On March 24th, ILWU members joined local and state elected officials, and leaders from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, as officials presented a $110 million ceremonial check reaffirming the state’s pledge to help fund a training facility devoted specifically to supply chain workers — the first of its kind in the United States.

The festive event was a testament to the hard work of local ILWU members, leaders and others in the port community who have worked for years to make this training center a reality. The gathering was held at the future site of the training center and attended by more than 50 people and the media.

The Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach Goods Movement Training Campus will provide a single and centralized location to attract, recruit, and retain workers in the goods movement sector. It is a partnership between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the ILWU, the California Workforce Development Board, and the Pacific Maritime Association. The ports will equally split the balance of the project cost while working to secure additional funding for equipment and curriculum.

Training workers across the supply chain
The Goods Movement Training Campus will provide training for longshore workers, truck drivers, warehouse workers, and other essential supply chain workers. Local 13’s Mark Jurisic is among those who have been working on bringing this training center to fruition for 15 years. He said that the program will encompass every aspect of longshore work, including training on every piece of equipment on the docks, and will include maintenance and repair training for that equipment.

“For example, there is going to be crane training for crane drivers,” Jurisic said. “But on the flip side, there it’s also going to double as a crane maintenance training program. That program doesn’t exist anywhere in this country, maybe even the world.”

“There are a number of skills that fall into being a well-rounded crane mechanic,” Jurisic said. “You have to know medium and high voltage; you have to be able to weld at height and do complex welding; you have to know elevators and fiber optics; you have to have computer skills. There’s a lot. I’m just scratching the surface here.”

Jurisic added: “We are already working on the mechanic curriculum, continued on page 4
The March 27th the Port Commission meeting for the Port of Olympia in Washington State was standing room only as more than two dozen community supporters and ILWU members packed the room to show solidarity with members of ILWU Local 47B. ILWU members and representatives came out from all over the West Coast, Hawai’i, and Canada.

Members of Local 47B were present in force at the meeting alongside other ILWU and community members. While public employees in Washington State face some restrictions on making comments, fellow members and supporters at their side spoke up in strong solidarity.

Local 47B was formed in April of 2022 and represents 16 workers from the port’s maintenance department, marina, and boatyard. Negotiations began in June of 2022, but the two sides have spent little time at the bargaining table.

The union has filed four unfair labor practice charges with the WA Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) alleging that the port violated state labor law through illegally retaliating and discriminating against union supporters. As the Dispatcher was going to press, PERC had not yet made a ruling on the charges filed by the union.

In September and February, supporters participated in Commission meetings demanding accountability at the port—an end to manager violations, stop to using taxpayer dollars on consultants and lawyers, and a commitment to sign a fair union contract without delay.

Seventeen people spoke during the open comments portion of the March 27th meeting urging the port to sit down and negotiate a contract with workers. Several speakers said the port was prolonging negotiations by not devoting adequate time to contract talks with workers. The Port has devoted only two hours every two weeks to bargaining, several speakers noted. In February, the port requested PERC step in as a mediator saying the contract talks continued on page 5.

Seattle’s ‘Sip & Solidarity’ luncheon honors women on the waterfront

For Women’s History Month, Seattle’s Local 19 put on an event honoring the women of the ILWU for the second year in a row. The “Sip & Solidarity” luncheon was held on March 29th at a local restaurant, Camp West, and was open to all ILWU members. Tickets were sold on a sliding scale, with A and B members paying $30 and casuals and pensioners eating for free.

By 1:00 p.m. all seats in the restaurant were full, with more than 50 attendees from four different locals, as well as a significant attendance from pensioners. Compared to last year’s event which was set up as an educational panel, this year was more social, allowing space for women who didn’t know each other to sit together and share a meal. This allowed much more mingling between different levels of seniority and different locals, as there were guests who drove up from Tacoma’s Local 23. We were also honored to have the attendance of both the Associate Director and Assistant Director of the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington.

After everyone had a chance to fill up their plates, there were several guest speakers. Kesa Sten of Local 52 spoke about the importance of solidarity among women on the waterfront, and not falling prey to feelings of competition between women. She then introduced Kevin Castle, the first woman crane operator in Local 19, who spoke eloquently about her experience, which started in the 1980s. We were honored to have in attendance several of her cohorts, the first group of women to be registered into Local 19.

Ali Velich, who is an elected member of the Washington Area District Council and representative of Local 19 on the King County Labor Council, gave a speech in which she encouraged participation through volunteer work and running for office when eligible. In particular, she emphasized the need for more BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) women within leadership roles in the local.

Alison Steichen of Local 19 spoke on the local’s recent election results, which brought in women in several new areas of leadership.

At the close of the event, Sten introduced a new mentorship program connecting A women members as mentors to B and casual women. The objectives of this program are “To facilitate community among ILWU sisters on the Seattle waterfront; To pass along union knowledge from generation to generation; To encourage active participation in union politics; To foster friendship and brotherhood amongst union members.”

This mentorship program is just starting, so if you are interested in participating, please contact Kesa Sten at Local 52.

“All of our community of women is such a great group, and I am honored to be a part of it. I am excited to get the mentorship program moving in anticipation of the influx of new casuals and work getting busy with cruise season starting up again.”

This year’s organizers were Ali Velich, Alison Steichen, and Ann Norton of Local 19, and Kesa Sten of Local 52. Funding was provided by Local 19’s Education Committee and Local 52. All organizers were pleased with how the event turned out and look forward to continuing this tradition in the future.

— Hazel Pine Local 19

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Local 5 organizes new non-profit workplaces, announces new Non-Profit Division

Pioneering a no-cost grievance procedure and securing voluntary recognition are just two of many positive developments

There is a tide rising in the world of non-profit workplaces. Across the country, workers who have been toiling in the service of others by making our society more just are looking inwards and wondering, “Do we not also deserve justice for ourselves? Shouldn’t we also have strong workplace protections and a seat at the table? Do we need a union?”

The answer is, emphatically, YES. That need has especially been heightened through the pandemic years where non-profit organizations have continued to provide support to our communities, and workers at many organizations have been asked to give more to support the organizational missions. Many workers find themselves drawn to non-profit workplaces because of a shared interest in supporting the organization’s mission, but at a certain point, workers also must take care of themselves. Against that backdrop, Local 5 has begun to develop a new division within the local: the Non-Profit Division.

The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) was the first non-profit workplace to join Local 5. Initially having been in an independent union, workers at OHS saw the value of combining forces with Powell’s and Aramark workers to form a bigger and stronger union. Now, years later, the unit of OHS is finding itself with new groups of non-profit workers looking to join the union.

Interfaith Movement for Racial Justice

The first new group of workers organized were employees at the Interfaith Movement for Racial Justice (IMtJ). Like many non-profit employers, it is a small workforce. However, what workers lacked in numbers, they made up for in solidarity. Throughout the entire process, workers remained engaged and supportive. Those efforts, along with an employer who was earnest in its sincerity about being apart of the social justice movement — including justice for workers — resulted in a ratified agreement within about six months of negotiations.

In addition to many standard agreements any good union contract would include, workers achieved inflationary wage increases and pioneered a no-cost grievance procedure with binding arbitration. The latter development is critical. It not only ensures that the resources of non-profit employers are preserved for supporting their community mission, but it also preserves the union’s resources to be used to organize unorganized workers. Now, less than a year after the ratification of the IMtJ contract, new workers are joining the ranks of Local 5 and building on past successes.

Neighborhood Partnerships

In February of this year, workers of Neighborhood Partnerships (NP) announced their unionization with Local 5. After consideration and outreach to resources provided by the union, the NP Board ultimately agreed to voluntary recognition. Local 5 and NP collaborated on a joint press release, in which the Worker Organizing Committee wrote:

“We, the workers of Neighborhood Partnerships, are ecstatic to be voluntarily recognized & join ILWU Local 5. This is significant for a few reasons: 1st, as an organization that advocates for economic & racial justice; it was important for us to come together & live into those values that center the expertise & experience of those most impacted in a liberating & equitable way. 2nd, it is significant that NP as a nonprofit joins the labor movement, not solely to protect our own labor but also to emphasize that unionization is possible & needed in the nonprofit sector. We are looking forward to contributing to the movement for worker solidarity & liberation. Lastly, we are excited to continue to help grow NP into the worker-centered, genuinely equitable, & liberatory organization we know it can be. Coming together & using our collective power as workers will help NP exemplify what an economic & racial justice organization looks like.”

“Neighborhood Partnerships values our staff and the hard work they do day in and day out,” said Carlos David Garcia, Executive Director of Neighborhood Partnerships. “Our organization is aligned with the values-centered process our workers have organized around, and we are pleased with the collaborative and open spirit of ILWU Local 5. We know that we all share a commitment to the work and long-term sustainability of Neighbor- hood Partnerships. We look forward to working together to make that shared vision a reality.”

“ILWU Local 5 is proud to stand with the workers of Neighborhood Partnerships and thrilled about our newly formed relationship with such a leader of economic justice in Oregon,” said Ryan Van Winkle, Local 5 President. “As a labor union, we are honored to work with Neighborhood Partnerships to create and uphold the values-driven work environment that will keep our organization strong. This is significant for a few reasons: 1st, it is significant that NP as a nonprofit joins the labor movement, not solely to protect our own labor but also to emphasize that unionization is possible & needed in the nonprofit sector. We are looking forward to contributing to the movement for worker solidarity & liberation. Lastly, we are excited to continue to help grow NP into the worker-centered, genuinely equitable, & liberatory organization we know it can be. Coming together & using our collective power as workers will help NP exemplify what an economic & racial justice organization looks like.”

Now, less than two months after voluntary recognition, workers have elected their bargaining team. Local 5 has provided training to the team, the union and employer bargaining teams have met twice and come to two substantial agreements (including the employer agreeing to have bargaining “on the clock” and reaching agreement on what positions are included in the union). The parties have scheduled additional bargaining sessions and are optimistic they will be productive.

Community Cycling Center

In March, another group of workers from Community Cycling Center (CCC) who had been meeting with Ryan Talas, the ILWU International Organizer in the region, notified their employer that they would be joining Local 5. This time, in less than two days, CCC agreed to voluntary recog- nition and, together with the Organizing Committee and the union, issued celebratory statements. The Workers Organizing Committee of the CCC wrote that they were “proud to announce that we have unionized and joined ILWU Local 5. … The Community Cycling Center Workers Union is made up of workers in Community Programs, Youth Programs, shop mechanics, and retail staff. As the first union bike shop in Portland, we hope to show what is possible when workers act collectively. We look forward to collaborating with leadership to make the CCC the best it can be: resilient in times of change and steadfast in our mission to serve our community. We are grateful to share values with both the ILWU Local 5 and with leadership at our organization.”

Steph Routh, Interim Executive Director, Community Cycling Center, said, “We are grateful to the Community Cycling Center staff for unionizing, because it expands our organization’s toolkit to meet the challenges before us, together. The strength of a union is leveling the power dynamics continued on page 8
ILWU, port community, gather to celebrate $110 million funding for future SoCal training center

continued from page 1

If a mechanic wants to learn a skill, they will be able to come through the training program. We’re going to build a program that addresses the needs of this industry so that we can train work- ers for the jobs that they’re going to be doing. That’s one of the goals for Local 13. We do not want to put people out there on the docks in harm’s way with- out proper training.

20 acres with room to grow

The training facility will sit on 20 acres with an option to expand. It sits on land that is both within the City of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. “I think this epitomizes what we have come to celebrate — not just the two ports coming together, but industry, labor, and our legisla- tive leaders coming together to rec- ognize how important this project we celebrate is,” said Dr. Noel Hacegaba, Deputy Executive Director at the Port of Long Beach.

“I was pleased to champion fund- ing for this state-of-the-art training facility, which will be the first of its kind to serve current and future work- ers,” said State Assemblymember Mike Gipson, who spoke at the event. “This critical resource will support our work- ers and build a future generation of tal- ent for our state’s economy. This is a game changer for our communities.”

Good jobs, green future

Ramon Ponce De Leon, then Presi- dent of Local 13, spoke at the event. “We are humbled, thankful, and grate- ful to the governor, the state legislature, the ports of LA and Long Beach, and everybody involved,” he said. “It doesn’t happen unless you roll up your sleeves, and you do it, and you prove to the peo- ple that you’re concerned about jobs.”

Ponce De Leon emphasized that there must be equity between the goals of greening the ports and keep- ing and creating good-paying jobs for the community. “Jobs must be an equal part of the discussion when we talk about the environment and fight- ing climate change. There has to be a national strategy addressing both economic needs and environmental needs,” he said.

Long struggle for a good idea

Making the training center a real- ity took more than a good idea; it took more than a decade of hard work and per- sistance. Ponce De Leon recognized the work of Local 13’s Mark Jurisic in pressing for the training center for the past 15 years. “I want to thank Mark for rolling up his sleeves, because that’s what we do. We roll up our sleeves, we go to work, and we move this cargo.”

Noticing disturbing trends

It was shortly after Jurisic began doing work as a relief Business Agent at Local 13 when he first started notic- ing that something was wrong.

“There was a type of accident that seemed to repeat itself. A new casual coming straight out of training and within the first month or so, a large number of them that would have a similar accident: making a right or left turn with a bomb cart,” Jurisic said. “The severity of the accident would vary from very minor to serious prop- erty damage and injuries. I started thinking about it, and knew this was a behavior that can be corrected.”

Years later, Jurisic became Chair- man of the Joint Accident Prevention Committee (JAPC). “I start think- ing about the need for training, and I started being very vocal at the JAPC about training and the lack thereof.” He added, “There are accidents that are clearly preventable with just a mini- mum amount of training. As a union official, I can’t sit by and ignore this.”

Looking North to ILWU Canada

Nearly 10 years ago ILWU Canada opened a training center in conjunction with the British Columbia Maritime Employer’s Association (BCMEA), the equivalent of the Pacific Maritime Asso- ciation (PMA) on the U.S. West Coast. “It’s a new concept on how to bring people into the industry now,” said ILWU Canada’s First Vice President Pat Bolen, who helped start the training program in Canada. “They’re not the old-school workers that grew up on the farm. I call them video-age people.”

Bolen said that the training center was started because the industry needs to prepare to meet the demands of this new workforce and the changing work structure on the docks. “It’s no longer a gang structure where you’re on the ground with other workers,” Bolen said. “A lot of the jobs now you are in a box by yourself, whether a truck, or a top lift, or a gantry crane. You have to be independent and knowledgeable of what’s going on around you.”

“ILWU Canada’s training center is constantly learning, and expand- ing. ‘It’s a structure to build on and improve,’” Bolen said. “It was the first of its kind. It’s a good start to train- ing workers before progressing them up the dock under supervision. That way, they aren’t completely awestruck when they hit the terminals.”

Shortly after the Canadian train- ing center opened, Jurisic got word of it and asked then-Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr., if he could go tour the facility.

“Bobby recognized it was a good opportunity,” said Jurisic, “and he sent me up to Canada. They took me on a tour and showed me the whole facility, and I got to see how it was run. It was an eye-opening experience. Upon my return, I started becoming even more vocal about the need for a training center. And that caught the ear of Dave Arian.”

Opening doors

Dave Arian, who passed away in 2019, was a past International President of the ILWU and a legendary figure on the waterfront. He was a Los Angeles Harbor Commissioner when he heard about Jurisic’s idea for a training center.

“Dave approached me and said that it’s a very good idea and something that the industry needed,” Jurisic said. “And he was going to pursue the idea from his Harbor Commissioner seat.”

Arian helped open doors. Jurisic was able to sit down and speak with Gene Seroka, Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, to talk about the many benefits a training center would provide.

Avin Sharma, Senior Director of Labor Relations and Government Affairs at the Port of Los Angeles, was one of several speakers at the funding celebra- tion event who acknowledge Arian’s role in helping to make the Goods Movement Training Campus a reality.

Sharma said that Arian always spoke about the role the port authori- ties need to play in helping to good-paying jobs in the community.

“Dave said that back in his day, someone could finish up high school and go work in one of the metal shops here in the community because those shops were providing parts and com- ponents for the shipyards and the can- neries,” Sharma said. “He told me those days are gone, and it’s up to the port authori- ties to help our communities and provide for jobs. He told me that we need a training facility so people in our community can get the training they need for good well-paying jobs in the harbor. And that it would also sup- port the industry by creating a pipeline of interested people. That conversation was six years ago. Not a day that goes by I don’t think about that.”

‘Not leaving until this is done’

Jurisic estimates that it will be four to six years from the time construction starts and the training campus opens. He is committed to seeing the project to fruition.

“Before I retire, I want to see this thing up and running,” Jurisic said. “We’re going to get this built, I’m not leaving until this is done.”
ILWU members, community, demand Port of Olympia bargain fairly with Local 47B

Supporters from IBU, ILWU Canada, Hawai'i and West Coast locals denounce port’s ‘inexcusable’ actions

“I’m very concerned about what I’m hearing here,” said Local 34 President Sean Farley. “I’ve had the personal privilege of working directly with the Ports of Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland, and San Francisco. It’s not always an easy relationship. And I can understand that, but we always find a way to get it done together. It’s not that hard. It takes a commitment to sit down at a table and hash it out.”

Local 10’s Melvin Mackay expressed a similar sentiment. “What has to happen here is that someone has to put on their big boy pants. The thing that these workers are asking for is to do what they set out to do — provide for their families, as you all do.” Mackay said to the Commissioners, “You can get it done if you want to. It’s a give-and-take.”

Two weeks later on April 10, Port Commissioner Amy Evans Harding made a motion at the Commission meeting to place the port’s Executive Director Sam Gibboney on administrative leave. The other two Commissioners—Joe Downing and Bob Iyall—voted down Commissioner Evans Harding’s motion and immediately adjourned the meeting just twenty minutes after it started.

Commissioner Evans Harding published an opinion piece online in The Journal of Lacey, Tumwater and Olympia detailing what Harding saw as critical failings of leadership and lack of accountability, including; a Letter of No Confidence in the Director signed by most port employees, turnover of all but one of the Director’s reports to the Commission; separation agreements to former employees costing taxpayers almost $200,000 in payouts; and the Director’s attempts to sway the Commission to materially alter and improve her annual performance review.

On April 17, the Commission released a public statement in support of the Executive Director, praising her “high ethical and moral standards,” and thanking the Director for “moving the port in a good direction with visible results.” Meanwhile, Commissioner Evans Harding stated to The Olympian that though “we moved forward as a Commission and I support that,” she will “still do what is right” and is committed to being “transparent with the community.”

As the Dispatcher went to press, Local 47B members were scheduled to begin contract mediation with the Executive Director’s team through PERC in late April as Thurston County taxpayers, the public at large and ILWU leaders and members from the mainland, Hawai‘i and Canada monitor the situation for results.

Local 47B members turned up in force to the March 27th Port Commission meeting for the Port of Olympia along with others from the ILWU family from along the West Coast, Hawai‘i and Canada.

Local 10’s Melvin Mackay told the Olympia Port Commissioners that they could get a deal done with Local 47B if they wanted.
for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Executive Board (IEB) met in person April 12-13 in San Francisco. “This is a great day for the ILWU,” said President Willie Adams as he welcomed the Executive Board Members back to the International headquarters. He thanked the ILWU locals and divisions for weathering the hard times through COVID-19 and coming out of the pandemic with renewed vigor and determination to grow the ILWU stronger than before.

The three Democratic legislators who were subject to an expulsion vote were from the state’s Republican-controlled legislature.

Rep. Jones was born and raised in the Bay Area and has a long history of fighting gun violence. Before moving to Tennessee to attend college on a scholarship for his social justice activism, Rep. Jones was born in Oakland and graduated from Hercules High School. During a 2013 demonstration in San Francisco protesting the acquittal of the man who shot unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin, Rep. Jones told NBC Bay Area News, “We’re also calling for peace in our communities – whether in the neighborhoods of West Oakland or in a gated neighborhood in Sanford, Florida. We need to end gun violence.”

“Rep. Jones is a young, Black leader who was expelled by an overwhelmingly white, right-wing legislature just days after the 55th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, is a reminder of how much work remains to be done to combat centuries of systemic racism. Their tenacity and fight to continue to represent their constituents despite the attempts to silence them is an inspiration to us all.”

In the photo above: ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr presents retiring ILWU Research Director Russ Bargmann with his decades-old, wooden inbox signed by the entire IEB and International and Coast Staff. The inbox, which has been a part of the ILWU Offices as long as Bargmann was, was presented to him by the Titled Officers as symbol of Bargmann’s historical connection to the union. Bargmann has served the ILWU for nearly 50 years and has worked with every ILWU International President except for Harry Bridges.

Solidarity with the Tennessee Three

The ILWU International Executive Board meeting, held in San Francisco April 13-14, adjourned in solidarity with the Tennessee Three, the three Democratic legislators who were subject to an expulsion vote from the state’s Republican-controlled legislature.

The three Representatives were subject to an expulsion vote after they took to the House floor, chanting “no action, no peace” during a protest on March 30th, in solidarity with hundreds of demonstrators who converged on the capitol demanding the legislature to pass a resolution to create a coastwise fundraiser, the measure passed because it contained three worthy goals: help others in need, unite the ILWU and show the community the goodness of organized labor.

None of the delegates had any idea how their benevolent decision might take flight or, if it did fly, what distance it might travel. Our history and experience shows us that lofty presentations often mean resolutions win passage only to crash from neglect. This solution was not forgotten. President McElrath and the Officers allowed a committee, with strict guidelines aimed at protecting the union, to start their engines. ILWU Walk the Coast, the fundraiser’s name aimed at appealing to the Longshore Division, was adopted. The Division’s fundraiser was headed down the runways. As it lifted off, only questions were, would the effort break down, fly for just a moment or soar?

Understanding that the ILWU’s reputation was at stake, the committee debated selecting a charity that suited our needs. The union’s standing was a top priority. If just one cent was lost, union haters would have had a field day bashing the ILWU for squandering charity money. We enjoy a top-notch union. We cannot be found supporting charities that make headlines for wasting donations. Some wanted to glide toward charities specific to individual ports. Our members are generous and host numerous fundraisers for local causes. Members have a natural desire to help those closest to home – causes they know. That was an excellent call. But, in this instance, the goal was a coastwise fundraiser. The committee needed something bigger, a cause and charity that every local from Washington to San Diego would have to donate and rally with and proudly support. The ILWU had never attempted a coastwise fundraiser.

For two years the fundraiser’s engines helped the event gain altitude. Local 23 Tacoma’s Scott Mason invited Seattle, Local 19 and the Northwest to hold their fundraiser to help an excellent charity that targets pancreatic cancer, PANCAN. Los Angeles Local 13, 63, 88, Auxiliary 87 and the Southern California Pensioners Group joined forces to aid Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation’s fight against childhood cancer. With Frank Gaskin as Local 10 President, San Francisco joined Los Angeles to support ALSF.

After those first few years, Southern California began flying solo. They had some very successful in-person fundraisers. Bands, clowns and food were all part of their 2011 and 2012 shows. Richard Harriet (94), volunteered to help the L.A. fundraisers. Rich organized small Texas Hold ‘em poker tournaments at a member’s home.

They were a bunch of longshoremen who loved to play cards, have fun and help the good cause - our most precious and vulnerable children. When the big in-person events became too costly, Los Angeles and retired Harriet’s poker idea and took the annual tournament to local casinos. As time passed, total donations to ALSF, which came from ILWU locals, the pensioners, auxiliaries, industry companies and our friends, hit $200,000 then $300,000 and $400,000. The event gained altitude. ILWU Walk the Coast generated donations of about $85,000 per year but still had no idea how far or high the fundraiser was going. Small port next-door neighbor Local 46 Hue- nieme joined I. A’s effort by hosting Las Vegas Night fundraisers and several walks from Ocean Pavilion along the beach to their beautiful lighthouse.

In 2019, ILWU Walk the Coast was busy organizing an electric bike ride. Several of our members voluntarily raise awareness by pedaling through every ILWU longshore local from Bellingham to Los Angeles. Great idea. Covid 19 suddenly deflated the tires on that plan. The officers, President Willie Adams, V.P. Bobby Olvera, Secretary Ed Ferris and Coast Committee member Frank Ponce de Leon and Cam Williams immediately allowed the committee to take the fundraiser virtual and invite not just the Longshore Division, but every local and affiliate in every division of the ILWU. The timing was right for holding an annual virtual event aimed at participation from every part of our ILWU. The committee wouldn’t let the pandemic crash the fundraiser.

The 2021 virtual 38th Annual International Convention passed a resolution that invited the entire ILWU to fundraise this year. For Southern California it appeared the pandemic had opened new opportunities to help children and unite the union virtually. ILWU Walk the Coast had reported about $65,000 in total donations and was suddenly headed into new unknown air. What was once a small plane with seats for a few passengers morphed into a 747 with room for everyone. Beautiful Alex, the 4-year-old founder of ALSF, had raised $1,000,000 before her passing at age 8. Was matching her amazing number possible? Would a virtual campaign even work? The committee agreed that any donation in any amount would be acknowledged with a logo or name posted in Thank You newspaper ads. It was important to show our supporters how much ILWU Walk the Coast appreciated their donations. The Dispatcher Editor Roy SanRaffili kindly agreed to post the Thank You ad that shows every participant. The virtual walk alone! Helping children came from more than the Longshore Division. Every state - Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California - and Canada answered the call. Friends of the ILWU, the Feder- ated Auxiliary and some of their chapters, the Pacific Coast Pensioners and several pension groups entered the

continued on page 8

ILWU International Executive Board meets in person

ILWU Walk the Coast: “Thanks a million!”

When the 2011 Longshore Division Cau- cus rejected their resolution to create a coastwise fundraiser, the measure passed because it contained three worthy goals: help others in need, unite the ILWU and show the community the goodness of organized labor.

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Celebrating our $1 Million Year!

$1 MILLION THANKS!

Wouldn’t you feel like a million bucks if you knew you were helping children have their full chance in life? Since our first fundraiser in 2012, ILWU Walk the Coast has annually invited ILWU locals, our affiliates, community friends and our industry companies to fight childhood cancer. Thanks to our 2022 donors, we raised $143,343 for the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation. These contributions brought our total donations over one-million-dollars. This milestone is significant. It is the same amount that beautiful Alex raised before her passing at age 8. The success of ILWU Walk the Coast proves that Alex’s unselfish love helps children, funds research, and supports families in need. The donors noted here helped us equal Alex’s fundraising goal. She continues to be our inspiration. That is why we thank all those who have contributed and invite you to join us in the fall of 2023 and be part of our next milestone. ILWU Walk the Coast Committee gives $1 MILLION THANKS to those who support this great cause.

To donate or for more information about ILWU Walk the Coast and Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, please visit www.ilwuwalkthecoast.org

2022 - DIAMOND SPONSORS - $10,000

2022 - PLATINUM SPONSORS - $5,000

2022 - GOLD SPONSORS - $3,500

2022 - SILVER SPONSORS - $2,500

2022 - BRONZE SPONSORS - $1,000

2022 - SPECIAL HONOR DONORS

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation was founded by Alexandra Scott, in the hospital at age four, Alex commenced in her mother that she would hold a lemonade stand to raise money for other children. Before her 2004 passing at age 8, Alex had raised over $1,000,000. The Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a national fundraising movement. Today, ALFS is one of the leading funders of pediatric cancer research in the U.S. and Canada raising over $250 million, leading nearly 1,000 research projects at 150 institutions and providing family support programs.

DISPATCHER • APRIL 2023 7
Local 5 organizes new non-profit workplaces, announces new Non-Profit Division

continued from page 3

in a workplace. This is a step forward in building the trusting partnership among all members of our staff and Board, to better show up with and for our communities to broaden access to bicycling and its benefits.” - Local 5 has long embraced the idea that promoting bikes as a sustainable form of transportation is pro-environmental and pro-community,” said Ryan Van Winkle, ILWU Local 5 President. “From negotiating for bike subsidies in contracts, organizing bike-potluck events for members to participate, we see bikes help make our cities livable for all. So too do unions play a pivotal role in making our cities livable — by ensuring workers have the opportunity to bargain over wages, benefits, and working conditions; supporting living wage jobs; and by raising the bar for all workers in our society.”

Van Winkle continued, “We are ecstatic to have the workers of CCC joining ILWU Local 5 and are impressed at the swift and decisive action the CCC Board took to support workers in this process.”

Currently, the workers of the CCC are nominating their bargaining team and conducting surveys of the membership in preparation for upcoming negotiations.

Looking ahead to help others

All told, the addition of these workplaces have doubled the size of the Non-Profit Division of Local 5, bringing the total to around 60 workers. While the two newest non-profit groups to join Local 5 are just starting on their way to achieving a union contract, with the support of both the ILWU Organizing Department and Local 5, they are well on their way to achieving an excellent contract. Of particular excitement, however, these new members are not resting on their success in organizing their workplace — many of them are already looking to reach out further and help others who are also looking to unionize.

In the future, Local 5 will inevitably see a continued rise in the number of non-profit employers joining the Non-Profit Division of the union. Together, we will raise industry standards for all workers and support the inalienable fact ALL WORKERS DESERVE A UNION! — Ryan Tahas Oregon Area Lead Organizer

ILWU Walk the Coast: ‘Thanks a million!’

continued from page 6

friends, industry companies, including the first from outside Southern California, continued donating. One region of the Inland Boatingmen’s Union found particularly exciting, however, these new members are not resting on their success in organizing their workplace — many of them are already looking to reach out further and help others who are also looking to unionize.

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MAY IS MEDICAL, DENTAL PLAN CHOICE MONTH

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and/or dental plans during the Open Enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2023. The change will be effective July 1. In addition to the May Open Enrollment period, members may change their medical plan and/or dental plan once during the time for the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be enrolled in the Kaiser HMO Plan for the first 24 months of registration. After 24 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under the Mid-Year/Annual Review hours’ requirement will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in all ports located in California, Oregon, and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choices are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan or the ILWU-PMA Community Plan. For Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 46, 63 and 94, Northern California Locals 10, 18, 30, 34, (San Francisco), 34, (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91, and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92, and Washington State Locals 19, 23, 24, 50, 52, 72 and 98.

DENTAL CHOICE: For Los Angeles Locals 13, 26, 63 and 94 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Harbor Dental Associates, and Dental Health Services. For Southern California Locals 29 and 46 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For San Francisco Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Dental Health Services, or Gentile Dental San Franciscos. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals 18, 34, 54, and 56, the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For Portland/ Vancouver Locals 4, 8, 40 and 92, the dental plan choices are LifeMet and Willamette Dental, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan or Oregon/Dental Health Service. For Wash-ington Locals 7, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 47, 51, 52 and 98 the dental plan choices are Washington Dental Service or Dental Health Service.

Information on the medical and dental plans, and forms to change plans, can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefits Plans Office. All Medical and Dental Program Choice Forms and enrollment forms, as applicable, must be completed and received by the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the enrollment change to be effective July 1.