On August 15, a delegation representing dockers around the world met with the Coast Longshore Division’s Negotiating Committee at the ILWU’s International offices in San Francisco.

The international delegation included Paddy Crumlin, President of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) which represents over 20 million transport and supply chain workers in 150 countries, Dennis Daggett, General Coordinator of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) which represents 125,000 dockworkers in 48 countries, Rob Ashton, President of ILWU Canada, Dustin Dawson, ILWU Hawaii Longshore Division Director and Dennis Young, President of the ILWU Alaska Longshore Division. The delegation and Negotiating Committee met for several hours to discuss the historical bonds and common issues that unite dockworkers around the world.

The elected Negotiating Committee has been bargaining since May to reach a new contract with the port employers’ group, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). The union and the PMA have agreed to not publicly discuss the ongoing negotiations.

Historic meeting
ILWU International President Willie Adams said that the visit by the delegation shows that the bonds between dockworkers across the globe are strong. “This is a historic day of longshore unity and global dockworker solidarity. We are grateful for the outpouring of support we have received during these negotiations,” Adams said, noting the messages of solidarity that have been posted to social media by global dockworkers.

“Sitting at this table we have elected leaders who represent millions of supply chain workers across the globe. We are all in the same room talking about solidarity and our common goals and interests. They all came to San Francisco to show their support for the ILWU in our fight for a fair contract. We have more in common than we have differences and we know we are stronger together.” Adams said.

Common employers, challenges
“Dockers face the same challenges the world over, and often they’re employed by the same multinational companies,” said Crumlin. “Ports have been operating under huge pressures throughout COVID-19 and in the sharp economic upturn that followed. Longshore workers have been on the front lines, doing the heavy lifting.”

Crumlin added, “Profits are soaring across supply chains. Shipping giants and global network terminal operators are making record profits, while workers’ wages slide backward against surging inflation. This is an issue for all transport workers, and all dockers, whether in the US, Germany, or Felixstowe in the UK. That...

Global dockworkers rally behind ILWU in fight for fair contract: ‘We have each other’s backs’
Local 5 members win first contract at Growing Seeds Learning Community after 3-day strike

Local 20 members stand strong against takeaways, vote to ratify improved contract with Rio Tinto

ILWU Local 20 members in Wilmington, CA overwhelmingly voted to ratify a new agreement with Rio Tinto on August 6th. Their previous contract expired on June 17th.

Members of Local 20 work on a private dock at the Port of Los Angeles where they load and process materials mined at Rio Tinto’s giant boric acid mine and plant in the Mojave Desert that employs ILWU members from Local 30 in Boron, CA.

The employer’s “last, best and final offer” that was presented to the Negotiating Committee on June 23rd was voted down by the membership. A tentative agreement was reached on August 2, after four days of mediation.

“Those negotiations were tough from the beginning,” said Local 20 President Mike Gonzalo. “Nothing less was expected when dealing with the global mining giant Rio Tinto, who is notorious for taking away from their employees while making record profits. Our committee spent most of our time fighting off takeaways and then were unexpectedly given a ‘last, best and final offer’ without accepting our counter proposal or our request for mediation.”

Gonzalo said that members won wage increases ranging from 6%-20% in the first year and 2.5% and 3% in years 2 through 5, as well as pension contribution increases and half back-pay to the June 17 contract expiration. In addition, they fought back against employer take-aways on overtime pay, forced individual arbitrations, and the attempts by the employer to create a two-tier union security clause in the agreement, but workers retained the right to strike.

“We were able to reach this agreement because of the unity and solidarity from the ILWU family, including everyone who came out to support us during the June 6 solidarity rally,” Gonzalo said. “We received tremendous support from the ILWU International Officers—President Willie Adams, Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris, the Organizing department, and the officers from Locals 13, 63 and 94.”

Gonzalo continued, “Our local and I would like to thank all the members of Locals 13, 13A, 63, 94, 30, 56, 63 OCU, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, Federated Auxiliary 8, Local 30, 56, 63 OCU, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, Federated Auxiliary 8, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, Federated Auxiliary 8, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, Federated Auxiliary 8, and all of the casuals who attended our solidarity rally. The tremendous support showed our membership, many of whom are seeing their first contract expiration, that we are not just 80 members, but we are one part of a family of 42,000 workers that have each other’s backs.”

Local 5 members win first contract at Growing Seeds Learning Community after 3-day strike

A 3-day strike at the Crystal Springs location, early childhood education workers at Oregon’s Growing Seeds Learning Community reached a tentative agreement with the employer. The workers went out on an Unfair Labor Practices (ULP) strike on August 8th after the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that the employer violated labor laws. In charges filed with the NLRB, the union said that management was negotiating in bad faith, making unilateral changes without the agreement of workers, and discriminating against union activists.

The Growing Seeds Workers Union (GSWU) maintained an active picket during the strike. The picket line was fully staffed by workers of Growing Seeds, who maintained a presence during what would have been drop-off and pick-up times. However, the employer, knowing they had no staff, closed the school for the week, so the picket line was largely symbolic. Nonetheless, there were community supporters in regular attendance. Supporters who came out to rally with workers included Jobs with Justice activists and members from a variety of local unions, including the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) Portland State University Faculty Association (PSUFA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and fellow Local 5 members. The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) attended nearly every picket line in support of Growing Seeds workers. The rally was also well attended by many families who sent their children to Growing Seeds and who wanted to show their support to the early education workers.

On August 11, the GSWU reached a tentative agreement with the company. Workers voted to ratify the agreement on August 19th.

Growing Seeds has three childcare locations in Portland. They voted in March of 2020 to join ILWU Local 5. The new contract covers the Crystal Springs and Growing Seeds Network locations. The third Growing Seeds location, Flouriche in the Irvington neighborhood, was sold after the union election. Bargaining for that contract is ongoing.

The contract includes raises, paid time off, paid sick time increases, and lower healthcare costs for staff. Growing Seeds management refused a union security clause in the agreement, but workers retained the right to strike.

“In 2019 we noticed a crucial need for a union at our work places. We started working together to establish our union, Growing Seeds Workers Union,” said Bargaining Team Member Lydia A. “Joining with ILWU, we won our vote to unionize—just days before the lockdown of 2020. Over the next two and a half turbulent years we held strong thanks to the solidarity of countless workers supporting the effort. Despite near constant turnover, difficult working conditions and harsh pushback from our employer, we persevered. I was there from the beginning, and seeing the first contract ratified on my very last day of work, I was relieved to see it all come to fruition. I am both humbled and grateful to be part of such a hard working team to get to this point, and am excited for the current and future employees at Growing Seeds!”

Local 20 members stand strong against takeaways, vote to ratify improved contract with Rio Tinto

President credits unity and solidarity from the ILWU family

Local 20 supports from the community wrote colorful messages in chalk showing their solidarity with teachers.
The Wall Street Journal published a profile of ILWU International President Willie Adams on September 4, as the media continues to focus on the union’s ongoing longshore contract negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association. Though the ILWU and PMA agreed not to discuss negotiations in the media, the article provides a biographical sketch of Pres. Adams and interviews people in the industry to get their insights into his leadership style.

Some excerpts:

• “Mr. Adams, the first African-American head of the ILWU, is a soft-spoken son of a construction trade contractor and school-cafeteria manager. ... People who know Mr. Adams describe him as smart, measured and a consensus builder.”

• “Mr. Adams has said the carriers are making massive profits off the backs of workers who risked their lives to keep cargo flowing during the Covid-19 pandemic.”

• “We’re on the side of America and good jobs ever automating away jobs for the sake of foreign profits,” he said.”

• “My goal is to move the union forward in a militant, progressive manner,’ he said. ‘I think you can win the war and still keep the peace.”

You can read the full article here, clicking on the “x” to bypass the paywall, by scanning the QR code right.

The ILWU International Hawaii announced its latest organizing drive and the establishment of a new charter: Local 1000 Home Healthcare Operators. Home healthcare workers in Hawaii and across the U.S. have been neglected, leading workers in this industry to approach the ILWU for representation.

The ILWU is in the process of adding new members to ILWU Local 1000. We are committed to bettering the lives of workers by improving wages and conditions,” said ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Sam Kreutz.

“ar are on the move in this industry because we can make a difference in the lives of these workers.”

Vice President Kreutz is leading the International Hawaii staff, Wilfred Chang, Mathew Yamamoto, Meleana Awa, Merlita Crespin, and Renee Tomas, in uniting home care operators on different islands in Local 1000.

“This drive has been a success and truly fulfilling in many ways, professionally and personally,” Kreutz said. “We are proud to have these workers as members of our organization and we look forward to improving their work conditions and growing our union.”

After 18 months of challenging negotiations by Zoom, Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) members at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of San Diego reached a tentative agreement with the University’s management team at the end of May.

Scripps is a 120-year-old academic marine research vessel operation. The IBU represents 70 mariners at the institute.

John Skow, the IBU’s Southern California Regions Coordinator, said that some of the major wins in this first collective bargaining agreement between the IBU mariners and the University include:

• Wage increases for all: A minimum 22% raise (on top of current Tier-2 rates) for all classifications, with up to 4% in increases added every year for the next five years, effective the date of ratification.

• elimination of the two-tiered pay system: No more pay cuts when the ship is tied up at Nimitz Marine Facility (MarFac) in San Diego.

• Meals provided every day, even when at MarFac.

• Overtime and holiday pay for working on major holidays.

• $25 per day for being kept aboard ship longer than 120 days.

• Preferential rehire rights and/or severance in case of layoff.

• Grievance and arbitration rights in case of breach of contract.

“ar committee was one of the best I have ever worked with,” Skow said. “I am so happy for these mariners in winning a strong first contract.”

IBU mariners’ first agreement with Scripps Oceanography delivers 22% wage increase, other improvements

New charter: Introducing the newest members of ILWU Local 1000 Home Healthcare Operators in Hawaii.
The pandemic and supply chain issues of 2020-2022 brought the world’s attention to West Coast ports. The ILWU Coast Longshore Division and its locals worked to engage the media to report on the hard work of ILWU workers on the docks, to influence stories with accurate information, and to highlight positive ILWU messages on social media. This work has paid off, including: The cover of The New Yorker (painted by the son of an early ILWU Local 10 member), cover story by Good Morning America, National Public Radio, NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, a Wall Street Journal documentary viewed by more than 6 million people, and the first-ever interview with an ILWU International President prior to negotiations.

“It’s not easy, because corporations own the media,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams. “But with hard work and persistence, we are getting them to tell our side of the story and recognize the good work of the men and women of the ILWU more than ever before.”

See these articles and more on the Coast Longshore Division’s social media:
Twitter @ILWULongshore & Facebook @Longshoreworkers

“Dockers face the same challenges the world over and often they’re employed by the same multinational companies,” said Paddy Cronin, ITF President and ITF Dockers’ Section chair.

“Ports have been operating 24/7 under huge pressures throughout Covid-19 and in the sharp economic upturn that followed. Longshore workers have been on the front lines, doing the heavy lifting.”

dockers are available 24/7 — others in supply chain should be, too

Dockworkers are available 24/7 — others in supply chain should be, too | Op-Ed

Longshore workers at Seattle and Tacoma ports will work 24/7, but other port and shipping partners need to step up to help repair a broken...

“The pandemic has impacted our nation’s supply chain, but there is no question that the daily hard work and dedication of our more than 22,000 ILWU dockworkers makes them our strongest supply chain link.”

— Aaron Laird, ILWU Local 10 in the Mercury News
The pandemic and supply chain issues of 2020-2022 brought the world's attention to West Coast ports. The ILWU Coast Longshore Division and its locals worked to engage the media to report on the hard work of ILWU workers and to highlight positive ILWU messages on social media. This work has paid off, including: The cover of The New Yorker (painted by the son of an early ILWU Local 10 member), coverage with Lester Holt, a Wall Street Journal documentary, and a first-ever interview with an ILWU International President prior to negotiations.

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Harbor Labor Coalition’s Labor Day parade and picnic returns after 2-year hiatus

A record heatwave didn’t deter several thousand union members and families from attending the 43rd Harbor Labor Coalition’s Labor Day celebration in Wilmington, CA. The theme this year was “Unions Marching Forward in 2022!”

The event returned after a 2-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In place of the annual event in 2020 and 2021, area unions sponsored a food drive that fed more than 5,000 area families who were struggling because of the pandemic.

Modest beginnings

The annual parade and picnic was co-founded by ILWU Local 26 President Luisa Gratz. The Harbor Labor Coalition was formed by Gratz along with then-newly elected Local 13 Executive Board member Dave Arian, Regional Coordinator for the Inlandboatmen’s Union David O’Day, and Diane Middleton. Their goal was to fight Crowley Maritime from bringing a substandard contract from their tugboat operation in Florida to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Labor Day parades were once common in cities across the United States. The Harbor Labor Coalition started its parade tradition at a time when many other unions across the United States were abandoning their Labor Day marches for picnics.

In 1979, the Harbor Labor Coalition started the Labor Day Parade and Picnic as a demonstration of solidarity and labor unity. Forty-three years ago, it was a small parade and picnic with a few hundred union members. It has since grown to become the largest Labor Day event west of the Mississippi River. The first parade had 14 unions participate, with about 750 marchers. At its peak in the 1990s, more than 100 unions attended. The highest number of attendees was approximately 10,000 people.

Pensioner breakfast

The day began at 8 a.m. with a breakfast featuring burritos, eggs, sausage, and pancakes, available to anyone marching in the parade at the Longshoremen’s Memorial Hall sponsored by the Southern California Pensioners Club. The meal fed an estimated 1,500 people. During the breakfast, federal, state, and local elected officials were given an opportunity to speak to the crowd before heading over to the assembly point for the Labor Day Parade on Broad and E Streets, which started at 10 a.m.

The breakfast was a success because of the volunteers who donated their labor. “I’m here volunteering to make the union as strong as possible,” said Manuel Oropeza from Local 13. “It’s about teamwork. I figured the least I could do was to come out and volunteer. Labor Day is a day to honor everybody who helps this economy go and for us to take a day to appreciate the American Labor movement. I feel blessed to be a part of the workforce and to be a part of this union.”

The parade was led by the ILWU Southern California Pensioners who followed behind the Color Guard. The pensioners rode on a flatbed truck and tossed candy to the hundreds of children and families who lined Avalon Blvd. to watch the parade. Thousands of union members marched with motorcycle clubs, marching bands, classic cars, and low-riders. The march ended in Wilmington’s Banning Park, where marchers were treated to hot dogs, sno-cones, cold sodas, water, and popsicles as they streamed into the park. Live music was provided by The Topics. Local 13 sponsored a special section of the park for kids with games, children’s entertainers, and other activities.

Elected officials were on hand and were introduced briefly at the start of the picnic by Los Angeles City Council member Joe Buscaino, who represents the Council’s 15th District including the harbor area. Politicians were recognized but were not allowed to do any campaigneering at the event, such as making campaign speeches or passing out literature.

Labor’s time

ILWU speakers included Local 13 President Ramon Ponce de Leon, Local 26 President Luisa Gratz, and Pacific Coast Pensioners President Greg Mitre.

Ponce de Leon emphasized the central role that workers play in holding communities together by providing the tax base that funds our government and provides essential services. “Labor pays taxes. Without workers, this country does not move. Unions represent people, and we are going to take care of people,” he said.

Gratz raised concerns about the way automation is affecting workers in every industry from grocery checkers to seafarers. She encouraged everyone to refuse to use self-checkout stations that are becoming commonplace in grocery stores.

Mitre reminded everyone of the 1934 West Coast Longshore Strike and the tremendous spirit of solidarity that united all the ports and led to a coastwise victory. “Solidarity is what the labor movement is all about, and that is where the labor movement is going forward.”

The day ended with a Labor Day breakfast supplied by the Southern California Pensioners Club. Local 56 shipscalers had a big turnout for the parade and picnic.

The Southern California Region of the Inlandboatmen’s Union, the marine division of the ILWU, with their banner at Banning Park.

The Local 13 was proudly marched behind the Southern California Pensioners Club.

Local 56 shipscalers had a big turnout for the parade and picnic.

Manuel Oropeza was one of the many volunteers who helped out at the Labor Day breakfast supplied by the Southern California Pensioners Club.

The Local 13 was proudly marched behind the Southern California Pensioners Club.

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Global dockworkers rally behind ILWU in fight for fair contract: ‘We have each other’s backs’

In 2022, "we must be showing solidarity with workers at Amazon, Starbucks, and anywhere that workers are looking to have a voice in their workplace. This is labor’s time."

**Starbucks Workers United**

Starbucks Workers United, which is seeking to unionize Starbucks stores, were among the parade participants. Tyler Keeling, a barista who led the successful effort to unionize a Lakewood Starbucks, was among the speakers at the rally. He described the stressful working conditions prevalent at his location and spoke about how seeing news reports of Starbucks workers organizing unions on the East Coast last year inspired him to help start a unionization drive at his store.

"I was determined to bring this movement to California," he said. At this time last year there were no unionized Starbucks. Currently, workers at more than 200 Starbucks locations have voted to unionize.

**Seattle Labor Day:** Local 19 workers joined the Labor Day picnic hosted by the MLK County Labor Council at Angle Lake in SeaTac.

**Tacoma Labor Day:** Local 23 workers joined the Pierce County Central Labor Council’s Annual Ralph Chaplin Memorial Service on Labor Day to sing Chaplin’s union anthem, “Solidarity Forever,” and to celebrate his life and contributions to the labor movement. In the photo from left to right are: ILWU Washington Area District Council and PCCLC President Vance Lelli, Kimberlie Lelli, and Local 23 Young Workers Committee members Nicalo Elverson, Tyler Rasmussen, and Nyef Mohamed.

**Local 19 school supply drive:** The 2022 school supply drive was a great success. This year Local 19 donated to five different schools: Rox Hill Elementary, Bailey Gatzert Elementary, Sanislo Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Maritime High School, and the multi-service center in Federal Way, Washington. The drive was organized by the Christmas for Kids Committee, which does year-round community work for the union. The local also did a cash donation to Thorndyke Elementary to fund a reading program for every student in the school. This is just one of the many ways that Local 19 supports the community. In the photo from left to right are: Kirsten Pangelinan, Maritime PTSA Vice President; Jennifer Guidos, Highline Public Schools Maritime High School Registrar; Linda Farnsworth, Maritime PTSA President, and Teresa Neufang Local 19. Not pictured are committee members Janine Lofton, Local 19 and Paula McVey, Local 52.

**Marchers showed their support for the ongoing longshore contract negotiations.**

On Tuesday August 16, ILWU International President Willie Adams met with Lianys Torres Rivera, Cuba’s Ambassador to the U.S. They discussed the ILWU’s long history with Cuba and the devastating impact that ongoing sanctions are having on the Cuban working class as their economy recovers from COVID. In 2021, at the ILWU’s 38th General Convention, delegates passed a resolution, introduced by Local 10, urging the U.S. to end its economic, commercial and financial embargo of Cuba and approved a $10,000 contribution to purchase syringes for use in Cuba’s COVID vaccination program. Pres. Adams and Ambassador Rivera pledged to continue to strengthen the ties between Cuba and the ILWU.
Women of The Waterfront (WOTW) held their first annual conference, July 29-31, 2022, in Long Beach, CA. While the event was not an ILWU-sponsored event, it was organized by volunteer rank-and-file ILWU members from along the West Coast. The event featured speakers and interactive group sessions. The Second Annual Women of The Waterfront Conference will be held next year in San Francisco. The conference is open to anyone holding any position on the waterfront.

n 2011, the Longshore Caucus adopted a resolution to help those in need, unite the ILWU, and let the public see the greatness of organized labor. Our union selected a top-notch charity available to everyone in every division: Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF), which is dedicated to fighting childhood cancer.

Since 2012, members, locals, pensioner groups, auxiliaries, family and friends have united to support the charity in one singular union endeavor: ILWU Walk the Coast fundraiser. Since its beginning, ILWU Walk the Coast has raised more than $900,000 for ALSF – something they appreciate greatly, and which we can all be proud of.

The COVID-19 pandemic and health restrictions caused ILWU Walk the Coast to go virtual. During the last virtual convention, our ILWU fundraiser became a union-wide event. The Dispatcher publicized an invitation to every member, local, pensioner group, and auxiliary. The entire ILWU was invited to unite, fight against childhood cancer, and support families.

This year, if every part of the union works very hard, ILWU Walk the Coast can reach the 2022 goal: $1 Million. The ILWU is on the verge of reaching this amazing milestone. To reach this height, ILWU Walk the Coast needs your support. The amount of an individual’s or any local’s donation is not the most important factor. Unity while doing something good together and letting the community appreciate the ILWU is paramount.

Help the union celebrate 2022 ILWU Walk the Coast’s Million Dollar Year. ILWU Walk the Coast invites everyone in every Division to visit www.iluwalkthecoast.org, click your area’s event, make a donation in any amount, or see the mailing instructions on the web site.

Local logos are available to personalize your local’s fundraising materials. ILWU Credit Union Vice President Rob York will create a local logo, and post the logo on our ILWU Walk the Coast Donor Honor Roll and in the next Dispatcher “Thank You” feature. Everyone supporting local, division, pensioner association, and auxiliary unit names will be posted on the Donor Honor Roll.

Everyone can enjoy watching the Donor Honor Roll grow as the 2022 campaign builds. Please contact Dan Imbagliazzo or Rob York if you need a logo or have any other questions. Email us at danimbaglia@cox.net or ryork@ILWU.org.