed and received by the Benefit Plans Office by June 15 for the enrollment change to be effective July 1.



Election Recommendations for the JUNE 7th Election

ILWU Southern California District Council

STATEWIDE GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM LT. GOVERNOR ELENI KOUNALAKIS SECRETARY OF STATE SHIRLEY WEBER ATTORNEY GENERAL ROB BONTA TREASURER FIONA MA CONTROLLER RON GALPERIN SUPV. OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TONY THURMOND INSURANCE COMMISSIONER RICARDO LARA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION -#3 - TONY VASQUEZ BOARD OF EQUALIZATION -#4 - MIKE SCHAFER	U.S. SENATE ALEX PADILLA & DIANNE FEINSTEIN CONGRESS DISTRICTS - 21 - JIM COSTA - 22 - RUDY SALAS - 24 - SALUD CARBAJAL - 25 - RAUL RUIZ - 26 - JULIA BROWNLEY - 27 - CHRISTY SMITH - 28 - JUDY CHU - 29 - TONY CARDENAS - 30 - ADAM SCHIFF - 31 - GRACE NAPOLITANO - 32 - BRAD SHERMAN - 33 - PETER AGUILAR - 34 - JIMMY GOMEZ - 35 - NORMA TORRES - 36 - TED LIEU - 38 - LINDA SANCHEZ - 39 - MARK TAKANO - 42 - ROBERT GARCIA
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- 43 - MAXINE WATERS - 44 - NANETTE BARRAGAN - 45 - JAY CHEN - 46 - LOU CORREA - 47 - KATIE PORTER - 49 - MIKE LEVIN - 50 - SCOTT PETERS - 51 - SARAH JACOBS - 52 - JUAN VARGAS STATE SENATE DISTRICTS - 22 - SUSAN RUBIO - 24 - BEN ALLEN - 26 - MARIA ELENA DURAZO - 30 - BOB ARCHULETA - 34 - TOM UNBERG STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS - 30 - DAWN ADDIS - 31 - JOAQUIN ARAMBULA - 36 - EDUARDO GARCIA - 38 - STEVE BENNETT - 40 - PILAR SCHIAVO - 41 - CHRIS HOLDEN - 42 - JACQUI IRWIN - 43 - LUZ MARIA RIVAS - 44 - LAURA FRIEDMAN - 45 - JAMES RAMOS - 46 - JESSE GABRIEL - 48 - BLANCA RUBIO - 49 - MIKE FONG - 50 - ELOISE GOMEZ REYES - 51 - RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR - 52 - WENDY CARRILLO - 53 - FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ - 54 - MIGUEL SANTIAGO - 55 - ISAAC BRYAN - 56 - LISA CALDERON - 57 - REGGIE JONES-SAWYER - 58 - SABRINA CERVANTES - 62 - ANTHONY RENDON - 65 - MIKE GIPSON - 66 - AL MURATSUCHI - 67 - SHARON QUIRK-SILVA - 69 - AL AUSTIN OR JOSH LOWENTHAL	- 73 - CODY PETRIE-MORRIS - 74 - CHRIS DUNCAN - 76 - BRIAN MAIENSCHEN - 77 - TASHA BOERNER HORNATH - 78 - CHRIS WARD - 79 - AKILAH WEBER - 80 - GEORGETTE GOMEZ L.A. CITY ATTORNEY MARINA TORRES L.A. CONTROLLER PAUL KORETZ L.A. COUNTY ASSESSOR JEFFREY PRANG L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF ERIC STRONG L.A. COUNTY SUPERVISOR HILDA SOLIS L.A. CITY COUNCIL CD 1 - GIL CEDILLO CD 3 - BOB BLUMENFIELD CD 5 - NO RECOMMENDATION CD 7 - MONICA RODRIGUEZ CD 9 - CURREN PRICE CD 11 - ERIN DARLING OR GREG GOOD CD 13 - MITCH O'FARRELL CD 15 - TIM MCOSKER LONG BEACH MAYOR SUZIE PRICE L.B. CITY ATTORNEY DAWN MCINTOSH L.B. CITY AUDITOR LAURA DOUD L.B. CITY PROSECUTOR DOUG HAUBERT LB CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT - 1 - MARY ZENDEJAS - 3 - MARK GUILLEN - 5 - MEGAN KERR - 7 - ROBERTO URANGA - 9 - JONI RICKS-ODDIE L.B. COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUNNY ZIA
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Oregon Area District Council voter recommendations for May 17th election:

Nonpartisan seats:
Christina Stephenson - Commissioner BOLI
Jo Ann Hardesty - Portland City Commissioner 3
Paul Savas - Clackamas County Commissioner 2
Sonya Fischer - Clackamas County Commissioner 3

Democratic Primary:
Val Hoyle - Congressional District 4
Jamie McLeod-Skinner - Congressional District 5
Mark Gamba - House District 41
Rod Nosse - House District 42
Travis Nelson - House District 44



REAL NEWS

FOLLOW & SHARE ILWU COAST LONGSHORE DIVISION UPDATES:

- WEB SITE: ilwulongshore.org
- TWITTER: twitter.com/ilwulongshore
- FACEBOOK: facebook.com/LongshoreWorkers

**Remember: Anti-union forces monitor social media,
and nothing online is private.**

**Protect yourself and your union
from those who seek to harm good jobs in America.**

**Get your news from reliable sources
and discuss union business at the hall, not online.**

**Share this info with others.
An Injury to One is an Injury to All.**

March 23, 2022

ATTENTION: LOCAL 10 MEMBERS

The Trustees of the Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund are prepared to accept applications for scholarships for the academic year 2022-2023. Now is the time to indicate your interest. **June 1, 2022 is the application deadline.**

Victor Smolin and Carlton Melin were longtime members of Local 10. They left a sum of money to establish the scholarship fund. They specified that scholarships were to be available to children of Class A Local 10 members to further their "collegiate" education. The Trustees of the Fund interpret "members" to mean **active members in good standing at the time of disbursement of scholarship funds**, deceased members and retired members. The Trustees interpret "collegiate" to apply only to **full-time** study (at least 12 units per semester or quarter) at either a four-year college or an academic junior college.

The Trustees have agreed that (1) no applicant will be awarded more than four scholarships, (2) a fifth scholarship would be considered after careful review of the applicant's record and if circumstances warrant and (3) in no event would an applicant be considered for a sixth scholarship.

Based always on available assets, the Fund historically has awarded scholarships in a range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for full-time students at four-year colleges or universities, and from \$350 to \$1,750 for full-time students at two-year colleges.

The Trustees are Eleanor Morton, counsel for ILWU Local 10, Eugene Vrana, Retired Director of Educational Services and Librarian for ILWU, and Nicole Bridges, Fund Administrator and the granddaughter of Harry Bridges.

To request an application, simply email Nicole Bridges at: nbridges@leonardcarder.com

She will then send you the application form with the necessary explanatory materials.

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

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION
DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600
- ADRP—Oregon**
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

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



Happy Retirement to Local 30 member Mark Blankenship

Mark Blankenship, has worked at Us Borax for 43 years. Throughout his time as a union member, he has always strived to uphold the ILWU's 10 Guiding Principles and always looked to include and encourage all members to get involved and participate in unionism and solidarity. He imparts the wisdom that we are stronger together than we are apart, and that democracy is the key. During his years as an ILWU member, he has held many positions in Local 30 including: Guide (2 years), Union Steward (20 years), Sergeant-At-Arms (10 years), Miner's representative (20 years), Safety Representative (20 years), ILWU Delegate (3 years), and So-Cal District Council Local 30 representative. He also served on three negotiating teams, held the office of Local 30 Secretary-Treasurer and lastly, he served as Local 30's President from 2018-2020. Mark has been a good friend and mentor over the years, the membership will miss him. Congratulations to Mark on his retirement on May 1st 2022.

– Thomas Marshall, Local 30 President

TRANSITIONS

- NEW PENSIONERS:**
Local 8: Robert C. Rogers;
Local 13: Arlan R. Deckard;
Mark Anthony Flores; Terry D. Lawrence; Stuart A. Scarborough;
Local 26: Jaime Tonas;
Local 63 OCU: Cheung "CP" Magh; Amanda Stockton;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:
Local 4: Gary L. Bridger; August Hust Jr.; **Local 8:** Nick Zupunski (Dianne); **Local 10:** Rodolfo Alatorre; A.B. Davis; Darryl K. Edwards; Isaac Pittman; Cleveland Rancifer; Barry Wilson; **Local 13:** Salvador V. Aguirre; James E. Bockrath; Johnny C. Brown; Gary L. Hansen; Alfred Luera; John V. Melano; David H. Robertson; Svetozar Valejia; Ernesto J. Valera; **Local 19:** Dallas L. De Lay; Mark R. Taylor; **Local 21:** Kevin V. Stinger; **Local 23:** James Edalgo; **Local 46:** Peter Duenez; **Local 50:** Ronald L. Jasper; **Local 51:** Gerald Whitney; **Local 52:** James R. Crotty; **Local 63 OCU:** Denise Ortega; **Local 75:** Walter E. Meretti Jr.;
- DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:**
Local 10: Cedric B. Geeter; Herbert M. Johnson; **Local 13:** Manuel Amaro; Ilene V. Flanagan; Hugh L. Kelley; Terrill W. Ross; Cesar Solorzano; Michael A. Urrutia; Laura M. Hansen-Lara; **Local 46:** Jose J. Arroyo; **Local 63:** Robert J. Lukin;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:
Local 8: Lois F. Stride; **Local 10:** Shirley Finn; June C. Garcia; Betty Hardin; Geraldine Lira; Sandra K. Lucas-Gosey; **Local 13:** Anna Ferrandino; Henderson; Helen; Ezora Roberts; **Local 19:** Ruth Durbin; Hazel C. Gloria; Marion A White; **Local 23:** Laura C. Sinclair; **Local 52:** Alice Maurice; **Local 54:** Charlotte P. Rapp; **Local 63:** Margie Anne Erickson; **Local 98:** Geri Toro; **Local 10:** Cedric B. Geeter; Herbert M. Johnson; **Local 13:** Manuel Amaro, Ilene V. Flanagan; Hugh L. Kelley, Terrill W. Ross; Cesar Solorzano; Michael A. Urrutia, Laura M. Hansen-Lara; **Local 46:** Jose J. Arroyo; **Local 63:** Robert J Lukin;

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