LWU 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, 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 Force De Leon and Cam Williams, Local 34 President Sean Farley, Local 63 President Joe Gaspersov, 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.
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 knew. 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 Spen, 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 bostersously said, “If anybody ever

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

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.

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 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 Krutez. 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

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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 Committeeeman 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 Committeeeman 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 and that the other links in the supply chain have stepped up to push for the workers to sit down. We are going to get an agreement.

“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 Committeeeman 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.”

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 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 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 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 the 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-Emmy-winning producer and is available for viewing on YouTube under the title “Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka Interviews ILWU Leaders.”
Locked out and Taft-Hartley’d: Looking back at 2002 lockout

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2002 lockout

Locked out and Taft-Hartley’d: Looking back at ILWU jurisdiction.

created by new technology would be the contract recognized that all jobs in 2002 was the same as it was 42 years The ILWU’s position on technology also emerged with a standard-setting and a public relations battle waged the employer, government threats, not only survived a major lockout by an agreed-upon press blackout 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 bode 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.

Spinoso 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,” Spinoso said. “But we stood fast and got ourselves a good contract. A terrific contract in the end.”

Economic terrorism

The pressure applied by the Bush Administration included a phone call from Tom Ridge, Director of Homeland Security. He told Spinoso 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 were sure 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 to attack 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 ILWU 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.

Bay Area ILWU members protest at the Port of Oakland during the 2002 lockout by the PMA.
Women's History
Women on the Waterfront - Our Past and Future: Local 19 Education Committee Celebrates Women's History

continued from page 4
and down the West Coast began to set up around-the-clock picketing. "We locked the gates and shut down the West Coast," said Pacific Coast Pensioner Association President Gregg More, 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 final offer 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 Hurtig issued a report that day describing the PMA's use of armed security as "inappropriate and a breach 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, however, agreed to extend the contract until Oct. 6, when the PMA committee agreed to accept the offer of federal mediation. The PTF'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 Zenkoksukowan. The two unions donated a combined $12,000 to the ILWU's struggle and the Zenkowan sent an ILWU delegation home with their union's flag to be hung in the negotiating room to remind employers of the two Japanese dockworker unions' cooperation 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 Hurtig, head of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, developed a tentative agreement on a new contract. Roger Boesling, 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 vote of the ILWU membership succeeded in striking their dockworkers for a fair contract did not. The community rallied behind the ILWU. The ILWU reached 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 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." 

Portions of this article draws from the forthcoming book Labor Under Siege: Big Bob McElrath and the ILWU's Fight for Organized Labor in an Anti-Union Era, An Oral History by Harvey Schwartz and Ron Maglen, 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/partner/ID=35731

The Coast Longshore Caucus voted overwhelmingly to support the membership approve the contract. On Jan. 22, the Longshore Division ratified the membership vote: 7405 in favor of the contract and 688 against. The 89.3 percent for ratification was the largest contract ratification margin in the union's history.
O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Amy Coney Barrett. Two Black women, 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 Scira 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 elected 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.”

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

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 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 at 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 Gentile 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. For 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.

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.

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 1

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.
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 financial 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 $550 to $1,750 for full-time students at two-year colleges.

The Trustees are Eleanor Marion, cheered for ILWU Local 10, Eugene Grana, 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: nbbridges@leonardcarver.com

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

MARK BLANKENSHIP

ID: Local 30

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