



THE DISPATCHER

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Overflowing with solidarity: The longshore workers breakout group was filled to capacity with rank-and-file ILWU and ILA members.

ILWU activists flock to Labor Notes conference amid labor movement resurgence



Honoring the legacy of 1934 [page 4](#)

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.”

Labor Notes was founded in 1979 on the principle that democracy, member participation, and militancy makes unions stronger and more effective. They publish a monthly newspaper, and practical guides and books to educate workers trying to build power in their

workplaces. They also hold regional “Troublemaker Schools” that teach workers essential skills for organizing in their workplaces.

Union building

The conference served as an important networking and union-building opportunity for members to build lasting relationships across regions and divisions of the ILWU, said Local 23 member Brian Skiffington. “Having been to Labor Notes once 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

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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 \$900!

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



Local 5 members Nat of Growing Seeds (left) and Amanda of Joyful Noise (right) showing their support and solidarity for striking miners in Alabama.

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, book workers, historical society workers, longshore workers, early childhood educators, and at least one ITF 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



Workers at Salty’s and Fang voted 13-0 to join Local 5.

It wasn’t just a vote — it was a message. When the workers’ votes were counted were counted for union representation 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 chats, 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 Takas, ILWU Organizer

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ILWU activists flock to Labor Notes conference amid labor movement resurgence

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of workers who are struggling to form their first union or win a first contract. Others said that the energy and enthusiasm helped them to refocus and rekindle commitments to building the labor movement.

“My eyes were opened to the struggles other workers face in their fights for creating and strengthening their unions,” said Local 23 B-man Nicalo Elverston. “Even though many of us in the ILWU came into an already established and strong union, we can’t take what we have for granted. The fight has been brought to us in recent years and I have to prepare myself and other young workers for what may come.”

“This experience gave me more knowledge of unions, the labor movement, and solidarity,” added Local 63 OCU member Jamie Bulaich. “This was a touchstone to bring me back to what is important. We are so wrapped up in our daily lives on the job that can we lose sight of the fact that we are a part of something massive and profound. Going to Labor Notes re-awakes that awareness within you.”

Workers on the move

This year’s sold-out conference was the largest Labor Notes event ever. The record-setting turnout comes in the context of a resurgence in labor organizing as a new generation of workers turns to collective action in response to an economy that has failed to produce jobs that meet their economic needs and fulfill their expectations. Recent data from the National Labor Relations Board shows that between October 2021 and March of this year, there was a 57 percent increase in union representation petitions compared to the previous year.

In addition to this year’s record-setting attendance, the conference was notably younger than previous years, noted Local 63 OCU President John Fageaux, who has been attending Labor Notes for the past 12 years.

“This has been the biggest crowd I’ve seen,” Fageaux said. “The crowd was extremely progressive, young, energized, and militant – all of the things you want to see. The labor movement is alive and well, and I believe we are finally going to see some growth after decades of slow decline.”

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 workers organizing 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 casuals. 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 casuals included Local 23, which sent 19 workers, Local 63 OCU which sent 10 workers, and Local 19 which sent five workers.

Local 94 member Fran Grove said it was inspiring for her to see so many locals bring large delegations that included B-books and casuals. “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-profile speakers and presenters throughout the weekend, including U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, newly elected Teamsters President Sean O’Brien,



Rank-and-file longshore workers at the ILWU-ILA breakout session

International President of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA Sara Nelson, and Stacy Davis Gates, the new President of the Chicago Teachers Union. But the real stars of the weekend were the rank-and-file activists who are organizing their workplaces and a building strong democratic labor movement.

Amazon Labor Union (ALU) President Christian Smalls, who helped build the first successful organizing drive at an Amazon warehouse, inspired many workers at the conference. Smalls is emerging as a symbol for a militant, young labor movement that is confronting 21st Century corporate 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. At 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 groundbreaking campaigns. Other panels included “Striking before union recognition,” “Direct Action,” and “Researching Your Employer for Organizing and Bargaining Campaigns.”

Hancock said he attended a workshop on bargaining tactics and found that it provided him with useful information 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 handling, contract negotiations and other important skills for current and future leaders of our union.”

Beating apathy

Several ILWU members were presenters and facilitators on discussion panels. Local 23 Vice President Dean McGrath spoke on a panel on supply chain organizing. Zack Pattin of

Local 23 was a facilitator for the longshore worker breakout group, and also helped facilitate a session that was part of a series of *Secrets of a Successful Organizer* workshops. The group of about 150 discussed how unions address problems in the workplace and hurdles to bringing more members into unions. Participants practiced effective “organizing conversations” to find the issues that move people into action.

“The fundamental lesson from ‘Beating Apathy,’” said Pattin, “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, division, hopelessness, and confusion — problems that are largely created by the employer.” Members and casuals from several ILWU and IBU locals attended the “Beating Apathy” workshop, 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 maintain 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 continues to be strong and democracy continues 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 organizers who work for the Naujawan Support Network based in Toronto. Rasmussen said that on Friday morning, 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

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Front row: Left to right Zack Pattin, Local 23; Brian Skiffington, Local 23, Back row (left to right): Alison Steichen, Local 19; Tove Holmberg, Local 5; Amazon Labor Union President Christian Smalls; Michelle Carroll, Local 5; Arthur “AJ” Valenzuela, Local 46; Chelsea Reissler, Local 19

Annual Bloody Thursday events honor the legacy of 1934

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 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 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-

land. A seventh worker, seaman Bruce Lindberg, was killed in a strike-related attack in Hong Kong.

These workers were among dozens of American union members killed that year by police and employer-hired vigilantes who tried to stop workers from organizing unions and general strikes that briefly shut down San Francisco, Minneapolis, and many workplaces that summer. Bloody Thursday is a time for ILWU members to reflect on all of the sacrifices made by generations of longshore workers who struggled and fought to improve wages and conditions on the waterfront.

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, balloon artists, 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.



ILWU members in Seattle held a wreath-laying ceremony at Pier 91 near the Smith Cove site where Shelvy Daffron was shot in the back and killed by police in 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.

First Blood Martyrs

The day started with the annual "Blood Run," 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 Blood 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" Abito was the emcee at 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 Poet 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 Dailey III, Local 34 Vice President Dave Gonzales, BALMA President John Castanho, BALMA Vice President Trevor McCoy, BALMA Treasurer Mike Villeggiante, BALMA Secretary Vanetta 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.



Photo by Kelley Kane

BALMA's Bloody Thursday event had activities for all ages.

Seattle

ILWU members celebrated in Seattle with a small wreath-laying service at Pier 91 near the Smith Cove site where Shelvy Daffron was murdered. There was also a memorial at Daffron's grave organized by the Seattle Pensioners Club. The event attended by members and pensions who 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 Local 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 Battleground, Washington, which was attended by several dozen people. The picnic featured a barbeque, and fun for families including potato sack races and other games.



Photo by Kelley Kane

The Local 10 Drill Team stands at attention at the start of the Bloody Thursday memorial service in San Francisco.



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.



Photo by Arthur Valenzuela

Local 46 picnic in Ventura's Arroyo Verde Park.



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



Photo by Cahri Citron

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.



Photo by Cahri Citron

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

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

Fourteen Local 400 car mechanics who are on strike for their first contract have welcomed a call for a boycott of the luxury car dealership that is refusing to meet the average pay for the industry.

The mechanics applauded the call by the B.C. Federation of Labour for a boycott of Open Road Auto Group DBA Mercedes-Benz in Surrey, British Columbia. The workers have been negotiating for more than a year for a first contract; the company has refused to raise wages that are significantly below the average wage for the trade.

"At a time of inflation and widespread labor shortages, it's ludicrous that the owners refuse to acknowledge the basic needs of the skilled 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 customers of Open Road to boycott the dealership. For a full year, the dealership has refused to bargain in good faith, belittled its dedicated workers, and harassed them with efforts to decertify the union. That's a full year spent by a company that deals in a luxury product 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 pockets, especially this year. Right now, Open Road is a dead end for workers," Woods said.

— Jason Woods
Local 400 President



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

Photo by Michael Y.C. Tseng

Local 400 biennial conference report



On 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 the militant rank-and-file Canadian Seaman's Union. In 1959, seafarers refused to cross an ILWU longshore picket line on the Vancouver waterfront when an eastern-based "yellow" company seafarers union was scabbing at Northland Navigation in an attempt

to steal the jurisdiction from ILWU Canada. This strike demonstrated to the Canadian labor movement that the loss of the magnificent Canadian Seaman's Union left a chasm in the ranks of Canada's marine and transport workers unions. It left a predatory union on the prowl across the Canadian waterfront, illuminating that Canada needed a democratic union to represent seafarers. Thus Local 400 Marine Section was born.

The history of the Local 400 is storied. Over the years, many of our leaders and rank-and-file members have earned the nickname "Vocal 400" from admiring trade unionists worldwide. Local 400 has been the leading union in setting the highest standards for seafarers in Canada. Workers in other industries have noticed and have recently joined Local 400. This has led to adding "General Workers" to our name and expanding the local's jurisdiction. Over the past few years, we have welcomed workers from other sectors into our union, such as mechanic technicians from automotive dealerships.

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 reconciliation by awarding scholarships to First Nation peoples who wish to enter the marine industry. These scholarships aim to assist workers who need marine certifications from marine schools, thus eliminating a significant barrier for entry into the industry. Local 400 recognizes that First Nations are the first seafarers, dock, and transportation workers in British Columbia. We are committed to justice, reconciliation and entry into the industry.

The highlight of the day was an examination of a significant threat to the coastal marine industry by substandard operators and substandard vessels. Local 400 been hammering the Canadian government regulator, Transport Canada, to develop meaningful 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 industries. Two words describe this neo-liberal practice where the corporations that are supposed to be the objects of government regulation, actually control the regulatory process: "regulatory 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 berthing and ship escorts. Industry insiders 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 members. Such unholy alliances are being used to undermine our conditions must be met with the determined solidarity 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 challenges head on and at all costs. We are buoyed by our own ILWU slogan, borrowed from the Wobblies—"An injury to one, is and injury to all." Local 400 wishes you solidarity in all of your struggles. Never hesitate to reach out to us. We will always stand by you.

— Jason Woods
President ILWU Local 400

Pensioner leader John Munson passes at age 80

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 Longshore-

man,” 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.



John Munson (leaning on sign next to the tree) at a 2011 demonstration in Bellingham, WA in support of Local 26 Rite Aid workers.

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



ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners
53rd Anniversary

Convention Hosted by:
The Southern California Pensioners



On the Water in Long Beach, California
September 19 – September 21, 2022






Hotel Maya
Reservations: 800-445-8667
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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

continued from page 3

- with older workers and how does the generational gap play into this?
- 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 highlight 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-filers 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 Nicalo Elverston, "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."



Tacoma 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



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).



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

BIOGRAPHY / LABOR HISTORY

HARRY BRIDGES

Labor Radical, Labor Legend

ROBERT W. CHERNY

The definitive work on the union leader and his times

"Harry Bridges is little-known, but he was arguably the most important left-leaning union leader in twentieth-century America. Cherny has written the most comprehensive biography of Bridges that exists—or, I imagine, ever will exist."

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The iconic leader of one of America's most powerful unions, Harry Bridges put an indelible stamp on the twentieth century labor movement. Robert Cherny's monumental biography tells the life story of the figure who built the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) into a labor powerhouse that still represents almost 30,000 workers.

An Australian immigrant, Bridges worked the Pacific Coast docks. His militant unionism placed him at the center of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike and spurred him to expand his organizing activities to warehouse laborers and Hawaiian sugar and pineapple workers. Cherny examines the overall effectiveness of Bridges as a union leader and the decisions and traits that made him effective. Cherny also details the price paid by Bridges as the United States government repeatedly prosecuted him for his left-wing politics.

Drawing on personal interviews with Bridges and years of exhaustive research, *Harry Bridges* places an extraordinary individual and the ILWU within the epic history of twentieth-century labor radicalism.

ROBERT W. CHERNY is a professor emeritus of history at San Francisco State University. His many books include *Victor Amautoff and the Politics*

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- NEW PENSIONERS:**
- Local 8:** Gary A. Dotson; Richard N. Haugen; John M. Perry; Richard B. Roberts; Michael J. Suhr;
- Local 10:** Gary W. Blount; David Boardman; Romualdo C. Cerezo; Dennis J. Duree; Juan Guevara; Tate Guice Jr.; Paula Martin; Richard Winans;
- Local 13:** Driss Benkhaled; Javier Bustamante; Bertrom L. Calhoun; Matthew L. Gutierrez; Lindburgh Hodge Jr.; Donald R. Johnson; Lorenzo Juarez; Patrick J. Murphy; Vincent Soto; Timothy J. Stanich; Frank Tonche; Robert Tyler III;
- Local 14:** James E. Bilderback;
- Local 19:** Lorenzo Anthony Bussanich Jr.; Donald Hudson;
- Local 23:** David K. Doll;
- Local 34:** Darryl Chinn;
- Local 63:** Gary Ibusuki; Thomas A. Marquez; John G. Rados; Virginia A. Walton;
- Local 91:** Frederick M. Gilliam; Daniel E. Moore;
- Local 92:** James W. Degman; Robert D. Eckley; Elpidio M. Rendon;
- Local 94:** Joe R. Perez;
- Local 98:** James L. Bulis; John T. Marzano;
- DECEASED PENSIONERS:**
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- Local 6:** Andrew Williams-Sutter;
- Local 10:** James M. Compton; George Holliday;
- Local 13:** James L. Dickerson;
- Local 19:** Leonard W. Atlee; Lonzo I. Flick; Charlie R. Gaston; Larry R. Tiffany;
- Local 21:** Alvin D. Hendrickson;
- Local 23:** Fred W. Johnson;
- Local 32:** Martin Cupic;
- Local 34:** Robert Rogers;
- Local 54:** Ronald B. Fenley (Bernice);
- Local 63:** Rudolph D. Azpeitia; Phillip H. Bates;
- Local 91:** Howard E. Oliver; Charles E. Settles (Queen);
- Local 94:** Frank J. Guerra;
- DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:**
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- Local 12:** Kris A. Palica;
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