



THE DISPATCHER

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THE INSIDE NEWS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	2
ILWU Women’s Conference 2023 registration	5
Danny Glover sworn in as an honorary Local 10 member on Juneteenth	6
Seattle-area ILWU members celebrate Juneteenth with march and rally	6
TRANSITIONS	8



The Longshore Negotiating Committee reached a tentative agreement with the PMA on the evening of July 14 after more than a year of negotiations.

Longshore Negotiating Committee reaches tentative agreement with PMA

Thirteen-month negotiations aided in the final stages by Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su

The ILWU Longshore Negotiating Committee reached a tentative agreement on a new 6-year contract with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) on June 14. The agreement covers more than 22,000 dockworkers at 29 West Coast ports. The deal was reached with assistance from Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Julie Su who flew in from Washington, D.C. to attend the final days of the talks. In addition to resolving the “coastwise” contract agreement, separate local, supplemental agreements were negotiated by union leaders to address issues at local ports.

ILWU International President Willie Adams thanked the Negotiating Committee and the Safety

Committee for 13 months of grueling work that required long stretches away from their families and thanked the rank-and-file and local union leaders for their patience, fortitude, and unity throughout the long and difficult negotiations.

“This was one of the longest contract negotiations we have ever faced,” said President Adams. “We have been able to secure a good agreement, thanks to the unity and support from members up and down the coast, the solidarity of our ILWU family, and dockworkers around the world. I want to thank all who worked so diligently on these negotiations along with a special thank you to Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su whose leadership helped us cross the finish line.”

Next steps

The tentative agreement will first be reviewed by the Coast Longshore Caucus who are scheduled to meet in

July. Caucus delegates will review the tentative agreement in detail and then after vigorous debate and discussion decide on whether to recommend the proposal to the rank and file. If recommended, the complete agreement will be mailed to members, followed by discussions at local union meetings. The process ends with a secret-ballot election that allows members to ratify or reject the proposal. Detailed voting results will be published in a future issue of *The Dispatcher*.

“We are a democratic, rank-and-file union. The membership will have the final say on whether to accept or reject the agreement,” President Adams said.

continued on page 7

**ILWU Canada
Strike
page 3**



Secretary-Treasurers’ Conference
page 4

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President's message

Excerpts from ILWU International President Willie Adams' remarks at the opening of contract negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association, May 10, 2022 at the ILWU International offices in San Francisco.

Today, May 10, 2022, is a day that will live in memory. It's here on this sacred ground that our ancestors built the ILWU from the bottom up. We are here today in the Harry Bridges building to kick off 2022 West Coast bargaining. After eight years, the Negotiating Committee returns to the bargaining table with aspirations, hopes, needs, principles, militancy, and the fighting spirit of some 22,000 rank and file. We have a tradition of resisting unjust authority, resisting unjust economics, and resisting unjust politics. This is costly; however, continued injustice would cost more. 2022 negotiations may be a long and bitter struggle.

Over the past two years, in the grips of a pandemic, we have lost longshore workers, mechanics, marine clerks, foremen, pensioners, and widows. We lost brothers and sisters who contracted COVID-19 on the docks moving cargo at West Coast ports. And, coincidentally, yesterday, May 9, 2022, marked the 88th anniversary of the start of the 1934 "Big Strike" when dockworkers struck every port on the West Coast. This is the backdrop to the start of 2022 negotiations.

The ILWU is a stalwart defender of its reputation, the ILWU mem-

bership, the American people, and dockers around the world. The working class is a national treasure worth defending. We broke records moving cargo during the pandemic. Yet the names of the men and women of the ILWU are not mentioned in the box scores and to your side, the employers, they may be invisible. To us, they are American patriots, working-class heroes, sheroes, smashing

people, and our local communities. Our interests are so different, and we will always be on opposite sides. Indeed, 20 years ago this year PMA locked out our membership and tried to destroy our union families. We will never forget. Even in 1948, the employer group was unhappy with the ILWU Negotiating Committee and Harry Bridges, our President and Chief Negotiator.

"The ILWU is a stalwart defender of its reputation, the ILWU membership, the American people, and dockers around the world."

records moving cargo despite the COVID-19 high infection rate, job fatigue, depression, and death. Our members died while you were working remotely, afraid to come into the office, collecting your big salaries.

The working class is a profile in courage, dignity, and honor, and they will never be forgotten.

Today, the ILWU and PMA are here for another round of bargaining. We have a history as adversaries and, at times, we find common ground. PMA your job is to represent foreign-owned shipping cartels and the stevedoring cartels. We represent the Longshore Division membership, working families, the American

There are several things I must say to set the record straight before we get started.

We are not okay with unfinished business in the prior contract that hasn't been implemented by the employers.

We are not okay with the toxic relationship with PMA, the lack of integrity, dishonesty, disloyalty, and unfilled promises. The employers in this room have permitted this culture to grow and we intend to come out of this bargaining on different footing. As my grandmother once said, "If you ain't leading you're just walking."

We are not okay with PMA's false study on automation, published right before negotiations started. This was a cheap shot.

The American people, consumers, and our elected leaders have been watching over the past two years as the foreign shipping cartels raise prices and game the supply chain. We've all witnessed the selfish business practices of PMA's own members. This is pushing Congress, on a bipartisan basis, to seek increased reregulation on ocean shipping. It is critical for our industry to rebuild the trust that our employers have sadly squandered. Jim, you said everybody is watching us from Washington, D.C., to



businesses, the whole world. And, in your interview with the Port of Los Angeles, you said the ILWU has a monopoly and blamed the economy, but it's not the ILWU and it's not inflation when the shipping and stevedoring cartels are raking in their highest profit margin in history. I wonder what the White House, the Department of Justice, the American people, and small businesses think about who has the real monopoly. There is a path forward, but it demands laser focus, a plan of action, a pragmatic approach, vision, and boldness of spirit.

No more outsourcing, no more hiding, no more "catch us if you can," no more giving our work away to superintendents and non-bargaining unit personnel. Laura Ingraham told LeBron James to "shut up and dribble." We are here today not to sit but to stand up. Our rank-and-file are tired, fatigued, and working without a break; still they will keep cargo moving. The ILWU Negotiating Committee is committed to working day, night, and weekends to hammer out this agreement. The status quo is unacceptable. The industry needs a new M&M that includes taking the ILWU along with you, which you have not done, moving the industry forward with vision, boldness, human capital investment, growth, and training. It is time on your side to restore, honesty, integrity, compassion, trust, and a commitment to the American people and to our communities.

It's time for painful conversations.

It is up to both sides if we live in peace or prolonged conflict.

It's time to get to work.



DISPATCHER

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Mensaje del Presidente

Fragmentos del discurso de Willie Adams, Presidente Internacional de ILWU en la inauguración de las negociaciones contractuales con la Asociación Marítima del Pacífico el 10 de mayo de 2022 en la sede del Sindicato Internacional ILWU en San Francisco.

Hoy, 10 de mayo de 2022, es un día que quedará vivo en el recuerdo. Es aquí en este terreno sagrado que nuestros antepasados formaron el ILWU desde sus cimientos. Estamos hoy aquí en el edificio Harry Bridges para lanzar las negociaciones de la costa del Pacífico de 2022. Después de ocho años, el Comité de Negociaciones vuelve a la sala de negociaciones con aspiraciones, esperanzas, necesidades, principios, militancia y el espíritu luchista de unos 22,000 miembros de base. Tenemos como tradición oponer resistencia a la autoridad injusta, las economías y políticas injustas. Es algo costoso; sin embargo, sería más caro continuar la injusticia. Las negociaciones de 2022 podrían convertirse en una lucha larga y encarnizada.

Durante los últimos dos años, sumidos en la pandemia, hemos perdido estibadores, mecánicos, oficinistas marinos, capataces, jubilados y viudas. Perdimos compañeros y compañeras que contrajeron el COVID-19 mientras movían la carga en los muelles de los puertos de la costa del Pacífico. Ayer por casualidad, el 9 de mayo de 2022, fue el aniversario del inicio de la Gran Huelga de 1934 en la que los trabajadores portuarios hicieron la huelga en todos los puertos de la costa occidental. Este es el telón de fondo del inicio de las negociaciones de 2022.

El ILWU defiende firmemente su reputación, sus miembros, el pueblo

norteamericano, y trabajadores portuarios en todo el mundo. La clase trabajadora es un tesoro nacional que merece ser defendida. Batimos récords moviendo carga durante la pandemia. Sin embargo, los nombres de los hombres y mujeres del ILWU no figuran en el cuadro de resultados y para su bando, los empleadores, es posible que sean invisibles. Para nosotros, ellos son patriotas estadounidenses, héroes y heroínas de la clase trabajadora, batiendo récords en el movimiento de carga a pesar del alto índice de infecciones del COVID-19, fatiga laboral, depresión y muerte. Nuestros miembros murieron mientras ustedes trabajaron a distancia, temerosos de acudir a la oficina, y cobraron sus grandes salarios.

La clase trabajadora es un ejemplo de valentía, dignidad y honor y nunca será olvidada.

Hoy, el ILWU y PMA están aquí para participar en otra ronda de negociaciones. Tenemos un historial de pugnas, y a veces, hemos sabido encontrar puntos en común. PMA: su tarea es representar conglomerados extranjeros de transporte marítimo y carteles de estibación. Nosotros representamos a los miembros de la División de Estibadores, los trabajadores y sus familias, el pueblo estadounidense y nuestras comunidades locales. Nuestros intereses son muy diferentes, y siempre estaremos en bandos opuestos. De hecho, hace 20 años la PMA hizo un paro patronal, negándoles empleo a nuestros miembros y trató de destruir las familias de nuestro sindicato. Nunca nos olvidaremos. Aún en 1948, el grupo de empleadores estaba disgustado con el Comité de Negociaciones de ILWU y con Harry Bridges, nuestro Presidente y Negociador Principal.

Hay varias cosas que necesito decir para aclarar la situación antes de que empecemos.

No nos parece bien que hayan quedado asuntos pendientes en el contrato anterior que no han sido implementados por los empleadores.

No nos parece bien la relación tóxica con la PMA, la falta de integridad, la deshonestidad, la falta de lealtad y promesas incumplidas. Los empleadores en este salón han permitido que esta cultura se desarrolle y nuestra intención es salir de estas negociaciones en una posición distinta. Como dijo mi abuela una vez, “Si no vas al frente, simplemente estás paseándote.”

No nos parece bien que la PMA haya publicado un estudio falso sobre la automatización justo antes del inicio de las negociaciones. Esto es una movida sucia.

El pueblo estadounidense, los consumidores y nuestros dirigentes electos han visto en los últimos dos años como los carteles marítimos extranjeros han aumentado los precios y se han aprovechado de los trastornos en la cadena de abastecimiento. Hemos presenciado las prácticas comerciales egoístas de los propios miembros de la PMA. Esto está motivando al Congreso de manera bipartita a tratar de imponer reglamentos adicionales para el transporte marítimo. Es esencial que nuestro sector recupere la confianza que nuestros empleadores tristemente han derrochado. Jim, usted dijo que todos en Washington, D.C., en el sector empresarial y en todas partes nos están observando. Y en su entrevista en el Puerto de Los Ángeles usted dijo que el ILWU tiene un monopolio y culpó a la economía, pero no es el ILWU ni la inflación, sino que los

carteles del transporte marítimo y de la estiba están obteniendo las mayores ganancias en su historia. Me pregunto qué pensará la Casa Blanca. el Departamento de Justicia, el pueblo estadounidense y los pequeños negocios sobre quién es el que tiene en realidad el monopolio. Hay un camino correcto hacia el futuro, pero se requiere un enfoque preciso, un plan de acción, un abordamiento pragmático, visión y un espíritu audaz.

Basta de subcontratación, de andar escondiéndose, de esquivar la responsabilidad. Ya basta de asignar nuestro trabajo a los superintendentes y personal que no pertenece a nuestra unidad de negociaciones. Laura Ingraham le dijo a Lebron James que “Dejara de hablar y se limitara a driblear.” Hoy estamos aquí no para callarnos sino para defendernos. Nuestros miembros están cansados, fatigados y están trabajando sin descanso. Aún así seguirán moviendo la carga. El Comité de Negociaciones se compromete a trabajar de día, de noche y en fines de semana para llegar a un acuerdo. La situación actual es inaceptable. El sector del transporte marítimo necesita un nuevo M&M que implica la inclusión del ILWU, lo cual no ha hecho hasta ahora, empujar el sector hacia adelante con visión, audacia, inversiones en el capital humano, desarrollo y capacitación. Es hora de que su bando restaure la honestidad, integridad, compasión, confianza y compromiso con el pueblo americano y con nuestras comunidades.

Es hora de tener conversaciones dolorosas.

Depende de ambas partes si vivimos en paz o prolongamos los conflictos.

Es hora de poner manos a la obra.

ILWU Canada Longshore Division on strike

7,400 Western Canadian dockers take a stand for future workforce, fair wages



Approximately 7,400 dockworkers on the West Coast of Canada went on strike against the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) on July 1 after parties failed to make progress on a new contract that expired on March 31. The strike affects 30 terminals including those in Vancouver, Canada's busiest port.

On June 12 ILWU Canada announced the results of the member-

ship strike vote with an overwhelming 99.24% voting in support of the strike and on June 28 ILWU Canada issued a 72-hour strike notice to the employer.

Fight for the future

“The union is seeking a fair deal that respects longshore workers—one that protects our jobs and our jurisdiction,” said ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton. The key issues the union is fighting for include addressing contracting out mechanic work, port automation, and wage increases that reflect high inflation and the runaway costs of living.

“The ILWU Canada Longshore Division has not taken this decision lightly, but for the future of our workforce, we had to take this step. We are still hopeful a settlement will be reached through FREE Collective Bargaining,” Ashton said in a July 1 statement. “The Longshore Bargaining Committee has been willing to bargain with the BCMEA since February.”

Maintenance jurisdiction

A central issue in the negotiations is ILWU Canada's fight for its maintenance jurisdiction.

“The key issue that is holding up getting a deal is contracting out of ILWU maintenance work by member employers of the BCMEA and the refusal of the Association and its member companies to agree on a regular maintenance document,” Ashton said in a July 4 release.

“Our jurisdiction in maintenance has been aggressively eroded by member employers by using third-party contractors. This is not an issue of cost for the direct employers because they already pay for this work to be done by maintenance contracting compa-

nies. In fact, using ILWU skilled trades employees will be more cost effective and will result in a higher quality of work because of their industry experience and competency.”

Pandemic heroes

Dockworkers kept cargo flowing throughout the pandemic, keeping the Canadian economy moving and generating record profits for shipping companies that amassed tremendous wealth on the backs of dockworkers.

“Longshore workers stepped up and proved that we are here to support the people of Canada. It is unfortunate that our employers hold us in such contempt,” Ashton said.

Solidarity from President Adams

On June 29, ILWU International President Willie Adams sent a statement of solidarity with unequivocal support for ILWU Canada's fight for a fair contract:

“The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) stands united in solidarity with our fellow ILWU Canada brothers and sisters

continued on page 7

Secretary-Treasurers' Conference emphasizes oversight, transparency, and accountability



ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris applauding the attendees for their hard work at the conference and for their commitment to the union.

Nearly 100 members, officers, and staff who oversee local union finances attended the Secretary-Treasurers' Conference in San Diego May 21-25. The five-day training was conducted by the ILWU's Education Department. The workshop used a combination of interactive exercises and presentations from legal experts and experienced local officers to help participants understand their legal and ethical responsibility to protect the membership's money.

The event allowed participants to network and learn from one another and also included dedicated "office hours" for participants talk with legal experts and experienced local union and International officers.

Topics included best practices for record-keeping, federal reporting obligations, the importance of creating budgets, transparency, proper oversight, and democratic accountability. The training also covered the obliga-

tions and responsibilities of unions as employers for locals with paid staff. In addition, the conference covered democratic safeguards, including the proper conduct of local union elections, laws regulating the use of political action funds, bonding requirements for staff and officers who handle union funds, and proper management of current and archival union records.

Welcome from Secretary-Treasurer Ferris

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris welcomed participants to the conference on Monday morning. Sec-Treas. Ferris spoke about his own experience attending the training in 2013. "I hope you all get out of this program what I did, and that is confidence. These are such important jobs in the organization," Ferris said of the secretary-treasurer and trustee positions. "The administrative work is what nobody sees but it is a crucial role that keeps our locals and union functioning. We are going to have some tough discussions. And we're going to leave with an understanding of what it means to be a secretary-treasurer."



Local 5 Trustee Megan Stevens answers a question during a group exercise. Also pictured Local 52 Sec.-Treas. Kim Farrison.



Local 46 member Art Chavez (left) and Drake Delaforce, Local 142—Hawai'i Longshore Division.

History Lesson

Eleanor Morton, an attorney with Leonard Carder, the ILWU's law firm since the 1930s, began by providing historical context for the laws that provide for the regulation and oversight of labor unions in the United States. Morton started with the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) that was passed in 1935 and made it legal for most workers to join unions—agricultural and domestic workers were excluded from NLRA protections. The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 (NIRA) previously protected collective bargaining rights, but that law was gutted by the Supreme Court shortly after it was passed. Prior to the New Deal, forming a union was considered to be an anti-trust conspiracy.

"Workers organized to force the passage of what was called the Wagner Act (NLRA)," Morton said. "It was passed in 1935 and it made it legal to form a union—something we completely take for granted today. It was a sea change in our national labor policy. The passage of the NLRA led to a wave of labor organizing with workers winning 80 percent of union elections."

The 'Empire Strikes Back'

The Wagner Act altered the relationship between the federal government and workers and reduced the ability of employers to extract profits and control the labor force. This provoked a backlash from business owners and management against the New Deal that Morton characterized as "The Empire Strikes Back."

Business organized to pass two laws that made it harder for workers to organize and greatly increased government oversight and regulation of labor unions. The Taft-Hartley Act, passed in 1947, stifled the power of unions by prohibiting some collective labor actions including solidarity strikes, and secondary boycotts, and also allowed states to enact so-called "right-to-work" laws that banned union shops. The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (Landrum-Griffin Act) was passed in 1959. This law was the most relevant to the attendees of the conference as it regulates labor unions' internal affairs and union officials' relation-

ships with employers and is the basis for much of the oversight and regulations of unions by the government.

Culture of transparency & oversight

Many of the training sessions focused on the importance of open and transparent financial practices, so members can see that their dues money is being fully accounted for and properly spent. This requires proper bookkeeping practices, documentation of expenditures along with constant oversight by trustees elected by the membership. Larger locals were also encouraged to conduct periodic, independent audits by outside firms, which adds an additional layer of oversight to verify that local finances are in order. The ILWU's International financial records are audited quarterly – a level of oversight that is far more frequent than most organizations. Having multiple layers of checks and balances is important to protect union finances and ensure proper oversight and transparency.

One of the event panelists, Local 18's Secretary-Treasurer Rena Way said that these oversights and checks need to be in place even if you trust your officers. "I'm from a small local and I've been elected as Secretary-Treasurer for over 16 years consecutively," Way said. "I'm honored that the membership keeps voting me into office but they trust me too much. I would never do wrong by my local, but it's okay to ask questions. It is okay to look at the books. Just because someone has been in office a long time, doesn't mean that that fraud can't happen. I want the members to check out my books. I'm proud of my good job. So come check it out. I appreciate the trust but at the same time, check on it and verify things are being done right."

"Members have an obligation to keep track of our leadership and make sure that they're doing things correctly," added another event panelist, Alaska Longshore Division Secretary-Treasurer Darryl Tseu. "Don't take my word about how well we are doing. We really rely on the trustees to ask those hard questions, analyze the books, and look at every transaction."

Tackling fraud

The conference also tackled the hard lessons of fraud. The conference featured a panel discussion that frankly addressed the rare instances when local union officers or staff abused the trust of the membership. The ILWU has a strong record of protecting members' dues money from fraud and abuse. However, over the years, isolated instances have occurred in a few locals.

Instead of ignoring such instances or sweeping them under the rug, these rare examples were used as case studies to learn from and to help guard against future abuse. Group discussions focused on the shortcomings that enabled fraud initially to go unchecked until it was exposed. Presenters discussed lessons that were learned and the new practices and controls that were put in place to tighten oversight of union finances.

New perspectives

Throughout the conference, participants reflected on what they had learned. "The biggest thing that stood

out to me was having these concepts explained to me," said Local 5 Trustee Megan Stevens, a conference participant. "I've been a financial trustee for my local going on almost a year. I've done audits hands-on, but a lot of that has just largely been learning from doing. It's a little different having things explained to me and the reasoning behind certain practices and why this actually matters. Transparency is important to make sure you're maintaining trust between you and the members who have entrusted you with these tasks."

Commitment to education

The ILWU Titled Officers are committed to education to train the next generation of union leaders.

"As a young officer, I benefited from the ILWU's education programs to develop my skills as a leader," said Secretary-Treas. Ferris, "and there is a good chance that the person who succeeds me is sitting in this room. Our education programs are an investment in the future of our union."



ILWU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2023

The ILWU Titled Officers are pleased to announce:
**The Second Annual ILWU Women's Conference
San Francisco, CA October 20-22, 2023.**

The theme of this year's conference is **See It, Believe It, Be It**. We will be covering issues such as gender equity, developing and mentoring new leaders, and women's contributions to building the union. Instructors will be drawn from the ranks of active and retired members, staff from the International, university labor centers, and labor activists.

Local unions or affiliates may nominate participants, who are each required to fill out the conference application form. We welcome all nominations, regardless of gender. For reasons of space and diversity, we anticipate having to limit each affiliate to two participants, but we will create a waiting list in case of cancellations or non-participation by any locals.

The ILWU Women's Conference budget will cover participants' hotel stay, breakfast and lunch, training materials, facilities, and instructors. Participants will be housed together in double rooms, but may upgrade to a single room at their own expense.

Any reimbursement for expenses such as lost wages or travel will have to be covered by the participant, their local or affiliate, or by area fundraising activities. The International will not pay lost wages.

Questions may be addressed to Educational Services Director Robin Walker at robin.walker@ilwu.org.

Use the QR Code on the right to register or visit <https://www.ilwu.org/womensconference/>

Please register no later than 5 p.m. August 18, 2023.



Sukh Bains
Local 502

I don't have a finance background but my father was in accounting, so math was always a big part of my life. Before coming into longshore, I started in computers. I also minored in physics so I am used to dealing with a lot of numbers.

We think there are big differences between the United States and Canada but I also saw a lot of similarities in the way our locals operate, our constitutions, and the policies and procedures that we have. I'm glad that I'm in Canada though because there are a lot of legal requirements and regulations that U.S. unions have to deal with. In Canada, we have fewer legal requirements. I learned a lot this week from speaking with people from different locals and how they do things. This has been a great experience for me.



Jesse Mscichowski
Local 4

It's been great to be able to mingle and meet people from different locals down the coast, from Hawai'i, and throughout the union. Transparency is key. The union has resources and people who will make themselves available to help with any questions. It's powerful to hear that message and to know we can reach out with questions and ask for help or support to figure out how to resolve problems.

Luke Davis
Alaska Longshore Division,
Unit 60

I think it is important to come to these events because you learn how big the union is. We are kind of isolated from the rest of the union in Alaska. This was my first event. I'm definitely absorbing a lot—how important networking is, making connections, building solidarity, and basically learning what being in a union is all about. I've been learning how to set budgets and about all these laws that regulate unions and how important it is to follow them and to do the right thing. This is a great opportunity for me to come down, get some education, and become more involved. I'm a B-man so I can't hold a position right now. I will be sworn in as an A-man next year.



Alanna Veles
Local 100

I'm the secretary and treasurer for our unit. It is especially important to fill the title officer's position and represent the members' voice so I stepped up. I don't want to be at the forefront. I would rather be in the back and take care of things behind the scenes and support the union that way. There are so many take-aways from this conference. I have been learning from other people's experiences about what is effective. I have also been learning about the reporting requirements and the legal responsibilities of this position.

Ryan Murphy
Local 75

I am serving my fourth term. I'm the Business Agent and the Secretary-Treasurer at Local 75. This conference is priceless. There is a lot of information that you need to know to be successful at the job that we are elected to do. There are a lot of reports that need to be turned-in in a timely manner. There is a lot of information and knowledge that you get at this conference that you can immediately put to work to make your local better place.



Danny Glover sworn in as an honorary Local 10 member on Juneteenth

Actor, director joins Martin Luther King, Jr. and Angela Davis on honorary list

Local 10 marked Juneteenth with a celebration at their hall where actor, director, activist, and San Francisco native Danny Glover was sworn in as an honorary member by Local 10 President Farless Daily.

The holiday marks June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived at Galveston, Texas to inform enslaved African Americans of their freedom and the end of the Civil War. The soldiers came to Galveston two-and-a-half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery throughout the Confederacy – and two months after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, Virginia. Slavery was officially abolished in the United States on December 6, 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified.

Juneteenth, also known as “Freedom Day” and “Emancipation Day,” has long been celebrated by African Americans but did not become a federal holiday until 2021. On June 19th, 2020, ILWU dockworkers stopped work for eight hours in observance of Juneteenth and in solidarity with the movements for racial and social justice that erupted following the murder of George Floyd.

Glover has been active in struggles for civil rights and workers’ rights since the 1960s when he was a student activist at San Francisco State. Glover worked as a casual on the waterfront during the 1968-1969 student strike at SFSU (then San Francisco State Col-

lege) and spoke at the ILWU’s International Convention in 2004.

He joins Angela Davis and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as honorary members of Local 10; Paul Robeson and illustrator Rockwell Kent were both made honorary members of the ILWU during the 1943 International Convention.

Speakers at the event included Local 10 pensioner Clarence Thomas, past Local 10 President Trent Willis, and Bay Area Pensioner Club President Lawrence Thibeaux.

“There has never been an honorary member of this local whose association with the union goes back over half a century,” said Thomas. “In 1968, Danny Glover and I were students at San Francisco State and members of the Black Student Union Central Committee. We initiated and led the longest student and faculty strike in the history of the United States. The demands included the establishment of a Black Studies Department and the School of Ethnic Studies, which still stands today. Local 10 came out and joined us on the picket line. ILWU International Vice President Bill Chester was selected by Mayor Joe Alioto to be part of the negotiating committee to settle the strike. Local 10 opened up its casual jobs to teachers and students, Danny worked as an ILWU casual in 1968. That struggle provided the foundation for his radicalism and his revolutionary spirit as an artist.”

Thomas noted that Local 10 and Glover were active in many of the same



From left to right: Local 10 pensioner Clarence Thomas, Local 10 Vice President, Vanetta Hamlin Local 10 member Armin Plummer, Danny Glover, and Local 34 member Christopher Christensen.

social justice struggles over the years. “He has compromised his income to take on causes that the ILWU has supported. While we were refusing to work South African cargo in the 1980s. Danny Glover was in the vanguard of entertainers and artists opposing apartheid in South Africa,” Thomas said.

“Danny Glover has been a steadfast comrade to the ILWU and in particular to Local 10,” added Trent Willis. “The fact that we are swearing in these iconic persons into our local says something. In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King came to this local during his tour planning for the Poor People’s March on Washington. He came to Local 10 because of our rich history of standing up for social justice. He came here because Local 10 stands against discrimination. That’s something that you should be proud of.”

After being sworn in, Glover praised Local 10’s strong relationship with the community and its storied history of doing the right thing and being on the right side of justice. “This is the history you’ve laid down and you’ve got to maintain your connection with this history,” Glover said. “The work we do today is different than the work we did yesterday and will be different from the work that we do tomorrow. Stand together as we transform the union and make the union viable and valuable in days to come for future generations. When young men and women come up, they know that business is being taken care of—the business about working people, the business about building community, and the business of fighting for justice. That’s the kind of business that this union is about.”

Seattle-area ILWU members celebrate Juneteenth with march and rally



Photo by Jake Douglas

The Juneteenth march and rally started on the Local 10 hall before proceeded to Terminal 46 to celebrate Freedom Day with music and speakers.

On the morning of June 19th, members from Local 19 led an action during their stop-work meeting in honor of Juneteenth. Local 19 members have held a Juneteenth action every year since 2020. The event was organized by The Juneteenth Committee to Stop Police Terror and End Systemic Racism, a coalition of labor and community groups led by long-

shore workers and chaired by Local 52 Vice President Gabriel Prawl.

The march departed the Local 19 dispatch hall at 10 a.m.—120 strong, including a dozen children. Various unions and organizations brought their banners to follow behind Local 19’s, including Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity, Transit Union Local 587, and UAW 4121. Other unions and organizations brought signs including the Inlandboatmen’s Union—the

marine division of the ILWU, UFCW 3000, UFCW 21, NW Carpenters Union, AFSCME/WFSE Local 843, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Freedom Socialist Party, Puget Sound Mobilization for Reproductive Justice, and more.

Marchers walked 1.4 miles while chanting the names of three black men from Locals 19 and Local 52 that died from COVID during the pandemic: “Jeff Berry say his name! Anthony Lemon say his name! Ronnie Thomas say his name! PMA say their names!” ILWU members worked valiantly through the pandemic and took heavy losses. We will not forget.

After a 40-minute march to Terminal 46, participants were greeted at the rally site with the sounds of C.T. Thompson and the Classic Soul Band crooning, “A Change is Gonna Come” along with water and other refreshments. Those already at the rally bumped the number of participants to 200. The program of speakers and music lasted about two hours. They represented a variety of labor and community groups who came together in a spirit of solidarity, support for racial

justice, and in celebration of Juneteenth. Among the speakers were Local 19 Vice President Matt Ventoza, Local 52 President Chris Romiscer, Local 52 Vice President Gabriel Prawl, Local 23’s Joseph Womack, and representatives from MLK Labor, Railroad Workers United, and more.

Speakers addressed the crowd from a secure flat rack with a banner below that read in big orange letters, “ALL WORKERS WIN WHEN SLAVERY ENDS.” Ricky Reyes from the community organization, Wa Na Wari, spoke about the importance of reclaiming Black ownership of cultural archives.

Representatives from the Black Prisoners Caucus, an organization formed over 50 years ago inside Washington State prisons, spoke about the exploitation of prison labor. They requested help from the labor movement. The emphasized that incarcerated people making pennies an hour is a labor issue.

Moon-Ho Jung, the Harry Bridges Endowed Chair in Labor Studies at the University of Washington spoke about

continued on page 8

ILWU Canada Longshore Division on strike

7,400 Western Canadian dockers take a stand for future workforce, fair wages

continued from page 3

who have issued a strike notice to their employer, the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) due to their refusal to negotiate on issues important to the union including wages, automation, and jurisdiction,” Adams said.

“We note that for nearly five months, the ILWU Canada Bargaining Committee has negotiated in good faith for a fair deal that respects longshore workers and protects the jobs and jurisdiction of dockers. We also note that for the past three years, BCMEA and its investors have enjoyed enormous profits on the backs of union dockers while our members risked their lives during the pandemic. We are all too familiar with this kind of fight as the ILWU Coast Longshore Division faced similar issues during our recent contract negotiations.

“Our message is clear – we will not settle for a second-rate contract. We will not accept anything short of what’s best for our members.

“The ILWU stands in solidarity with ILWU Canada in your pursuit for a just and fair contract. An injury to one is an injury to all!”

Outpouring of solidarity

In addition to the ILWU International’s statement of solidarity, ILWU Canada received statements of support from dockers around the world, including the International Dockworkers’ Council (IDC), the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ), Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), and the All Japan Dockworkers’ Union (ZENKOWAN) among others.

International Solidarity Rally

On July 9, an International Solidarity rally filled Vancouver’s Jack Poole Plaza with union members and community supporters. The ILWU family showed up big for ILWU Canada’s rally and to walk picket lines on the days leading up to the event including ILWU International President Willie Adams, Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President (Hawai’i) Sam Kreutz, and Coast Committeeman Cam Williams. Solidarity delegations and rank-and-file members from throughout the ILWU traveled to Vancouver including from Locals 10, 13, 19, 23, 63, 63-OCU, Alaska Longshore Division, Hawai’i Longshore Division,



Photo by Mel Rondpre

ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton fires up the crowd at the July 9 International Solidarity Rally at Jack Poole Plaza. “Don’t be ashamed to be a member of the working class,” Ashton said.

and the Inlandboatmen’s Union. Dockworkers traveled from all over the world to attend including delegations from MUNZ, the MUA, and the ITF. In addition, unions from all over British Columbia attended the rally to show their support for ILWU Canada’s fight for a fair contract.

Boots not Bots

The negative impact of automation on communities is another key issue in the negotiations. Earlier this year, the Canadian government approved the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority’s proposal to build Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2), a \$3.5-billion, semi-automated container terminal that Ashton said would result in many workers being done by robots.

ILWU Canada wrote an open letter to the Canadian government in February about the proposed project stating that “the proposed level of automation and subsequent job losses would cause job disruptions on a significant scale that will be felt by the provincial economy and will have an acute effect on some communities, particularly those that rely on this industry for good jobs and economic benefits they bring locally.”

“Automation kills communities,” Ashton said. “We are fighting not just for the current workforce but for the long-term prosperity of our local communities. We want to ensure that this industry continues to provide good-paying jobs for our communities for generations to come.”

As the *Dispatcher* was going to press, ILWU Canada and BCMEA reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. We will update the story in future issues of the contract.



ILWU International President Willie Adams on the picket line in Vancouver. President Adams traveled to Canada just days after the strike began to show support and solidarity to members of ILWU Canada who went on strike for a fair contract.



ILWU Canada dockworkers are fighting for future generations by protecting their jurisdiction.

Longshore Negotiating Committee reaches tentative agreement with PMA

continued from page 3

Milestones

The Committee approached their negotiating task with clear directions from the Coast Longshore Caucus that met for two weeks beginning January 31, 2022. The Negotiating Committee opened talks with the PMA on May 10 and continued bargaining past the contract expiration date of July 1, 2022. Important progress was announced on July 26, 2022, when a tentative agreement on health benefits was reached, on April 20, 2023, when agreement on other key issues was reached, and on June 14, 2023, when the parties reached a tentative agreement.

Collective bargaining works

After the final tentative agreement was reached on the evening of June 14, Acting Labor Secretary Su addressed both parties, thanking them for their work in reaching an agreement.

“This validates what President Biden has said and firmly believes: the collective bargaining process works,” Su said.

Outpouring of solidarity

The Longshore Negotiating Committee received solidarity and support throughout negotiations from unions and workers around the world. On August 15, 2022 a delegation of dockworkers including ILWU Canada, the Hawai’i Longshore Division, the Alaska Longshore Division, the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), and the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) met with the Negotiating Committee in San Francisco.

Over the course of the negotiations, the ILWU received public statements of solidarity from union leaders including AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, ITF President and National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia Paddy Crumlin, Interna-



From left to right: ILWU International President Willie Adams, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon, DOL Counselor Lynn Rhinehart, Coast Committeeman Cam Williams, and ILWU International Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr. Sec. Su flew to San Francisco from Washington, DC and aided in the final stages of negotiations.

tional Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) President Harold Daggett, Maritime Union of New Zealand National Secretary Craig Harrison, and Transport Trades Department, AFL-CIO President Greg Regan.

Dockworkers around the globe participated in a social media campaign posting photos of their locals posing with a banner reading “Global

continued on page 8

Seattle-area ILWU members celebrate Juneteenth with march and rally

continued from page 6

the role that enslaved people played in their emancipation during the Civil War. “Every fall I ask my students this question: who was the most responsible for the abolition of slavery? Usually, more than half write down the answer that we are often taught: Abraham Lincoln. He supposedly freed the slaves by signing the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863. The answer that generations of American historians have tried to ignore and dismiss is that the people most responsible for the

abolition of slavery were the enslaved Black people themselves.” Prof. Jung, quoted W.E.B. Du Bois who, in his seminal book, Black Reconstruction in America, described the mass exodus of enslaved people from Southern plantations during the Civil War as a general strike of a half million black workers.

You can view the whole event on YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/PVscCW0Z-7g>

—Alia Lighter
Local 19

Longshore Negotiating Committee reaches tentative agreement with PMA

continued from page 7

Dockers Stand in Solidarity with the ILWU.” The Longshore Division sent out several dozen banners to dock-worker locals throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania through the ITF and IDC.

“The hard work of local leaders, the membership, our Negotiating Committee, and our friends and allies all over the globe were all united and fighting for the same goal of winning a fair contract,” said President Adams. “Workers win when we stick together.”

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That’s what we’re all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we’re just a phone call away.

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Modified 2023 publishing schedule

Update to our 2023 publishing schedule: *The Dispatcher* is typically published 11 times a year with a combined July/August issue. The June issue of this year’s Dispatcher was a special Longshore Contract issue mailed to Class A & B longshore workers & clerks. To ensure that we still produce 11 issues of our regular edition, we will be publishing separate July and August issues this year.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Stuart G. Wilson;
Local 10: Alex W. Bensch; Antonio R. Trejo; **Local 13:** Thomas M. Dawson; Jose G. Estrada; Griselda N. Franchini; Harold L. Isaacs; Franco C. Izzo; Jose Marquez; Floren Mobley; Michelle R. Moore; Kenneth J. Naranjo; Paul A. Posadas; Michael E. Ruan; Dennis D. Sujdovic; John A. Urrea; Darryl White;
Local 19: Michael A. Audette; Michael W. Black; Dale E. Trew;
Local 40: Nina J. Nestlen;
Local 46: Thomas J. Lopez;
Local 54: Ric A. Fideldy; Raymond Silvas; **Local 63:** John Edward Bosowski; Michele A. Fox; Nicholas Monroy; Victor G. Ramirez; Irma L. Rossi;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 8: Michael D. Gullickson;
Local 10: Siegfried V. Henderson; Richard Lira; Alfred A. Melendez; Kurt Smith Jr.; **Local 13:** James H. Cloudman; Isaac Marshall IV; **Local 19:** Scott D. Martinez; **Local 34:** Ricky Taylor;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Richard M. Cunlisk; Joseph E. Heasley; **Local 8:** Gerry F. Thorton; **Local 10:** Alfred L. Chappell II; Felicisimo M. Limon (Elaine);

Local 13: Bobby L. Barber; Justo Duenez; Mario A. Morales; John E. Ramos; David Rogers; Carlos E. Rubalcava; **Local 14:** Joel J. Roberts;
Local 19: David J. Gacek;
Local 21: Jack A. Junnikkala;
Local 23: Ronald W. Bredeson; Daniel L. Carson; **Local 24:** Bruno E. Pieraccini; **Local 26:** Bernice Toles;
Local 34: Donald J. Cava;
Local 46: Darin W. Macias;
Local 52: Ernest Williams;
Local 63: David A. Aproda; Tom T. Kawamoto; Tom T. Kawamoto; John R. Luera; Gilbert Mestas;
Local 91: Stephen L. Parun;
Local 94: James E. Suggs;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 10: Ethel M. Hubbard; Betty Malveaux; **Local 12:** Jan C. Hiveley;
Local 13: Sarah G. Areyan; Rachel M. Loquellano; Ruth Salas; Claudia Spondello; Nancy L. Winans;
Local 19: Charlene Hughes;
Local 21: Carol L. Dockstader;
Local 23: Gladys Jackson;
Local 52: Jean Backman;
Local 63: Frances R. Adams; Frances K. Radisich; **Local 94:** Margaret Cobb; Norma J. Nelson; **Local 98:** Vera L. Bohrer;

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