



THE DISPATCHER

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Port Envoy Gen. Stephen Lyons visits Tacoma [page 2](#)



Photo by Stanley Scott, Local 10

The Local 10 solidarity delegation to Durban, South Africa included members and pensioners. They attended a conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Durban Strikes, visited the Port of Durban, and connected with local dockworkers and activists.

Local 10 delegation marks 50th anniversary of the Durban Strikes

Wave of worker shutdowns revived anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa

More than a dozen members of ILWU Local 10 recently traveled to South Africa to learn about the country's incredible history, as well as to connect with dockers and other activists. They flew, by way of Johannesburg, to Durban on South Africa's Indian Ocean coast.

At the country's third largest city and most important port, they attended several conferences to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the "Durban Strikes," a massive wave of worker shutdowns that revived the struggle against apartheid and thereby changed the course of South African history. Strikes also have been central to the making of the

ILWU, from 1934 to 1948 and 1971-72, so attending events to remember and celebrate South African workers' power was too good an opportunity to ignore.

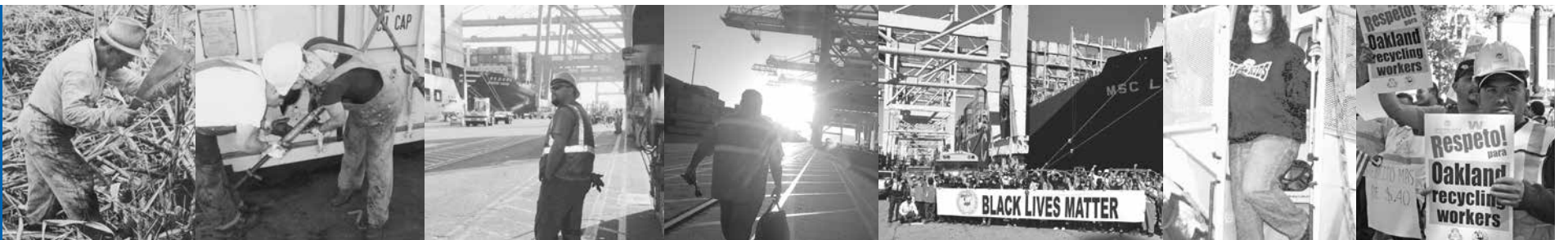
If Americans know of one person from South Africa, it is probably Nelson Mandela, a Black South African man imprisoned from 1964 to 1988, for fighting for racial equality. He, along with tens of millions of other South Africans of African and Asian descent, suffered under a brutal racial system called apartheid, which might be described as Jim Crow segregation on steroids. The long, hard, and noble struggle against apartheid made Mandela and many other South Africans heroes around the world. Black workers played a major role in fighting white supremacy in South Africa.

ILWU's historical ties to anti-apartheid struggle

On multiple occasions across three decades, members of ILWU Locals 10 and 34 as well as Local 6 and other ILWU locals supported the global struggle against apartheid. First in 1962, again in 1977, and most importantly, for 10 days in 1984, rank-and-file dockworkers refused to unload South African cargo in the Port of San Francisco. Bill Chester, then an ILWU International Vice President, was active, as was the Southern Africa Liberation Support Committee, a rank-and-file committee established inside Local 10, in 1976. Leo Robinson, Larry Wright, Charlie Jones, Billy Proctor, Leron "Ned" Ingram, Howard Keylor, Jack Heyman, Dave Stewart, and

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Port and Supply Chain Envoy visits Port of Tacoma, Local 23

Gen. Stephen Lyons thanks workers for getting cargo movement ‘in a much better place today’.

The Biden Administration’s Port and Supply Chain Envoy, Gen. Stephen Lyons (Ret.), visited Local 23 and the Port of Tacoma on January 17th. Gen. Lyons was the keynote speaker for the Tacoma Propeller Club’s Spaghetti Feed. The Propeller Club’s mission is to promote the maritime industry in the Puget Sound through education and civic engagement.

from Local 23 and the Federated Auxiliary spent the day preparing a pasta dinner for the attendees which included Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, as well as state and local elected officials.

Gen. Lyons was introduced by President Adams, who spoke about meeting the General for the first time and how he came away impressed by his knowledge and humility.

“My mother used to tell me there are show horses and there are workhorses. General Lyons is a

“We are in a much better place today with the goods movement system and the flow of cargo thanks to you, the workers in the trenches. My compliments on the work you’ve done down here.”

– Gen. Stephen Lyons

Before speaking at the event, Gen. Lyons toured the Port of Tacoma with an ILWU delegation led by ILWU International President Willie Adams, Coast Committeeman Cam Williams, Local 23 President Jared Faker, and Longshore Division Legislative Committee Chair Dan McKisson.

Faker kicked off the 100-person event, which was hosted at the Local 23 Hall, with a brief welcome, and thanked the volunteers for setting up the tables and preparing the meal for all of the guests. A crew of volunteers

workhorse,” Adams said. “He has a practical approach and understands how the maritime industry works.” Adams added, “Gen. Lyons told me something else that I liked. He said, ‘I told the president, and I’m going to tell you, I’m not a Democrat. I’m not a Republican. I’m about getting things done.’ He’s my type of guy.”

Gen. Lyon’s keynote focused on leadership and the current state of supply chain congestion, and expressed his deep respect and gratitude to the ILWU workforce.



From left to right: Tacoma Propeller Club President Todd Vincent, Port and Supply Chain Envoy, Gen. Stephen Lyons (Ret.); ILWU International President Willie Adams, and Local 23 President Jared Faker at the Local 23 hall.



Gen. Lyons (left) discussing local issues with Local 19 member and Longshore Division Legislative Committee Chair Dan McKisson.



From left to right: Gen. Lyons, Local 23 President Jared Faker and Coast Committeeman Cam Williams tour the Port of Tacoma.

“People think leadership is about fame and fortune and all those things you see in movies. But what I realized, working with Willie, is that when you get to this level, it’s not about fame and fortune. It’s about love and sacrifice,” Lyons said.

Lyons said the recent congestion crisis exposed many vulnerabilities in the supply chain driven by cost-cutting measures that need to be addressed.

“In what’s largely a private sector, very complex system of systems, we have uncovered some national

security vulnerabilities in our third, fourth, and fifth-tier subcontractors for critical national defense and the national security sector components. We may take a look at these things as we go forward to make sure that we don’t revert back to minimize costs,” Lyons said. “We are in a much better place today with the goods movement system and the flow of cargo thanks to you, the workers in the trenches. My compliments on the work you’ve done down here.”

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Communications Director

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Hawai'i Longshore Division's political action program scores wins for workers and communities

'We had never done this before, but here we were, a part of the legislative process'

In 2022, the Hawai'i Longshore Division (HLD), Local 142, made a commitment to rebuild its state and local Political Action Program from the ground up, establish relationships with state legislators, strengthen connections to the community, and leverage the power of the ILWU to help build power for workers throughout the State of Hawai'i.

The program involved mobilizing HLD members to volunteer their time to meet with legislators, activating the community around proposed legislation, and engage in political campaign work throughout the year. HLD members also participated in community outreach efforts like public safety patrols, beach clean-ups, and homeless outreach efforts all in conjunction with and supported by local law enforcement and community leaders.

MISSION

Hawai'i Longshore Division Political Action Committee: "Create, educate, and monitor legislation to protect, strengthen, and grow ILWU- Local 142 jurisdictional footprint in the State of Hawaii".

"Our primary goal was to build trusting, non-transactional relationships with county and state legislators," said Hawai'i Longshore Division Government Affairs Representative Brandon Wolff. "Our intentions were to first better understand the legislative process, and learn how to effectively move or stop policies that would benefit not only HLD but all of ILWU Hawaii."

Wolff said that the HLD mobilized statewide support on the unit level; units function like small locals within 142. "Transparency is important to us. First, we asked for the support and the blessings from HLD unit leadership statewide," said Wolff. "Shortly after we got the nod from our HLD front liners and our politi-

cal action committee (PAC) of twenty members was established.

They went to the Local 142 membership to get approval for any expenses and got unanimous support at the membership meeting, Wolff said, adding that the majority of the PACs and programs efforts came from HLD members volunteering their own time.

Dispelling stereotypes

Wolff said there were several obstacles that they had to overcome in order to make the political program a success, including a lack of experience in dealing with legislators and dispelling stereotypes about longshore workers.

"We attempted to meet key legislators from both chambers to introduce ourselves and explain our intentions. Initially, most were understandably hesitant. Let's just say our appearance and unusual display of manpower may have been a little intimidating and uncomfortable for most. But we

adapted quickly and by the end of the 2022 legislative session the PAC achieved 100% of our stated goals".

Building trust

Wolff said they won over skeptical legislators when HLD members stepped up to help mobilize community support for key legislative initiatives.

"When legislators needed community support, HLD responded in force. From public policy hearings to community outreach, and campaign support efforts we proved to be reliable and credible," he said.

Uplifting workers

Wolff said the immediate impact of that participation was helping to uplift ILWU members and other working-class people in Hawai'i. "We were



From front to back and left to right are Niko Vitale, Collin Mansanas, Jon White, Kenneth Cho, Vic Papapa, Kale Ornellas, Pena Pokipala, Kekama Akana, Ryse Dawson, Thomas Ilae, Brandon Wolff, Lyle Nicely, Chris West, Lt Gov Sylvia Luke, Dustin Dawson, Dave Chew, Ryan Souza, Matt Coleman, Dave Maeva, Kaukani Kama, Daniel Tangonan.

doing good work. We helped retain and create non-longshore jobs through community outreach efforts. We were helping others; we were living by our guiding principles. We were about taking action not just word play."

"If I can help at least one member a day, knowing they can never repay me then I know I lived a good day," said Hawai'i Longshore Division Director Dustin Dawson.

Early endorsements

As the legislative session came to a close, the HLD political action team pivoted to the upcoming primary and general 2022 election.


"This was our opportunity to prove we are a union of action not only words. We started making our endorsements early," Wolff said. "A lot of people waited for the polls to come out, we took the risk and did not. We supported candidates that were aligned with our values and put the people first. When the proverbial smoke cleared, ILWU Hawaii came out with the win."

"None of this possible without the leadership and guidance of Dustin Dawson. "On behalf of the PAC, mahalo for your leadership, service, and sacrifice to the ILWU and the people of Hawai'i."

HLD political action program highlights

- **L-142 Successfully carried all targeted bills through the 2022 legislative session and stopped harmful legislation with the support of ILWU rank-and-file members and strong community support.**
- **L-142 Provided daily campaign support for 78 candidates. Achieving a 92% success rate including the state's executive branch and Senate/House leadership.**
- **With intent to grow statewide solidarity L-142 successfully Initiated multiple solidarity-building events inside the ILWU and other major private and public sector unions.**
- **L-142 spearheaded community outreach events such as beach and neighborhood clean-ups, food drives, "Get out the Vote" education drives, homeless outreach, and public safety patrols.**

INTERNATIONAL
LONGSHORE &
WAREHOUSE UNION



1188 FRANKLIN STREET, 4th FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 94109
(415) 775-0533
(415) 775-1302 FAX
www.ILWU.org

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland:


On behalf of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), I am writing in the name of justice and demanding that the U.S. Justice Department pursue a civil rights investigation into the death of Tyre Nichols and take steps to implement wide spread and lasting reform to address the unrelenting cycle of police brutality in our country.

Yet again, the world watched as another unarmed black man, Tyre Nichols, was beaten unconscious (and later died from his injuries) after being pulled over for a routine traffic stop. Again, the world watched in horror as a black man cried out for help as he freely surrendered to the police. And again, we watched the violence escalate towards a completely defenseless man, reaching a level that can only be described as inhumane. Perhaps most tragically, we watched as fellow officers stood by and failed to intervene or provide life-saving medical attention to an ailing Tyre Nichols.

It is not enough for us to be united in anger and ignited by the continued persecution of black and brown people at the hands of the police. Further, we are tired of asking for justice and reform against the institutions that are supposed to protect all of us. It is your turn to stand up and demand change – real change – that condemns violence and holds individuals accountable for their actions.

We the ILWU are a union that has a rich history of fighting for racial and social justice. We will not sit back and watch the same scene unfold time and again. We will not sit back and not fight for change.

Now is the time for justice for Tyre Nichols.

Sincerely,

William E. Adams
International President

WEA/ akj cwa 39521

cc: Jim Strickland, Mayor, City of Memphis
Cerelyn "CJ" Davis, Memphis Police Chief
Steve Mulroy, Shelby County District Attorney
Floyd Bonner, Shelby County Sheriff

We are the

ILWU



Cherlyn Osteen,

Local 94

LA/Long Beach

I am a veteran of the United States Navy. I was a jet mechanic and worked on A-4s. The Blue Angels flew that plane at the time. I've been on the waterfront since 2001. When I started, I didn't know anything about the waterfront. I found out about it through my ex-husband. Seeing the ships and stuff was exciting. I thought maybe I was going on the ships, you know, to sail away. Little did I know, it was something totally different.

It was so fascinating. When I got out here, I fell in love with the machinery. My dad was in construction. He helped build New Orleans. So it was kind of in my blood and I didn't realize it. I got trained on top picks as soon as I could, and once the opportunity opened for me to get in as an ID, I started driving tops. I advanced later to drive trans-tainers. I put my hand in all the windows because I wanted to know what each job did. I worked those jobs; some were hard, and some were easy, but I want to know what each job was like. I guess I was building up my resume for Local 94 and I didn't realize it.

I studied hard and long for that foremen's test. I know it was a blessing for me. Someone up above was looking out for me so I could be a blessing for my family. I've been working for a very long time. In the position I'm in now, I'm able to help my family and prayerfully, they will be coming behind me as casuals later.

When I first got in, I went to union meetings. They can be a little chaotic. I had kids, and the meetings were long. I had a burning desire to do it, but I couldn't do it because of my family responsibilities. I've raised kids; I've raised grandkids. I'm an empty nester now, and it's my time to get out there and do something for the union.

I'm a leader at heart because I'm the oldest of nine kids. I've been in charge ever since I was five years old, and it just took off from there. I don't know if I chose it; I think it chose me. I care about people. I always want to do the right thing and be fair with everyone. I have experienced a lot of unfairness down here being an African-American woman, but I always say that I'm going to make sure that everybody is treated right and that everybody is treated fairly.

The ILWU is so strong. I came from another union. I don't remember the number, but I was in the United States Postal Service. We couldn't strike. We didn't have union meetings or anything. When I came into the ILWU and saw how active and large this union was, it was very inspiring. I knew that I had people that would back me up. I'm divorced, and being a member of the ILWU has enabled me to be able to start over and buy a home on my own and continue to help my kids. It's been such a blessing.

Kim Farrison, Business Agent

Local 52

Seattle

President Willie Adams and I used to work side-by-side on the docks in Tacoma when we first became B-men. We're talking about 1980 when I first became a B-man. My actual history started in 1974, as a 17-year-old high school student. They would allow you to work in warehouses back then in Tacoma at that age. I had two years in Tacoma, where I started my longshore career. From there, I went up to Seattle from 1976 on, and worked summers at in between college sessions there. I'd work in the summer times on the waterfront; then in 1980, they took in a pool in Seattle, and that's where I got my registration number. About 20 years ago, I transferred to Local 52.

The ILWU means strength; Being an ILWU member means that we have a lot more going for us than workers who don't have a union. I've always preached the union to everybody. I'll tell you what, being a part of this union means a lot. The best way to sum that up for me is that the day I got my book is the day I hit the lotto. There is no other way to sum that up. Every member should know once they get that number that they hit the lotto that day, That's what it means to me.

I didn't want to become a leader or officer. I had former presidents, former business agents, and officers approach me and ask me to run for business agent. Once I made that commitment, I knew that I had to dedicate myself to the membership. I realized at that point, it was about the membership, and it was never going to be about me again. I have been in this office since the beginning of January 2022. In that time, I've found out so many things that need to be addressed in this industry. There is a lot to be done. It's time for me to give my time back efforts to the union. The industry has given me so much. My time is probably going to be spent in service to the union and the membership until I retire.



Isaac Baidoo

ILWU Canada

Local 500

Vancouver, BC

I got started at the docks in May of 2015. BMy uncle is a longshore worker in Local 500. After I finished training, I just started working. My first job was a lashing job. In the beginning, it wasn't easy. You have to plug in all the time and wait to get your job.

I became active in the union because of encouragement from other union members. Joulene Parent was at the hall posting some information about some youth activities and other things that were happening at the Local 500. We started talking about the union. She is a wealth of information. She told me about the Young Workers and asked me if I want to be part of it. She invited me to rallies and other actions so I could see what it was like. I went to a few

rallies in the spring and summer. Then in the fall, they were having the Young Workers' Convention. And I was like, "You know what, I'd like to be part of this and see where it goes."

I was inspired by what the previous Young Workers Committee was able to accomplish, and I wanted to help out and do my part. I wanted to try and get elected to the Committee. Anyone who wanted to run for the Committee had to get up on stage and give a speech and convince people to vote for them. Fortunately, I got picked as one of the representatives. It was awesome.

Being on the Young Workers Committee allowed me to gain new experiences and skills like organizing rallies. It's a long process and takes planning to get organized. We also put together events to raise money and awareness for different causes in the community. I remember one of the causes was for the Cancer Foundation to raise funds for cancer care. That was a great thing to raise money for, and also a great experience to participate in. The actual biking was really fun, too. It was my first time doing that. I had never ridden a racing bike. I got to meet a whole bunch of people from different walks of life, and they had like great stories to tell.

Another great experience I had being a part of the Young Workers was the opportunity to travel to Memphis, Tennessee, to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and learn about the importance of carrying on his legacy. We went through trainings and built relationships between different union members and community groups. I got to meet people who are fighting for equal rights for everybody and the connections between the Civil Rights Movement and the labor movement.

This is our time to get involved. I believe this is the time to get to know our history as a union and to be part of something great. There are a lot of changes that are happening in the industry. If we don't get involved, we're going to be swept aside. When we are active and organized, we are stronger. Our voice is louder to say that we're still here.

Farless Dailey III Local 10 President San Francisco/Oakland

I am a second-generation longshoreman. I also have three kids on the waterfront. My dad was a Local 10 longshoreman. He started in 1959 and was registered in 1963.

I was lucky that both of my parents had good jobs, union jobs. We never missed a Christmas, and never had to worry about whether there was food in the refrigerator. Two years after my dad became a registered longshoreman, in 1965, they were able to buy the house I grew up in. It's a big house – three stories, five bedrooms, and four bathrooms – and today it's worth quite a bit. I've inherited it, and I'm remodeling it for my kids, the third generation.

There were about 10 longshoremen in my neighborhood, all of them African American, including Joe Mosely who was responsible for my dad becoming a longshoreman. There was something about the way longshoremen carried themselves. I wondered why they always had a smile on their face; they drove nice cars and took care of themselves. They were my heroes, seeing the way they felt. All I ever wanted to be was a longshoreman. I had friends in school who didn't have what I had, and I knew we had what we had because of the union. This is something that we have to keep for the future--for all of our kids.

There was something about the way longshoremen carried themselves. I wondered why they always had a smile on their face; they drove nice cars and took care of themselves. They were my heroes, seeing the way they felt. All I ever wanted to be was a longshoreman.

A lot of the kids in my neighborhood either died young of overdoses or ended up in prison. I myself got addicted to drugs young and wasted 20 years of my life getting closer and closer to rock bottom. Finally, I got sick and tired of being sick and tired. I walked into the Salvation Army one day for rehab and ended up staying for nine months. When I was ready to move out, my dad told me that my name had been drawn in the lottery to start as a casual for a longshore job. That's how I started. That was 26 years ago, and I've been sober ever since. The Salvation Army saved my life, and the union saved my life.



A few years back I found out that I had prostate cancer. And 30 days later found out I had colon cancer. I had two surgeries. My ILWU health care covered everything. This job has allowed me to put my kids through private schools and through college. It's done everything for me. This isn't a job to me, it's a way of life.

My dad always told me that there are three things that make a good longshoreman: pay your dues, go to union meetings, and take care of the job. And that's what I did. He put a contract book in my hand when I was very young, and told me to read it and understand it.

I started out running for like Board of Trustees, the Executive Board. I held my first elected position in 1999 or 2000. I was just a steward on the job, and when something would happen, I'd speak up for everybody. I just got involved that way. I liked helping people. I've been Secretary-Treasurer at Local 10 for eight terms, and I am currently in my second term as Local 10 President.

This union gives African-Americans the opportunity to be on the same playing field as everybody else. There's no other place I know of where people who look like myself are president or secretary-treasurer. You can look the employer in the eye and tell them 'no' and still have a job tomorrow. We are more than just a majority African-American local. We're a big melting pot for everybody, and we are all treated the same.

Vanetta Hamlin Local 10 Vice President, Records Clerk San Francisco/Oakland

I came onto the waterfront in July of 2000. It was a lottery back then, and to my dad's surprise, I put a card in, and I made it onto the list. During that time, coming in as a casual, we were moving really fast. So I got my B book in January 2001. That's when I really started learning about the union and learning about the industry. I've always been an adventurous person. I was never afraid to work – lashing working on a dock. I was familiar with working outside from previous jobs. I was told when I got my B book that pretty much my whole career as a B would be operating tractors. I wasn't afraid of that, because I came from driving school buses and tour buses in San Francisco. I did that for almost 18 years.

I remember my dad asking me what I saw myself doing. I was like, "I want to be a crane operator." I got my training, and I made it up there. I was still working out of the hall. I wasn't steady. This was back in 2004 when I got my A book. That's when I really started looking into being more involved with the union on the political side. I saw the Dispatchers and Business Agents and started learning more about the industry. Once you get your A book, you have to wait a year before you can run in an election. So I ran in 2005; I ran to become a BA and I actually made it.

I've ended up in four positions at Local 10 as the first woman to hold those positions. First, it was Business Agent. Second, was chief dispatcher, and now as the records clerk and the vice president. And I'm not intentionally doing it. I was just getting involved in learning more about how the union works. And it just happened.

Some members get stuck and don't want change. Before, there were no women on the waterfront. Now we have women on the waterfront. In the beginning, there was a lot of pushback because some men felt that this wasn't the place for women. But now that we're here, there are things we can change for the better of the local and for the better for the union.

I just always wanted to be involved. If I can make a difference, then that's what I'm going to do. Even setting examples for our sisters here, letting them know that they can do the same thing that I've done, and give them encouragement to be involved. This industry is predominantly men, and some of our sisters may feel intimidated, or they may get discouraged. But I love a challenge. So that's why I keep pushing myself, to do more, and to make our union better than what was handed over to me. The old timers retired, and they left us with something. Now we have to take care of it. It is up to us to get involved and get on committees and make sure that this local is doing the right thing. That is the reason why I just keep getting involved. I am still learning. Every day is a new day, and something different always happens. So I don't proclaim to know everything; I just constantly read and remain teachable.



Local 10 delegation marks 50th anniversary of the Durban Strikes



Photo by Stanley Scott, Local 10

Nise Malanga, director of the BAT Arts Centre at the microphone reading poetry from her book addressing the struggle of Black workers. Local 10 members on stage from left to right are David Newton, Vanetta Hamlin, Ed Henderson, and Andre Dawkins.

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Archie Brown were among those active in those years. These rank-and-file driven work stoppages were unprecedented in the United States, though workers in some other countries also engaged in similar actions in solidarity with the struggle against apartheid. In 1990, Nelson and his then-wife, Winnie Mandela, visited Oakland, the last stop on their first tour of the U.S. At a packed Oakland Coliseum, Mandela devoted the first ten percent of his speech to thanking ILWU Local 10 for standing down in solidarity with Black workers in South Africa.

Because of Local 10's longstanding solidarity with the struggle of Black workers in South Africa, it's not entirely surprising that Local 10's Executive Board voted to send a delegation to South Africa to remember the historic Durban Strikes. The weeklong trip was a tremendous opportunity to engage with dockers, other unionists, and activists in South Africa, among the important countries in Africa and the Southern Hemisphere. Ultimately, 14 current members and pensioners made the trip, part of a long tradition of sending rank-and-file members to attend conferences and visit dockworkers across the world.

South Africa's long legacy of white supremacy

Before 1994, South Africa was notorious for being among the most racist and oppressive countries on earth. For centuries, going back to the 1650s, a white minority — composed mostly of Afrikaners (people of Dutch descent) and Anglos — ruthlessly exploited the large majority of the people who come from many different African ethnic groups (Zulus, Xhosas, Sothos, and more) as well as Asian Indians and so-called "Coloured" people (a separate legal category for mixed race people).

The fight for freedom

As far back as the 1910s, Africans, Indians, and Coloureds worked separately and together to overturn the brutal white supremacist regime. Shortly after WWII, the government formally instituted apartheid — doubling down

on racism and fascism just three years after the defeat of the Nazis. The anti-apartheid movement spent decades trying to peacefully gain equal rights before adopting "armed struggle" in the early 1960s. By then, Nelson Mandela was a leader in the largest and best-known anti-apartheid organization, the African National Congress (ANC).

Sharpeville Massacre

Starting in 1960 with the Sharpeville Massacre, when about 70 peaceful Black protesters were killed by the police, and continuing for the next four years, nearly all domestic opposition was wiped out due to ferocious government repression. Activists were imprisoned, killed, politically banned, driven underground and into exile, or otherwise silenced. The ANC and Pan-African Congress were banned, and the Communist Party already had been. Mandela went underground for several years but, ultimately was captured and, in 1964, along with other leaders, was sentenced to life in prison on the barren Robben Island, six miles off Cape Town on the Atlantic Coast. He would not be seen in public for decades.

Durban Strikes

After nearly a so-called "quiet decade" in the struggle against apartheid, the Durban Strikes erupted in January 1973. These strikes involved upwards of 100,000 Black and Asian workers from more than 150 companies. This uprising shocked the nation and reignited the anti-apartheid movement that mostly had been quiescent due to earlier repression. Importantly, though not widely known, dockworkers in Durban, then and still at the heart of the economy, had primed the pump by striking in 1969 and, again, in late 1972. In other words, by shutting the harbor for days, dockers "set the table" for the Durban Strikes. While it would take another twenty years of intense struggle, inside South Africa and globally, apartheid ultimately was beaten.

Commemorating the 50th anniversary

While those who know South African history appreciate the Durban Strikes' significance, the average

South African on the street doesn't. So, the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Durban Strikes was not exactly a huge event, at least as measured in numbers. But those who came together to remember this history and, at times celebrate it, included some of the foremost scholars and activists of labor and political economy in South Africa. In addition to discussing the anti-apartheid struggle of the 1970s and '80s, participants also discussed the ways this history might help us understand the troubling times of 2023 to chart a better future.

Current crisis

Despite its incredible, inspirational history of struggle to achieve multiracial democracy, South Africa faces serious problems. The ANC has lost its way, many of its leaders widely seen as corrupt, a once-great liberation party gone astray. Unemployment is rampant, and half the population lives in poverty. The country suffers from high crime, and climate change already is causing great problems. Economic inequality is rampant and deeply racialized. Electricity is shut down for hours a day, called "load shedding," which disrupts people's lives and the economy. Add Covid-19 and 350 years of racist colonialism, and it shouldn't come as a surprise that South African workers are struggling.

Scholars and activists converge

Local 10's delegation joined two conferences in Durban over the course of four very full days. The first was sponsored by South Africa History Online and hosted by the Durban University of Technology. Dozens of scholars and activists — many from the trade union movement and involved in the struggle since the 1970s — participated. Some people discussed their roles in the heady times of the 1970s, when the state regularly murdered activists and even assassinated activists in exile in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and England. Some presented their research on labor, race relations, poverty, and politics. One night, the conference hosted an incredible musical performance by the 10-member Insurrection Ensem-



Photo by Stanley Scott, Local 10

ble, who performed the history and legacy of the Durban Strikes through the stories of a handful of women who struck a textile factory in 1973.

There also was a second, parallel conference organized to remember 1973 and reflect on how it could reenergize the labor movement, locally and globally, in 2023. This conference was cosponsored by the Revolutionary Trade Union of South Africa (RETUSA), a breakaway union from the South African Transport & Allied Workers Union (SATAWU), which represented nearly all dockers and other logistics workers across the country until the split, which mirrored other fissures in the South African labor movement. Joseph V. "JV" Dube previously led Durban's dockers in SATAWU before leading them into RETUSA. Hosted in the old harbor neighborhood at the BAT Centre, an important community and cultural arts space, this conference's main organizer was Dave Hemson, who was an important dock union organizer in the 1970s. Hemson, a white university student in the late 1960s, developed close relationships with the all-Black dock workforce—much like Harry Bridges did during the Big Strike of 1934.

On the first morning of this second conference, Hemson led a wonderful historic bus tour of The Point, the old waterfront neighborhood where many thousands of Zulu and Pondo



Photo by Stanley Scott, Local 10

Local 10 member Stanley Scott (right) presents a t-shirt to Joseph V. "JV" Dube, General Secretary of RETUSA.

dockers had once lived in nearby company-owned housing and loaded and unloaded ships in Africa’s busiest port. When containers arrived in the late 1970s, the port “moved” to another part of the harbor, leaving The Point — right by the Ocean and near downtown — as prime for wiping out the old working-class area in favor of wealthier, and whiter residents. Sadly, the (old) Point has been entirely gentrified, much like is at risk in Oakland, where a scheme to enrich the A’s sports franchise risks wiping out part of the Port.

Legacy of solidarity

One of the other parallels between the ILWU and Durban dockers was that both have demonstrated a willingness to stop work in solidarity with liberation struggles in other countries. On April 21, 2008, the Chinese ship An Yue Jiang docked in Durban, carrying millions of rounds of ammunition for AK-47s, mortars, and rocket-propelled grenades. Zimbabwe’s then-president, Robert Mugabe, purchased this arsenal to retain power amidst a highly contested election while his military and police beat thousands and killed hundreds of Zimbabweans. Mugabe’s forces also brutally assaulted his rival, who had won the election’s first round and served as Secretary-General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions. Instead of unloading those weapons, the Durban branch of SATAWU embargoed the ship in solidarity with Zimbabwean workers. Subsequently, dockers in other southern African ports joined this boycott and the ship returned to China with its deadly cargo.

This action was not the first time that Durban dockers used their position at a choke point in support of social justice in another nation, and it echoed the ILWU’s earlier efforts in the long struggle against apartheid, including the refusal of Local 10

and 34 members to touch South African cargo for 10 days in 1984. ILWU members also refused to load cargo for imperial Japan after it invaded China in the late 1930s.

These and other parallels forged deep connections between ILWU members and the dockers they met in Durban. Both sides very much were mindful of the need to build international networks that strengthen unionists and all workers. It should come as no surprise that, like the ILWU, the motto of most unions in South Africa is “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

“The more that we can connect and build relationships with other workers around the world, the stronger we will be,” said Local 10’s Ed Henderson. “It’s one thing to read about what’s happening, and another thing to see it for yourself. Delegations like this help to build international camaraderie.”

“The Durban trip was educational,” said Local 10 member Stanley Scott. “We learned about the 1973 strike from researchers, and the cultural aspects of the strike from poets, singers, and musicians at the BAT Centre.” When we got to the Port of Durban and saw all of the ships, I understood that we are the same dockworkers that unload these ships all over the world. That made me proud to be a longshoreman. We change the world every day.”

Peter Cole is a professor of history at Western Illinois University and a research associate in the Society, Work, and Development Institute, University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. His books include Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durban and the San Francisco Bay Area and Ben Fletcher: The Life & Times of a Black Wobbly.

Report back on the 73 Durban Strikes conference

It was an honor to represent Local 10 as one of 14 members to go to Durban, South Africa. Our mission was to learn about the 1973 Durban Strikes as well as be a part of a cultural exchange to build solidarity with members of South African labor organizations.

The conference started with scholars who were presenting papers that seemed out of touch with the working class. The papers were 100 percent research based and did not cite any workers who participated in the strikes. I found it odd that we were getting opinions and perspectives from people who weren’t in the country during the strikes. On top of that, a lot of these presenters weren’t even Black. In 1973, it was a Black workforce fighting for better wages.

On the second day, we had a great presenter who actually spoke on the build-up to the 1973 Strike. He spoke about how the strike actually began in the 1940’s and continued into 1973. The struggle for justice continues to this day. The 1973 Strikes were powerful because the people risked everything in such an oppressive state when apartheid was at its height. Despite the repression, people still refused to work and fought for better wages.

The third day was much more relatable. We shared space and exchanged ideas with other workers like the RETUSA General Secretary Joseph Dube. The day started with a tour of the docks and surrounding areas. We learned about how thousands of workers were crammed into barracks and dispatched out to work for next-to-nothing wages. We also learned how the military extorted labor of prisoners to build the harbor. My biggest takeaway is that the tactics that may work in the U.S. are not the same tactics that will work in South Africa. We have to show solidarity with our South African comrades that allow for growth. We suggested ideas and offered solidarity. We also learned the importance of passing the torch and enable the youth to head the fight for an equitable future.

South African workers strike for better wages. With financial stability, I hope that our comrades can see one day that wages are not the only concern: workplace dignity and health conditions are just as valuable. Nepotism and the shape-up system still exist in South African ports. With workers making anywhere from \$5-\$20 per hour on average, it is hard to get all the workers on the same page and in the same fight. If workers resist or show any sign of opposition, they are blacklisted and only given minimal work or they are given the worst jobs like on docks that work coal. Jobs are run through a broker and not a worker-run dispatch hall, so the employer has all the power.

I am again thankful for this opportunity and hope that one day we can have global solidarity where we all have a fair piece of the pie.

Beau Logo, Local 10 Young Workers Committee Chair

ILWU to Hold Secretary-Treasurers Conference

The ILWU will be holding a conference for local union financial officers May 21-25 in San Diego, California.

Called the Secretary-Treasurers conference, the 5-day event will cover various aspects of union and financial administration, election rules, and recordkeeping, and is designed to ensure compliance with federal regulation and internal union procedures. Instructors include ILWU attorneys, union staff, and International and local officers.

Each U.S. local and affiliate is invited to send two participants: its secretary-treasurer (or other officer in charge of finances and recordkeeping) and the office manager or other staff person who maintains the union’s financial and administrative records. Depending on the number of official participants, space may be available for a limited number of trustees selected by their local union. Only individuals nominated by their local affiliate will be permitted to attend.

An official announcement has been sent to each local.

Participants may register online at <https://www.ilwu.org/2023-ilwu-secretary-treasurers-conference/>

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 7TH.



Paying respects: Local 19 member Tyrone Harvey was on vacation when he heard about the killing of Tyre Nichols by police officers in Memphis, TN. Harvey headed to Memphis to attend the funeral and show solidarity from the ILWU. “I was on vacation and happened to turn on the news and saw the video of police officers beating Tyre Nichols. I immediately drove to Memphis to pay my respects. I attended the funeral that along with dignitaries, including Vice President Kamala Harris. I’m wondering when this police abuse is finally going to end,” Harvey said. Harvey drove to Minneapolis to attend the funeral of George Floyd in 2020.

Recently opened Honolulu’s newest branch of the ILWU Credit Union continues tradition of serving the needs of the union’s members

‘We have the sense of aloha and ohana here’

In 1954, three Local 13 longshore workers – Benny McDonald, Pete Moore, and Tony Arriaga – founded the ILWU Credit Union near the ports of LA/Long Beach. The Credit Union was established as a financial cooperative for longshore workers to cash paychecks, save, and borrow money at reasonable loan rates.

The ILWU Credit Union expanded to include the members of locals from San Diego to Port Hueneme. By 1990, the Credit Union had grown to 5,621 members, with nearly \$20 million dollars in assets. In 2016, ILWU Credit Union merged with the ILWU FSC Federal Credit Union in Northern California, enabling the Credit Union to serve all ILWU locals in California.

On September 1, 2019, ILWU Credit Union became a federally chartered credit union. Allowing the Credit Union to serve ILWU members outside of California.

In September 2019, the Credit Union started a branch in Honolulu, serving members of the Local 142 Longshore Division. By February 2021, service was expanded to include all members of ILWU Local 142, including General Trades, Pineapple, and Tourism. In May 2021, they opened their first branch location in Hawaii at the site of a former Dole cannery in Honolulu, at 650 Iwilei Road, Suite 195.

“There’s a wide range of members that we serve in Hawai’i specifically,” said Jackie Dunn, Business Development



Branch Manager Drucilla Taylor (left) and Business Development Representative Jacki Dunn

ment Representative. “We have pineapple workers, hotel workers, and grocery store workers. It’s definitely unique. There is a lot of pride behind the name, and the members feel really good about the fact that we have a credit union that’s for them, and founded by ILWU longshoremen. Everyone on our supervisory committee and board is either a retired or active longshore worker. There’s trust and pride there.”

“It’s such a blessing to be part of the ILWU Credit Union,” said Branch Manager Drucilla Taylor. “We have the sense of aloha and ohana here. It really resonates with all the membership. People take pride in their jobs and being able to be part of a membership who see each other as family, and when they come in, they treat us as family and that

A Helping Hand...

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ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Tamiko Love
29000 South Western Ave., Ste 205
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

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

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

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

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

Vacancy: ITF Inspectorate position in the Puget Sound

This position will be a full-time role and will be based in the Puget Sound but will cover other ports in the USA as required. The post-holder will remain a member of their Local or Division but make the job as an ITF Inspector their sole job on the waterfront and will not hold any other position of the union.

Email to Steve Trowsdale (trowsdale_steve@itf.org.uk) with a cc to Jeff Engels (g-landauer@msn.com), for a list of job duties and to request an application.

Application are to be received no later than Friday, March 10, 2023.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Alan R. Styles;
Local 10: Carl T. Easiley;
Local 13: Philip Bernardez Sr.; Joseph M. Dragich; Jorge Garcia; Michael Luhrs; Tamra F. Moody; Anthony M. Phineas; Edward Ramirez Jr; Brandi M. Shanklin;
Local 19: John A. Morin; Clyde Wells Jr.;
Local 21: Gregory J. Bryant;
Local 23: Monte R. Schliesman; Daniel T. Sechrist; **Local 46:** Ralph M. Lemos Jr.; **Local 50:** Randy D. Russell;
Local 75: Lorraine M. Ferguson;
Local 94: Ciro Onorato;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 10: George F. Bell; Curtis Blake; Saturnino Del Castillo; **Local 12:** Keith F Bowden; **Local 13:** Gregorio C. Abalos; Edward J. Corley (Dalisay); Andrew Heilman; Lorenzo Juarez; Robert J. Martizia; Ruben M. Montijo; Guy A. Pugliese; William R. Russ; Lionel T. Yoshizaki; **Local 19:** Robert D. De Leo; **Local 23:** Robert K. Stephens;
Local 29: Lus Soltero;
Local 40: Douglas Hanson;

Local 46: Eugene P. Garcia; Albert D. Valenzuela; **Local 50:** Darrell E. Russell; **Local 63:** Robert L. Alloy; Daniel O. Garske; **Local 91:** Lloyd E. Taylor; **Local 94:** Andres Merida; John Urrea; **Local 98:** Jon R. Halgren;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 10: Betty C. Edwards; Betty Long; Lula M. Smith; Helen M. Sterling; **Local 12:** Doris M. Beebe; **Local 13:** Nancy C. Johnson; Lynn M. Kusar; Adelina P. Mendoza; Darlene M. Serros; **Local 19:** Teri A. Nicklos; **Local 23:** Colleen M. Cresap; **Local 25:** Evelyn J Treadwell; **Local 34:** Evelyn R. Fennell; Joyce C. Lew; **Local 40:** Shirley M. Holland; **Local 63:** Joyce C. Lund; Loraine C. Michael; Helen Saldana; **Local 94:** Wanda Atkeson; Velma L. Mc Card;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 10: Donald G. Harrison; **Local 13:** Wallace B. Barnes, Mike A. Glover; Jacob Gonzales; Ronald K. Yates; **Local 19:** Torvahl A. Ness, Tim J. Atlee;

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