On Juneteenth weekend, more than 70 rank-and-file ILWU members joined with 4,000 other labor activists at the Labor Notes conference in Chicago. The event featured speakers, workshops, trainings, and opportunities for union members and activists to share tactics, strategies, and build the relationships that are central to strengthening the labor movement.

New York Times labor reporter Noam Scheiber characterized the conference as “the epicenter of the U.S. labor movement.”

“Having been to Labor Notes before, for me this trip was less about the conference and more about the connections we are building with workers in our union,” Skiffington said. “Seeing new friendships develop between Canadians, So Cal, Alaskans, and warehouse workers — it’s the glue that binds the union together.”

Alaska Longshore Division Vice President Jeff Hancock added, “This was a great opportunity for our people to come together and bond with other members they wouldn’t normally get to meet. Events like this are where we build the networks and lifelong friendships that are so important to the strength of our union.”

“I felt a deep sense of camaraderie with everyone, especially my fellow ILWU folks,” added Local 23 B-woman, Tianna Kelly. “This trip was extremely impactful and humanized everyone in a way that I haven’t experienced with my work peers prior. I feel less apathetic, more inspired, and genuinely overjoyed with the friendships that I’ve built in my union. I feel more supported than ever and more able to extend trust and support to others.”

Making connections, opening eyes

ILWU members also were able to meet workers from other unions and learn from each other’s experiences. Union activists from all over the country were eager to hear about the democratic traditions of the ILWU, while new ILWU members had the chance to learn first-hand about the labor movement through the eyes of others.
ILWU Local 5 raises money for striking Alabama coal miners

In 2010, when our ILWU Local 30 siblings at the Rio Tinto borax mine in Boron, CA were locked out by their employer, ILWU Local 5 hosted its first ever “Drinking for Miners” event. A local bar agreed to donate a portion of drink sales to the Local 30 Lockout Fund, and we called on our labor family to show up and “drink for a cause, not just because.”

Our fellow workers, union siblings, and allies packed the bar that night, in support of workers they would probably never meet. It was a beautiful demonstration of our union’s motto, “An Injury to One Is an Injury to All,” to see so many people giving their time and resources to help workers hundreds of miles away, whose jobs and circumstances looked nothing like their own.

Fast-forward to today: roughly 900 coal miners in Alabama have been on strike against their employer, Warrior Met Coal, since April 1, 2021 — the longest strike in Alabama history. The camaraderie and dedication these workers and their families have shown is incredible, but the physical, emotional, and financial toll of so many months on the picket line cannot be overstated. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Strike Aid Fund is one of the resources that has been sustaining these brave workers in their fight against corporate greed. Another is solidarity. So in early July, Local 5 hosted its second ever “Drinking for Miners” event, in the hopes of sending them replenishments of both.

On July 7, Local 5 partnered with Workers Tap (a worker-owned Portland bar you should be sure to visit next time you’re in town!) to raise funds for the UMWA Strike Aid Fund, and to show the striking Warrior Met miners that their support network extends all the way to the Pacific Northwest. Workers Tap generously agreed to donate 20 percent of drink sales for the entire night to the UMWA Strike Aid Fund, and over the course of the evening, we saw a steady stream of individual donations as well. All told, we raised over $500!

But that donation was just one of many happy takeaways. The event helped raise awareness in our community of this struggle happening on the other side of the country. I had so many conversations that night with folks who were either hearing about the Warrior Met strike for the first time, or who were aware, but appalled to learn it was still underway all these months later. Many of those folks wrote handwritten messages of solidarity to accompany their donation. The event also brought workers together from a wide range of industries — social workers, hotel workers, booksellers, historical society workers, longshore workers, early childhood educators, and at least one IFT Inspector were all in attendance. And perhaps happiest of all: the day before the event, workers at the Joyful Noise Child Development Centers won their union vote and became members of Local 5, so the event doubled as a victory party for Portland’s newest group of unionized preschool workers!

We are so appreciative of everyone who showed up, donated, built bridges with their fellow workers, and helped make this event a success. Cross-industry solidarity is a beautiful thing. To learn more about the Warrior Met strike and/or donate to UMWA Strike Aid Fund, visit the UMWA website: umwa.org.

— Tove Holmberg (she/her)
Local 5, Powell’s Burnside Bargaining Unit Representative

Workers at Salty’s & Fang vote unanimously to join Local 5

It wasn’t just a vote — it was a message. When the workers’ votes were counted were counted for union representa tion at Salty’s and Fang, on July 19, 2022, the message was clear: 100 percent in favor of ILWU Local 5. The workers of Salty’s and Fang just might be the very first plant-pet shop (admittedly a unique in retail niche), in the United States to ever unionize.

From the beginning, workers have had an intense level of solidarity and a commitment to organize. In a group chat, workers exchanged information, supported each other and built community over hundreds of texts and communications with one another each month. Transparency and trust has been the bedrock of their organizing efforts, and the community they built has paid off... well... 100%!

After the celebration, Salty’s and Fang workers started working on their contract and are preparing to negotiate, with a bit of a unique spin. Rather than electing a bargaining team, EVERY SINGLE WORKER of Salty’s and Fang will be trained as bargaining team members and empowered to negotiate at the bargaining table. With such an extreme level of participation and rank-and-file democracy, the crew’s hope is the union can meet regularly and move quickly through contract negotiations. They are looking to achieve a good contract and they are looking to move quickly. For now, they might be the first in the industry, but by setting the stage for what is possible, what happens next is limitless!

— Ryan Tulas, ILWU Organizer

Workers at Salty’s and Fang voted 13-0 to join Local 5.
ILWU activists flock to Labor Notes conference amid labor movement resurgence

Jeff Hancock attended the last in-person Labor Notes conference held prior to the pandemic. He said the mood this year was more optimistic. “That conference was focused on responding to the right-wing attacks on collective bargaining rights in response to the Janus decision,” Hancock said. “This year’s conference was not about being reactive and playing defense. It was about working organizers and expanding their power.” The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2018 Janus v. AFSCME ruling made “right to work” the law of the land for public sector workers.

ILWU rolls deep

The ILWU’s diverse delegation included members from every region and division and included long-time ILWU members, pensioners, and young workers including B’s and casu- als. Young workers spent months fundraising and organizing in their locals to make it to Chicago. ILWU Canada’s Second Vice President Dan Kask said that the majority of their 16-person delegation was the result of organizing efforts by members of ILWU Canada’s Young Workers Committee.

“We technically only sent four people from the ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee. They did all the fundraising and everything on their own. They took it upon themselves to go out and organize other people to come. Those folks either did fundraising through their own locals or went on their own dime.”

Other ILWU locals that sent large delegations of members and casu- als included Local 23, which sent 19 workers, Local 63 OCU which sent 10 workers, and Local 19 which sent five workers.

Local 94 member Frank Grove said it was inspiring for her to see so many locals bring large delegations that included B-books and casu- als. “That made me excited for the future of the union to see the enthusiasm and participation from these young workers,” she said.

Centering workers

The conference featured high-pro- file speakers and presenters throughout the weekend, including U.S. Sen- ator Bernie Sanders, newly elected Teamsters President Sean O’Brien, International President of the Associa- tion of Flight Attendants-CWA Sara Nelson, and Stacy Davis Gates, the new President of the Chicago Teachers Union. But the real stars of the week- end were the rank-and-file activists who are organizing workplaces and a building strong democratic labor movement.

Amazon Labor Union (ALU) Presi- dent Christian Smalls, who helped build the first successful organiz- ing drive at an Amazon warehouse, inspired many workers at the confer- ence. Smalls is emerging as a symbol for a militant, young labor movement that is confronting 21st Century corpo- rate titans like Amazon and Starbucks.

Grove said she was impressed with Smalls. “I had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Smalls,” Grove said. “He’s a fantastic young man that is leading a new set of workers. I like the way that he is thinking. I like the fact that he wasn’t about himself, but that he is trying to move a group of workers forward. What the Amazon Labor Union is doing is going to be for the betterment of every worker in the supply chain.”

Education for activists

Panel discussions were informative and practical. Speakers relayed advice on strategy and tactics and discussed recent organizing campaigns. As the session called “Labor’s Upsurge: How Unions Can Make the Most of This Moment,” panelists from the Amazon Labor Union and Starbucks Workers United discussed their groundbreak- ing campaigns. Other panels included “Striking before union recognition,” “Direct Action,” and “Researching Your Employer for Organizing and Bargain- ing Campaigns.”

Hancock said he attended a work- shop on bargaining tactics and found that it provided him with useful infor- mation that was directly relevant to his work as a union officer. “Labor Notes is a great educational opportunity for members,” Hancock said. “They offer a lot of short courses on grievance han- dling, contract negotiations and other important skills for current and future leaders of our union.”

Beating apathy

Several ILWU members were pre- senters and facilitators on discussion panels. Local 23 Vice President Dean McGrath spoke on a panel on sup- ply chain organizing. Zack Patton of Local 23 was a facilitator for the long- shore worker breakout group, and also helped facilitate a session that was part of a series of Secrets of a Successful Orga- nizer workshops. The group of about 130 discussed how unions address problems in the workplace and handles to bringing more members into unions. Participants practiced effective “organiz- ing conversations” to find the issues that move people into action.

“The fundamental lesson from ‘Beating Apathy,’ said Patton, is that apathy isn’t real. Everybody cares about something. It’s your job to ask the right questions and identify the issues that do matter to people. So you have to listen. Then we can come up with a plan to get more people willing to fight the boss by getting past the actual barriers: fear, divis- ion, hopelessness, and confusion. These problems are largely created by the employer.” Members and casu- als from several ILWU and IBEW locals attended the “Beating Apathy” work- shop, before attending the subsequent sessions in the Secrets track.

Democracy is power

Dan Kask spoke on a panel called “Democracy is power: Leadership in Democratic Unions.”

“The panel was focused on how people who are elected to positions in democratic unions continue to main- tain that rank-and-file control,” Kask said. “I spoke about ILWU traditions and principles and that those of us elected to positions of leadership are just stewards of offices that belong to the membership. As leaders, our role is to bring people along and train our replacements so that the union contin- ues to be strong and democracy con- tinues in our union.”

Young workers rising

Tyler Rasmussen from the Local 23 Young Workers Committee spoke on the “Young Workers Rising” panel with included baristas from Starbucks Workers United and two worker orga- nizers who work for the National Support Network based in Toronto. Rasmussen said that on Friday morn- ing, they spoke to a standing-room- only crowd, and covered a series of topics including:

- Why are young people getting involved in the labor movement?
- How do young workers engage
Bloody Thursday holds a special meaning for ILWU members. Every year on July 5th, members, pensioners, and their families gather along the West Coast to mark the solemn anniversary of the killings of Nick Bordoise and Howard Sperry, who were shot by police in San Francisco on July 5th, 1934. That event sparked a general strike in San Francisco and marked the turning point of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike that eventually led to the formation of the ILWU.

While the day is a celebration of the strike’s victory, it is also a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by longshore workers who fought for and died for dignity on the waterfront in 1934 and set the table for what longshore workers enjoy today.

The strike began on May 9, 1934, when West Coast longshore workers struck, shutting down docks along 2000 miles of coastline, including the major ports of Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego. The issues included a union-controlled hiring hall that would end all forms of discrimination and favoritism in hiring and equalize work opportunities; a no-coastwise contract, with all workers on the Pacific Coast receiving the same basic wages and working under the same protected hours and conditions; and a 6-hour work day with a fair hourly wage.

Bloody Thursday is a time to remember all six workers who were killed along the West Coast during the strike: Bordoise and Sperry in San Francisco, Dickie Parker and John Knudsen in San Pedro, Shelvy Daffron in Seattle, and James Connor in Port Hueneme.

**Southern California**

Thousands of ILWU members, pensioners, Auxiliary, and family members gathered at San Pedro’s Point Fermin Park for this year’s Bloody Thursday Picnic held by Locals 13, 63 and 94. The event was made possible by volunteers from Local 13’s Events Committee, which works year-round to plan this and other events. There was a variety of games for children and adults, including a corn hole tournament, bounce houses, balloons, face painting, and other activities provided safe and fun activities for kids.

A wide-range of food and drinks were available at no cost to members and families, including tacos, pulled pork, hamburgers and pizza. Live music from local bands The Floaters, The Topics and Soto Band provided entertainment all day long.

The Southern California Pensioners Group had a tent, with chairs, food and goodies available for dozens of people who dropped by. The always-active ILWU Federated Auxiliary Local 8 worked the crowd with raffle tickets to benefit their work. The Local 13 Publicity Committee and Local 56 Ship Scalers also had a table.

**First Blood Martyrs**

The day started with the annual “Bloody Run,” a graveside memorial service at Roosevelt Cemetery in Gardena where San Pedro High graduate Dickie Parker and Lomita resident John Knudsen where the first two martyrs of the 1934 strike are buried. The service was followed by a symbolic funeral procession from the cemetery to the Bloody Thursday Picnic site. The turnout for this year’s Bloody Run was the largest ever, with over 200 people turning out for the ceremony.

Company-employed goons shot Parker and Knudsen, along with five other union members, shortly after midnight on May 15, 1934, at Berth 145 in Wilmington. The first deadly confrontation on the docks that year between strikers and strikebreakers involved the employer’s use of armed private guards. Parker died on the way to the hospital, while Knudsen held on for weeks before dying of his wounds.

Local 13 member Christian “C-Dog” Abio was the emcee for the memorial event this year. Speakers included Local 13 President Ramon Ponce de Leon, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, Local 13 Executive Board member David Serrato, and PCPA President Greg Mitre. PCPA Port Laureate Jerry Brady moved the crowd with his poem commemorating the 1934 strike and the sacrifices made by Parker and Knudsen.

**Port Hueneme**

Local 46 had a good turnout for their picnic in Ventura’s Arroyo Verde Park.

**Bay Area**

The Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA) held its annual Bloody Thursday event at the Local 10 Hall in San Francisco. More than 200 people attended the event throughout the day. Speakers at the event included Local 10 President Farless Dalley III, Local 34 Vice President Dave Gonzales, BALMA President John Castanho, BALMA Vice President Trevor McCoy, BALMA Treasurer Mike Villeggisne, BALMA Secretary Venenta Hamlin, and past Local 10 President Trent Willis. Bay Area Pensioners Club President Lawrence Thibeaux was the emcee for the event.

The memorial service was followed by a lunch at the hall, with music by deejay Trent Willis and activities for kids including face painting.

**Seattle**

ILWU members celebrated in Seattle with a small wreath-laying service at Pier 91 near the Smith Cove site where Shelby Daffron was shot. There was also a memorial at Daffron’s grave organized by the Seattle Pensioners Club. The event attended by members and pensioners paid their respects to Daffron and honored his sacrifice that helped build the ILWU.

**Tacoma**

Approximately 600 people attended Local 23’s Bloody Thursday picnic held at Spanaway Lake Park. Several dozen volunteers helped to make the event possible, including the Local 35 Auxiliary who ran the bingo tent. Activities included cribbage and corn hole tournaments and kids games. Everyone enjoyed the food prepared by volunteers, which included burgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob and watermelon. Members of locals 52, 98, 500, 514 and pensioners from locals 5 and 19 also attended. Members of Local 22 Port Security provided services for the event.

**Portland**

Approximately people 700 attend Local 8’s Bloody Thursday Picnic at Alderbrook Park in Brush Prairie, Washington, which included members from Locals 40, 92, IBU, and Ash Grove (Local 8 affiliate). Local 8 pensioner Dave Degman performed with this band, Dave Degman and the Rogue River Band.

**Vancouver**

Local 4 held a picnic at Lewisville Park in Bantlegrove, Washington, which was attended by several dozen people. The picnic featured a barbeque, and fun for families including potato sack races and other games.

**Annual Bloody Thursday events honor the legacy of 1934**

First Blood: Local 13 President Ramon Ponce de Leon addressed more than 200 people who came out to Roosevelt Cemetery for a memorial service at the gravesite of First Blood martyr Dickie Parker who was killed in San Pedro on May 15, 1934 by company-hired goons.

BALMA’s Bloody Thursday event had activities for all ages.
Federated Auxiliary Local 8 members raised money for their work with a 50/50 raffle.

Local 56 Ship Scalers set up a tent at the Southern California Bloody Thursday picnic.

From left to right: Huarleen Bain, Cahri Citron, James Bridger Jr., and Jacky Browder at the Local 4 picnic.

Approximately 700 people attended the Local 8 Bloody Thursday event at Alderbrook Park.

Local 23 Picnic Crew: From left to right: Tianna Kelly, Tyler Rasmussen, Juan Tomás Serrano, Juan Serrano (A), and Marco Antonio Serrano.

Local 46 picnic in Ventura’s Arroyo Verde Park.

Local 56 Ship Scalers set up a tent at the Southern California Bloody Thursday picnic.

Nick Prescott (left) and Jamison Roberts (right) enjoying the Local 4 picnic.

Federated Auxiliary Local 8 members raised money for their work with a 50/50 raffle.

From left to right: Huarleen Bain, Cahri Citron, James Bridger Jr., and Jacky Browder at the Local 4 picnic.
Local 400 biennial conference report

Striking Local 400 car mechanics welcome B.C. Federation of Labour’s call for boycott of luxury dealership

O n June 14th ILWU 400 Marine Section and General Workers held its constitutional biennial meeting at the Maritime Labour Centre in Vancouver, Canada. We are grateful for the attendance of ILWU Canada officers, Brother Ed Ferris, ILWU International Secretary Treasurer and Sister Terri Mast Secretary Treasurer of Inlandboatman’s Union. We are grateful for the solidarity they expressed and their pledge of support for critical issues facing Local 400.

ILWU 400 has always packed a mighty punch. The local was born out of an organizing campaign to win the rights of workers who provide servicing for the cars their clients depend on,” says Jason Woods, Local 400 President.

“This is a company that is reporting its revenues were up by more than 40 percent last year. Why are they gambling with the trained workers who ensure the reliability of their product?”

“We join in the call for custom- ers of Open Road to boycott the deal- ership. For a full year, the dealership has refused to bargain in good faith, belittled its dedicated workers, and harassed them with efforts to decretify the union. That’s a full year spent by a company that deals in a luxury prod- uct refusing to pay its own workers an average industry salary.”

In addition to wages, workers are refusing a company attempt to “tier” wages by paying some mechanics less than others who do the same work.

“People in our communities need food on the table and pay in their pocket- ets, especially this year. Right now, Open Road is a dead end for workers,” Woods said.

— Jason Woods
Local 400 President

Wherever workers—organized or unorganized—need assistance, Local 400 will be there to support them.

During our biennial meeting, Local 400 renewed its commitment to reconcili- ation by awarding scholarships to First Nation peoples who wish to enter the marine industry. These scholar- ship recipients are the first seafarers, dock, and transport- ation workers in British Columbia. We are committed to justice, reconcili- ation and entry into the industry.

The highlight of the day was an exam- ination of a significant threat to the coastal marine industry by sub- standard operators and substandard vessels. Local 400 has been hammering the Canadian government regulator, Transport Canada, to develop mean- ingful regulations to safeguard workers and protect the marine environment. We demand meaningful regulations be enforced instead of relying on the lais-sez faire notion of “self-regulation” that is so pervasive in transportation indus- tries. Two words describe this neo- liberal practice where the corporat- izations that are supposed to be the objects of government regulation, actually con- trol the regulatory process: “regula- tory capture.” Our governments must unshackle themselves from their influence and protect the public interest not the corporate interest.

We are now faced with the same issues as our grandparents: a predatory tug-boat operator from eastern Canada—aided and abetted by an eastern-based seafarers’ union—has moved into west coast operations offering ship berth- ing and ship escorts. Industry insid- ers have indicated that Groupe Ocean is offering contracts at 40 percent and 50 percent below industry standards. They are empowered by a seafarer’s “union” with a collective agreement that is 40 percent below existing west coast standards.

We are aware our siblings have faced similar issues with predatory unions and employers teaming up to diminish the standards of our mem- bers. Such unholy alliances are being used to undermine our conditions must be met with the determined soli- darity of our whole union from Alaska, through Canada and the whole West Coast of the USA.

The ILWU 400 Marine Section and General Workers will meet the chal- lenges head on and at all costs. We are buoyed by our own ILWU slogan, bor- rowed from the Wobblies—“An injury to one, is and injury to all.” Local 400 wishes you solidarity in all your struggles. Never hesitate to reach out to us. We will always stand by you.

— Jason Woods
President ILWU Local 400

Photo by Michael Y.C. Tseng

Mechanics at Open Road Auto Group DBA Mercedes-Benz are striking for fair wages.

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The Pacific Coast Pensioners are proud to announce they will be holding their annual convention in Long Beach, California September 19th-21st. The event will be held at the beautiful union-staffed Hotel Maya on the water in Long Beach. This year’s convention is sure to be a special event. After two consecutive years of not being able to have an in-person convention due to the COVID outbreak, the ILWU Southern California Pensioners are really looking forward to putting on a terrific event. Highlights will include a welcome reception sponsored by the ILWU Credit Union on Sunday evening, followed by a dinner cruise through the port complex of Los Angeles and Long Beach Monday night that will include a scrumptious, catered BBQ dinner, dancing, a live band, and drinks served aboard the luxury yacht “Sir Winston.” During this cruise, we will be able to observe our ILWU siblings at work in the largest port complex in North America. The following night will be a dinner/dance held at the hotel in their beautiful ballroom. We will have representatives from Canada, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California and some special invited guests. There will be three days of fun, camaraderie with our ILWU siblings from other ports, and guest speakers to keep attendees engaged and entertained. The ILWU Auxiliary 8 will be helping in the hospitality room serving tasty treats and drinks for us to enjoy.

If you are interested in attending please email us at so.ca.pensioners@gmail.com and we will send you the registration form.

– Greg Mitre
PCPA President

In Memoriam

John Munson was a bear of a man with a heart of gold and a devotion to his family and his union. He went to his final dispatch at the age of 80 on April 22, 2022. John left behind Katherine, his wife of 50 years, and his three children, Andrea, Karl and Joann.

John was a doer. He was an advocate for ILWU members as well as the entire working class. John was registered in ILWU Local 32, Everett, Washington, in 1979. During his time in the Everett, Bellingham and Seattle locals, John voluntarily served on various committees, including as President of the Puget Sound District Council (PSDC) and as Labor Relations Committee (LRC) representative for Local 19. He helped negotiate local agreements, served as an ILWU Representative to Labor Council Meetings, and proudly and forthrightly represented our union in civic and labor struggles. When John walked into a room with employers or politicians and sat down making their chairs look fragile, they expected “just another Longshoreman,” but when he started speaking, they were forced to start taking copious notes.

After retirement, John embraced the motto of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) “Retired from the job … not from the struggle.” He was the Recording Secretary for the PCPA, traveled to Washington D.C. on Legislative Committees, walked picket lines for Local 26 Rite Aid Workers, the IBU, as well as other unions, and spent countless hours telephoning and writing letters to state legislators and members of Congress. John also enjoyed traveling north of the border once or twice a year to attend pensioners meetings in Vancouver, B.C., and break bread with his many friends there.

Anyone who spoke with John up to his final days will attest that he always ended the conversation with “How can I help?” Our deepest condolences go to John’s family.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, August 13th at the Unitarian Church, 1207 Ellsworth St. Bellingham, WA. 98225.

– Nick Buckles & Rich Austin, Sr.

ILWU-PCPA 53rd Annual Convention

The Pacific Coast Pensioners are proud to announce they will be holding their annual convention in Long Beach, California September 19th-21st.

The event will be held at the beautiful union-staffed Hotel Maya on the water in Long Beach. This year’s convention is sure to be a special event. After two consecutive years of not being able to have an in-person convention due to the COVID outbreak, the ILWU Southern California Pensioners are really looking forward to putting on a terrific event. Highlights will include a welcome reception sponsored by the ILWU Credit Union on Sunday evening, followed by a dinner cruise through the port complex of Los Angeles and Long Beach Monday night that will include a scrumptious, catered BBQ dinner, dancing, a live band, and drinks served aboard the luxury yacht “Sir Winston.” During this cruise, we will be able to observe our ILWU siblings at work in the largest port complex in North America. The following night will be a dinner/dance held at the hotel in their beautiful ballroom. We will have representatives from Canada, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California and some special invited guests. There will be three days of fun, camaraderie with our ILWU siblings from other ports, and guest speakers to keep attendees engaged and entertained. The ILWU Auxiliary 8 will be helping in the hospitality room serving tasty treats and drinks for us to enjoy.

Right is the flyer with the information needed to book your hotel. There is also a registration form necessary to register for the convention. If you are interested in attending please email us at so.ca.pensioners@gmail.com and we will send you the registration form.

– Greg Mitre
PCPA President

BALMA awards annual scholarships: On June 21st, The Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA) held its annual scholarship ceremony. This year, BALMA awarded scholarships to 42 children of Local 10 members totaling $25,500. Several of the scholarships that were awarded this year were from the ILWU Credit Union.

“This event is one of the highlights of my working career and is an event I look forward to participating in each year,” said BALMA President John Castanho.
ILWU activists flock to Labor Notes conference amid labor movement resurgence

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with older workers and how does the generational gap work out? 
• How do social movements and social issues relate to young workers and your organizing? 
• How is the atmosphere for young workers in an established union workplace versus a new union workplace?

Rasmussen said he emphasized the importance of building strong support from the active membership and pensioners for young workers’ committees. “During the panel, I wanted to high-light the reasons the Local 23 Young Workers Committee has been so successful and the importance of the YWC to the ILWU,” he said.

Longshore unity

Another highlight of the conference was a breakout session for longshore workers that was attended by members of ILWU and the International Longshoremen’s Association. The room was filled to capacity. “I think there were about 90 of us there,” Grove said. “We got to talking about the differences and similarities between the ILWU and the ILA. It gave rank-and-file members from both unions a chance to sit down and talk and created a bond between us. If we strengthen that bond, how much stronger could we be?”

Taking action

Members emerged from the experience at Labor Notes with a renewed commitment to strengthening the ILWU and extending solidarity to workers outside of the ILWU. Young workers, in particular, emerged from the weekend with renewed commitments to taking concrete actions on member-to-member education programs, outreach and activities to create and maintain social cohesion in their locals and even explore starting Young Worker Committees in their own locals.

“The most important thing I learned at Labor Notes,” said Nicole Elversson, “is that to make the ILWU stronger, I need to know the ILWU — its history, values and principles, and to know my fellow rank-and-file members. Just as I am growing my understanding of what it means to be a part of the ILWU and where it comes from, I hope to continue to grow the bonds forged at Labor Notes among my Local 23 Young Worker troop.”

Tocama Walk to fight MS

April 16th was an amazing day, as we were able to gather in person once again for the annual MS Walk to Fight Multiple Sclerosis. We had a great turnout, with longshore, family, and friends all proudly wearing our union-printed ILWU Local 23 team t-shirts.

“These past two years have been very challenging to many families,” said longtime MS Walker and retired longshore mechanic Mike Belshay. “This year, our MS Walk team was eager to reunite. We were also able to make a positive impact with all the help and support from our longshore brothers and sisters.” Our ILWU Local 23 team raised $15,376 this year — the most we have raised to date — through our Spaghetti and Enchilada fundraisers, donations made to the MS Walk account at our Credit Union and money raised by our walkers.

The Local 23 team co-captains, Holly Hulscher and Lisa Reed, noted that over the last 19 years our team has participated in the walk we have raised over $158,000 total to help fight MS.

“We work together in solidarity, volunteering for a common cause. “There is no greater power for change than a community discovering what it cares about,” said longtime volunteer Tiffany Sparks. “While at times it feels we can do so little by ourselves, together we can do so much. United we stand — union strong.”

— Holly Hulscher, Local 23

Local 10 Centenarian:

Let’s celebrate 103-year old pensioner Willie Dixon. Willie joined Local 10 in 1944 and retired in 1981.

SoCal bowling tournament:

ILWU members in Southern California participated in a bowling tournament on July 29th at the Bowlero Lanes in Torrance. The tournament was organized by ILWU Nightsiders Bowling League Secretary Rosa Golden and Lisa Tonson. The event was a great success. The ILWU Nightsiders League begins in September 2022 and concludes in Laughlin NV (sweeps).