



THE DISPATCHER

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Coast Committee: (Top row, left to right): ILWU International President Willie Adams; ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr.; (Bottom row, left to right) Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon; Coast Committeeman Cam Williams.

Coast Longshore Division Caucus unanimously votes to send tentative agreement to membership

After four days of discussion and debate, the Coast Longshore Division's Contract Caucus voted unanimously on July 21 to send the tentative agreement (TA) on a new six-year contract to the membership for a ratification vote. The Contract Caucus is the first step in the Longshore Division's democratic, contract ratification process.

The nearly 100 elected delegates representing 29 longshore and clerk locals along the West Coast met from January 31-February 11, 2022 to give direction to the Negotiating Committee on bargaining demands for the new contract. The delegates reconvened in Long Beach July 17-22 to debate the TA, which was reached after approximately 13 months of negotiations with the

Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). The caucus delegates reviewed the TA section by section and had the opportunity to discuss every aspect of the contract.

After the vote by the caucus, copies of the TA were sent to all longshore and clerk locals and mailed to longshore and clerk registrants in a special edition of the *Dispatcher*. The TA was then presented at local union stop-work meetings where members had the opportunity to discuss and debate the TA.

"The ILWU has always been a rank-and-file union and the decision now rests with the Longshore Division membership," said ILWU International President Willie Adams.

Observers and guests

The Contract Caucus was open to registered longshore workers and clerks to observe. Workers came from as far away as Tacoma and

Seattle. Among the guests and fraternal delegates were ILWU President Emeritus James Spinoza and ILWU President Emeritus Robert McEllrath, nearly 80 members of the Hawaii Longshore Division, Dennis Young and Jeff Hancock from the Alaska Longshore Division, more than 20 pensioners, and guests from the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU), the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), and the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ).

Dedications

The caucus was dedicated to the memories of those who recently passed. Delegates took to the mic to read into the record the names of members and pensioners whom we have lost over the past year.

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Executive Board, ILWU Locals, respond to wildfires on Maui

As the impact of the devastating fires on Maui became known, the ILWU Executive Board, local unions, and rank-and-file members responded immediately to assist our ILWU family and other workers in Hawaii who have been affected by this tragedy.

Local 142 is the largest local in the ILWU and Maui is home to 5,700 Local 142 members, the highest concentration of ILWU members on any island. 2,700 members work in West Maui, and 1,750 members live in Lahaina.

The extent of the damage is still being evaluated. The fires have destroyed the town of Lahaina and has become the deadliest wildfire in United States history in more than a century.

News of the devastating fires on Maui was being reported as the ILWU International Executive Board was meeting on August 9-11 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Executive Board responded immediately to a request for assistance by Local 142 Board Members by unanimously approving a \$50,000 donation towards the relief efforts. The donation was matched by Local 142 and the Hawaii Longshore Division.

In addition, ILWU Locals 6, 10, 19, 63-OCU, and ILWU Canada have each pledged \$10,000 towards

relief efforts. As the *Dispatcher* was going to press, other ILWU Locals and the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific were scheduling meetings to approve relief donations to assist our ILWU family in Hawaii.

In Southern California. Locals 13, 63, 63-OCU, 65, 94, the IBU, pensioners, and auxiliary filled 13 shipping containers with essential supplies and necessities to assist those impacted by the fires. Containers filled with relief supplies were also organized by Locals 10 in the Bay Area and Locals 19 and 23 in Seattle/Tacoma.

In Hawaii, Local 142 officers, Maui Division BA's, and the leadership of the Hawaii Longshore Division have been meeting with Local 142 members and other community members displaced by the fires. Local 142's legal team has been providing advice for filing FEMA applications. They are also providing education to help members identify and resist predators and scammers and are preparing members for aggressive self-advocacy with insurance companies. Local 142's officers and Maui Division BAs have opened communication lines with members and employers over workers' employment status and are working to ensure that members' rights are protected in the coming weeks and months. Local 142's supply chain team is working with the community to make members and the greater community directly receive needed relief supplies and essential goods.



More than 50 volunteers at the Local 23 hall filled three containers with needed relief supplies to Maui. ILWU members from Locals 5, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 98 also helped by bringing carloads of donations. Other union members from teachers to Teamsters and community members from all over Pierce County also stepped up to help.



Members from ILWU locals 13, 63, 94, 63 OCU, 65, IBU, pensioners, and auxiliary filled 13 containers with relief supplies for Maui.



Members of the Local 10 Young Workers' Committee stepped up to help make the Bay Area Maui relief efforts a success. They staffed the donation center, sorted the supplies, and filled three shipping containers with donations from the community and Bay Area ILWU locals from as far away as Stockton and Sacramento. Local 10 officers worked with Pasha to make this relief assistance possible.

"I want to thank our ILWU family on the Mainland for their outpouring of support and assistance and for the work of the Local 142 leadership, and rank-and-file members who are organizing relief efforts and helping to protect the rights and interests of the people on Maui displaced by the fires," said ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Sam Kreutz. "Looking out for one another is what we do as union members."

ILWU Local 142 has established the **Kōkua Maui Fund** through the ILWU Credit Union to donate to the relief efforts.

Donations can be made to Local 142's Kōkua Maui Fund using the following channels through the ILWU Credit Union:

- **In Branch:** ILWU Credit Union members can deposit cash or transfer money from their ILWU Credit Union account to the relief fund over the counter at the branch;

- **By Phone:** ILWU Credit Union members can contact the Credit Union toll-free at **866-445-9828** and transfer funds from their Credit Union account to donate to the relief fund;

- **By Check:** Anyone can donate by check made out to "ILWUCU - Kōkua Maui Fund" and dropped off or mailed to any ILWU Credit Union Branch;

- **Online:** Anyone can donate by credit or debit card on the ILWU Credit Union website at <https://www.ilwucu.org/donate>

"We are heartbroken to see the devastation in Maui," said ILWU International President Willie Adams. "Helping any worker in distress is a core value of this union, and the membership immediately stepped up to provide financial and material support to our family in Hawaii. We will continue to work with the leadership of Local 142 to support the ongoing relief and rebuilding efforts."



ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Sam Kreutz (second from left) met with Local 142 members and management at the Ritz-Carlton Maui in Kapalua which has become a hub for the distribution of aid for those impacted by the fires in and around Lahaina. He also toured the Royal Lahaina which is housing displaced ILWU members.



Local 142 President Chris West (standing, left) meeting with workers impacted by the fires on Maui.

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Roy San Filippo
Communications Director

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
William E. Adams, President
Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President, Mainland
Paul K. Kreutz, Vice President, Hawaii
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Bloody Thursday events unite ILWU members along the West Coast

Shared ritual honors sacrifices made in formation of the union

On July 5, work stops at every port along the West Coast to honor the anniversary of Bloody Thursday. The annual event is a time when longshore workers come together to honor the memory of those whose sacrifice laid the foundations on which the ILWU is built and to reflect on generations of longshore workers who fought to improve wages and conditions on the waterfront.

Bloody Thursday marks the anniversary of the killings of Nick Bordoise and Howard Sperry who were shot by police in San Francisco on July 5, 1934. That event sparked a general strike in San Francisco and marked the turning point of the 1934 West Coast Strike that eventually led to the formation of the ILWU.

The day remembers all six workers who were killed along the West Coast during the strike and serves as a celebration of the strike's victory. Bloody Thursday honors the sacrifices made by Bordoise and Sperry in San Francisco, Dickie Parker and John Knudsen in San Pedro, Shelvy Daffron in Seattle, and James Connor in Portland. The day is also a time to reflect on all of the sacrifices made by generations of longshore workers who have struggled and fought to constantly improve wages and conditions on the waterfront. The 82-day strike began on May 9, 1934 when West Coast longshore workers struck, shutting down docks along 2000 miles of coastline, including the major ports of Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego. The issues workers fought for included a union-controlled hiring hall that would end all forms of discrimination and favoritism in hiring and equalize work opportunities; a coastwide contract, with all workers on the Pacific Coast receiving the same basic wages and working under the same protected hours and conditions, and a six-hour workday with a fair hourly wage.

ILWU Historian Harvey Schwartz described the events of July 5, 1934 and the San Francisco General Strike in a speech at the Local 10 Hall in 2019:

"On July 5, Bloody Thursday, the employers tried to force open the San

Francisco port by running scab trucks with police escorts through the longshoremen's picket line at Pier 38. The police used tear gas, clubs, and guns on the unarmed strikers. At least 100 strikers and their supporters were injured.

"Three workers were shot by plainclothes police outside the union's headquarters at Mission and Steuart Streets. One worker, Charles Olsen, survived. Two others, Howard Sperry, a longshoreman, and a World War I veteran, and Nick Bordoise, a union cook and strike supporter, were shot in the back and killed.

"A massive, dignified funeral parade for Sperry and Bordoise marched up Market Street in San Francisco on July 9. Henry Schmidt, an early longshore activist, reported that 50,000 people lined the street to watch. That day, public opinion turned in favor of the strikers. The massive shift in support following the death of the two workers may well explain why the board arbitrating the longshore strike eventually conceded to the union's key demands.

"Between July 16 and 19, city and regional workers participated in the historic 1934 San Francisco General Strike to protest the killings. More than 40,000 Bay Area unionists walked out that July.

"The union achieved its demand for a hiring hall through a decision by the strike's federal arbitration board that each hiring hall dispatcher must be a union member. The union also won the all-important coast-wide contract.

"The strike arbitration board awarded longshore workers a ten-cent increase in wages to ninety-five cents an hour. This was the equivalent of eighteen dollars an hour in 2019. But wages were a secondary consideration compared to the issues of dignity on the job and union control in hiring."

Southern California

In Southern California, Locals 13, 63, and 94's Bloody Thursday Picnic was held for the first time at San Pedro's 22nd Street Park with food catered by Big Nick's and Happy Deli. The event was made possible by the volunteers from the Bloody Thursday Committee chaired by Local 13's Marty Cerda.

"Many hands make light work," Cerda said, thanking everyone who volunteered their time to make sure



Local 13's Christian "C-Dog" Abito emceed the memorial service at Roosevelt Cemetery in Gardena. The ceremony is a time to reflect of the sacrifice made by Dickie Parker and John Knudsen, the first two martyrs of the 1934 strike.

the picnic was a safe and successful event for everyone and their families.

"Bloody Thursday brought the union together," said Local 94 pensioner Conrad Guzman. "My father and the other longshoremen before me suffered physically and mentally building this union. Bloody Thursday is a remembrance and a great tradition to bring us together to spill our sorrows so we can talk straight to each other, laugh, and have fun. It's a great educational event to learn about our history. What we're about is honoring those before us."

Honoring the 'First Blood' Martyrs

For the past 13 years, the Bloody Thursday event in Southern California has started with a graveside memorial service at Roosevelt Cemetery in Gardena where San Pedro High graduate Dickie Parker and Lomita resident John Knudsen—the first two martyrs of the 1934 strike—are buried.

Parker and Knudsen were both shot, along with five other union members, by company-employed goons shortly after midnight on May 15, 1934, at Berth 145 in Wilmington. The first deadly confrontation on the docks that year between strikers and strikebreakers involved the employer's use of armed private guards. Parker died on the way to the hospital while Knudsen held on for weeks before dying of his wounds. Public response to the killing of both men was impressive, with an estimated 8,000 lining the streets from San Pedro to Gardena to witness the procession of cars that stretched six miles. Law enforcement warned of a riot following the funeral, but because both events were peaceful, public support increased for the union cause.

Local 13 member Christian "C-Dog" Abito was the emcee at the memorial event this year. He called together the 200 attendees together at 9:30 a.m. and thanked everyone in attendance.

Speakers at the memorial included Local 13 President Gary Herrera, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, Pacific Coast Pensioner Association (PCPA) President Greg Mitre, and Los Angeles City Council member Tim McOsker. PCPA Poet Laureate Jerry Brady recited his emotional and moving poem about Bloody Thursday.

"The reason why we have what we have today is because of those who sacrificed," Herrera said. "I'm humbled—more than honored to be speaking here. What I have today is because of what people like Dickie Parker did for us in the past—fighting and dying for us. I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for those who came before us and what they fought for. I am a cancer survivor, and I would not be here if it wasn't for the ILWU and our benefits."

Procession

At 10:15 a.m., the procession of classic cars, cruisers, hot-rods, and Harleys slowly pulled out of the Memorial Park behind a hearse provided by All Soul's Mortuary in Long Beach.

The caravan, which recalled the original procession for Parker and Knudsen was escorted by ILWU Local 65 LA Port Police as it made its way south to San Pedro, passing by the Harry Bridges bust on Harbor Boulevard before arriving at 22 Street Park for the Bloody Thursday Picnic.

So Cal Picnic

The Bloody Thursday Picnic had food and drinks available at no cost to members and families. There was live music and plenty of games and entertainment for kids – which gave grown-ups a chance to relax and socialize while their children played safely on activities that included bounce houses, games, and face painting.

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Local 8's Troy James (left) and Pat Johnson at the Local 8 picnic.



BALMA President John Castanho (left) with Local 10 pensioner Terry Taylor, one of last surviving members hired at Local 10 in 1959. Each year on July 5th, Taylor takes flowers to the gravesite of Howard Sperry.

Coast Longshore Division Caucus unanimously votes to send tentative agreement to membership

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Morning speakers

On the first day of the caucus, before delegates started discussing the TA, they heard from several speakers starting with a video message sent by Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su who assisted in the final stages of the negotiations. Acting Secretary Su discussed the importance of the collective bargaining process, thanked the Negotiating Committee for their hard work, and thanked caucus delegates for the important role they play in the ratification process.

“This administration is committed to the right of workers to form a union, and understands the importance of the union in bargaining a contract, and the power of the members to decide whether that contract is fair,” Su said. “President Biden and I know that the collective bargaining process is the best way to reach mutually beneficial solutions, and get workers the wages, benefits, and quality of life you deserve.”

FMC Commissioner Max Vekich

Following Acting Secretary Su, Local 52 pensioner, and current Commissioner on Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), Max Vekich recounted his intertwined careers in politics and the longshore industry—from his days as an assembly member in Washington State to his role as the Chair of the Longshore Division’s Legislative Committee, and eventually his appointment as FMC Commissioner.

“Senator Maria Cantwell and Willie Adams are the godparents of me being on the FMC,” Vekich said. Commissioner Vekich also spoke about the important work the FMC does to regulate foreign carriers.

Executive Directors Cordero and Seroka

Following Commissioner Vekich, the delegates heard from Port of Long Beach Executive Director Mario Cordero and Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka.

“It’s the year of negotiations when it comes to labor,” Cordero said, noting the ongoing struggle by workers

for fair wages in many industries from UPS and hotel workers, to writers and actors. “American workers are now getting the benefit of what they should have been receiving for many years. I think it’s good for democracy. Wages now appear to be moving up a little bit and there is more equity for workers.”

Seroka spoke about the positive signs on the horizon for continued growth in container volume on the West Coast. He said the American economy is resilient and the fear of recession some economists predicted is not going to materialize. He also noted the importance of California’s recently passed infrastructure package which includes \$1.5 billion in funding for infrastructure in California’s 11 municipal ports.

Remarks by Pres. Adams

President Adams gave a timeline of the key milestones and sticking points during the 13-month negotiations. He thanked all of the solidarity delegations from dockworkers around the world that came in to sit in on negotiations and show their support. Pres. Adams also thanked the entire Negotiating Committee and the Safety Committee. “If I had to do it again, I would do it with this committee. We were in a foxhole, and they gave everything,” Adams said.

Pres. Adams asked delegates to question the Negotiating Committee and to evaluate the merits of the entire document. “This contract is for the rank-and-file,” he said. “We made gains. There is a little bit in here for everyone. We didn’t ask the employer for anything. We went in there and took it.”

International guests

The Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU) National Secretary Chris Cain brought greetings from Australia. He spoke about the ties that unite the ILWU and the CFMMEU including the militant, rank-and-file nature of both unions and their commitment to fighting for real gains for the working class.

“We don’t just talk about disputes. Our unions help the working class. Our unions fight for working-class people around the world,” Cain said. “What is global solidarity? Is it just words? We want decent wages. We want decent conditions in employment. We want a decent pension for when we retire, and we want a world that lives in peace. That is what we want. And we’ve got to fight for it.”

Cain was followed by Craig Harrison from the Maritime Union of New Zealand who spoke about the long history between the ILWU and MUNZ and the important acts of solidarity from the ILWU particularly during the Ports of Auckland dispute.

ITF President Paddy Crumlin spoke about the importance of union democracy and the power of militant unionism to transform society by offering an alternative vision for the world.



Hawaii Longshore Division Director Dustin Dawson brought a delegation of 80 longshore workers to educate the next generation and to give HLD members the opportunity to learn from the knowledge and experience of the Coast Longshore Division delegates.

“It’s going to be your decision to approve or reject the contract like it always has been,” Crumlin said. “What a union you’ve built in a world of corruption, selfishness, and bigotry, where we can come together as human beings, and set aside our differences—racial differences, age, and ethnicity, and forge a different type of vision for humanity.”

Crumlin also touched on the issue of automation saying it is a mechanism employers use to attack workers.

“Automation isn’t about productivity, it’s about union busting. It’s not faster, it’s not cheaper. It’s not a worthy investment for all those shareholders,” said Crumlin. “It doesn’t create wealth. It’s designed to diminish the industrial rights of the working men and women of the waterfront here on the West Coast of America, on the East Coast of America, in Australia, in Europe, and around the world.”

Hawaii Longshore Division

Hawaii Longshore Division Director Dustin Dawson spoke briefly, explaining that they brought a large delegation of Hawaii longshore workers to the caucus in order to educate a new generation and so they can benefit from the knowledge and experience of everyone in the room. He encouraged delegates to take time to speak with the Hawaiian longshore workers and share stories with them.

Hollywood to the docks

On Thursday morning, the caucus heard from actor Sean Astin, whose career has spanned four decades. Astin is best known for his portrayal of Samwise Gamgee in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, but he addressed the caucus as a fellow union member, worker, and labor activist. He is a member of the Negotiating Committee for SAG-AFTRA, the union that represents film and television workers. They are currently striking their employer for fair wages and to protect future work for their members—work that is currently being threatened by automation and artificial intelligence (AI).

SAG-AFTRA went on strike on July 14 after failing to reach an agreement with their employer group, the

Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP). The Writers Guild of America (WGA) has been on strike against the same employers since May 2. The strike marks the first time that actors have initiated a labor dispute since 1980 and the first time since 1960 that both actors and writers have struck their employer simultaneously.

Astin spoke about first meeting longshore workers in Seattle through his union activism and thanked ILWU members for their work during COVID.

“I’m so grateful for what you all were able to do through sheer guts and bravery during COVID to keep going when the country needed you. It should not take employers 13 months to acknowledge in any contract the value you bring to this world,” Astin said.

Astin recounted his experience at the bargaining table and his frustrations with the employer group’s unwillingness to engage their reasonable proposals. He noted that the overwhelming majority of actors struggle just to make ends meet while studios and streaming services are raking in massive profits and executives are receiving exorbitant salaries.

“People think of actors as Tom Cruise and the upper echelon of movie

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ITF President Paddy Crumlin spoke about the importance of union democracy and the power of militant unionism to transform society.



Actor Sean Astin spoke to the Caucus as a fellow union member and labor activist. He thanked longshore workers for their extraordinary courage during COVID and spoke about the fight against automation and artificial intelligence that is impacting workers across industries.

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stars. We have 160,000 people in our union and 87 percent don't make the annual \$26,000 threshold for health insurance benefits. We are mostly an out-of-work, underworked, and working-class group of people," Astin explained. "There comes a time when you have to determine for yourself what you're worth and we've done that. For the last 15 or 20 years there's been political infighting in our union. That's over. We are 100 percent united."

Actors, like workers in other industries throughout the economy, including longshore, are fighting to preserve work for future generations by putting guard rails in the use of automation technologies and artificial intelligence that employers are trying to deploy, not to increase efficiency but to eliminate jobs and more importantly directly attack the power of workers and their unions.

"We don't take any job action or strike lightly. People are already hurting, but in our industry, we've undergone so many changes. There is always some technological change that recalibrates what our industry does in relationship to its workers," Astin said, "but this moment we're in right now with AI, we feel like we're on the frontlines of this fight with you, the rest of labor and the rest of humanity. If we don't start organizing ourselves and putting some fences on that technology, our grandkids are going to be living in a bot-driven world wondering why we failed them."

Solidarity with striking hotel workers

The caucus also heard from UNITE-HERE Local 11 Co-President Ada Briceño who spoke about the ongoing strike by hotel workers in Southern California.

Presidents Emeritus

The caucus was then addressed by ILWU President Emeritus James Spinoza and President Emeritus Robert McEllrath.

Spinoza reflected on the vast changes in technology on the waterfront over his career. "I came on the waterfront in 1969," Spinoza said. "We were driving forklifts in the holds of ships, small little liberty ships—small compared to what is out there today. The ships are getting bigger and bigger and running even with fewer crew members because of AI and everything else."

"Our best deterrent from the employers moving so fast on this

robotics is by doing a good job. We break records every year. We'll continue to break it as long as you stay vigilant and understand that it's critical to do a good job out there to protect our work."

Spinoza was followed by McEllrath who spoke about how each contract builds and improves upon the last one.

"Every contract is a little different," McEllrath said. "You get this one, five years from now, you're going to have another one, and you're going to stack it on top. I see new faces, new leadership, young people that will take over. Remember that you're building and building each contract."

Honors for Russ Bargmann

Retired Research Director Russ Bargmann was honored by the Coast Committee for his nearly 50 years of service to the ILWU and the Longshore Division.

ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera presented Russ with his decades-old wooden inbox, signed by the Coast Committee, the Coast Longshore Division staff, and the Negotiating Committee. Coast Committeemen Cam Williams and Frank Ponce De Leon presented Russ with a bronze fist holding a cargo hook cast by Local 19 pensioner Ron Gustin.

"Russ exemplifies what this organization is about," said President Adams. "He could have made more money doing another job, but there's something about giving back to the working class."

Bargmann thanked the Longshore Division for the opportunity to serve the ILWU. He recounted how he was first hired in 1978 to develop a safety program for the Longshore Division. He praised the Division's commitment to continually improving the safety provisions of the contract.

"The rules in the safety code have been paid for by blood and the lives of workers on the waterfront," Bargmann said. "The fact that there is a safety code is so important, I can't think of any other industries where there's a negotiated safety code that is better than what OSHA provides. My hat's off to you for continuing to do that and for pushing contract after contract to make lives better and safer for those on the waterfront."

Voting on the contract will take place through the month of August. The results of the ratification vote will be published in a future issue of the *Dispatcher*.



Solidarity Coast to Coast: A 17-person ILWU delegation led by ILWU International President Willie Adams and ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris attended the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Convention July 24-27. President Adams (left) expressed the ILWU's support and solidarity with the ILA to ILA President Harold Daggett (right) in their upcoming negotiations with the employer group, US Maritime Alliance (USMX). The ILA's current agreement expires on September 30th, 2024.

ILWU secures jurisdiction in Humboldt Bay offshore wind project



More than 40 ILWU members from Locals 14, 18, 34, 54, and the IBU came out to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District meeting on August 10.

On August 10, the Humboldt Bay Harbor District approved a project labor agreement (PLA) for the construction of an offshore wind terminal at the Port of Humboldt Bay that also secures the ILWU's traditional, historic, and geographic jurisdiction at the Port.

More than 40 ILWU members from ILWU Locals 14, 18, 34, 54, and the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) came to the meeting and spoke in favor of the agreement. Longshore work is not a part of the PLA, which only covers the construction of the terminal, however, the ILWU and the California State Building Trades Council negotiated an amendment in the agreement that ensures that loading and unloading of cargo "shall remain the sole jurisdiction of the ILWU."

The ILWU Executive Board's Offshore Wind Subcommittee, chaired by Local 34 President Sean Farley, has been working with the ILWU Organizing Department and Washington, D.C. Legislative Department for more than two years. They have been meeting with officials at the federal, state, and local levels, offshore wind developers, and

the California State Building Trades Council to protect ILWU jurisdiction and to make it clear that ILWU members will be loading and offloading all cargo and that the members of the IBU will also be performing their traditional work on these projects.

Members of Local 14 in Eureka have been meeting with Humboldt Bay Harbor District Commissioners for more than a year and attending Harbor District meetings monthly to learn about this new industry, build relationships, and protect the ILWU's jurisdiction.

Construction on the terminal is not expected to start until 2025 and could take up to three years to complete. The offloading of any cargo could be at least 7 years away but it is essential to be involved in the process early to protect longshore work and the work of IBU mariners.

"The Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind project will be the first, but not the last offshore wind project on the West Coast," said ILWU International Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr. "Securing our jurisdiction on this first project sets an important precedent as we continue to fight to protect our work on future offshore wind projects."



Retired Research Director Russ Bargmann was honored at the Caucus with a bronze cargo hook and his old inbox signed by the Negotiating Committee and the Coast Longshore Division Staff.

Bloody Thursday events unite ILWU members along the West Coast

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Pensioner & Auxiliary

The Southern California Pensioners Club had a booth with tables, chairs, food, and goodies available for dozens who dropped by. The ILWU Auxiliary Local 8 worked the crowd, selling raffle tickets to raise money to support the important work they do for the ILWU. The ILWU Credit Union was on hand with a game for kids and adults to test the accuracy of their football throwing skills.

History on Display

The Education and Outreach Committee comprised of members from Southern California locals that formed out of last year's LEAD Conference displayed "Men Along the Shore and the Legacy of 1934," a historical panel created by the ILWU International's Education Department.

Bay Area events

The Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA) hosted the 89th annual Bloody Thursday Memorial event at the Local 10 dispatch hall in San Francisco. An estimated crowd of 400 union members and their families were in attendance. This year's service included a wreath-laying ceremony and a playing of "Taps" to honor Nicholas Bordoise and Howard Sperry. Speakers included officers from the Bay

Area Pensioners, Locals 10, 34, and BALMA, as well as the Chairman of the Local 10 Young Workers committee.

There was a magic show and face painting provided to children of ILWU members, along with an appearance from Buki the Clown. Lunch was provided, and included a taco stand, barbeque plates, hot dogs, and desserts for all. Afterward, there was a boat cruise provided aboard a Red & White fleet ferry, which traveled through the San Francisco Bay to the Port of Oakland and back.

BALMA thanked the many members who volunteered their time and talents in helping with the numerous tasks undertaken to help make the day a success, including donating their artistic talents designing this year's t-shirts, buttons, and tickets, as well as the ILWU Credit Union for their participation.

Portland

ILWU members from Locals 8, 40, 92, the IBU, and Local 8 affiliate, Ash Grove attended the Bloody Thursday picnic at Alderbrook Park in Brush Prairie, Washington. About 650 members and their families attended the picnic even with the 90-degree weather.

This year's car show was a big hit.

Longview

Local 4 held their picnic at Lewisville Park; there were estimated 175 people in attendance. The day included a bouncy house and games for kids, and a delicious barbeque.

Tacoma

Local 23's traditional July 5 Picnic at Spanaway Lake Park continued again this year with a great turnout estimated to be around 700 people. The games and activities for kids were popular. They included a bouncy house, face painting, and potato sack races.

There were bingo games organized by Auxiliary 35 members, a cribbage tournament, and cornhole. A delicious BBQ lunch satisfied everyone. This year's event also included a historical component led by Local 23's Zack Pattin who talked about the 1934 strike and the core demands of the



More than 600 ILWU members and their families came out to Local 19's Bloody Thursday Picnic at Lincoln Park in West Seattle.



Local 23 volunteers started early, setting up the barbeques and shucking corn.



Local 4 B-man and member of the Young Workers' Committee, Brady Nelson at the Bloody Thursday picnic in Lewisville Park.

longshore workers during the struggle. The event was made possible by dozens of volunteers who started setting up at 6 a.m., shucking corn and getting the barbeques ready.

Seattle

ILWU members began the day in Seattle with a procession led by the ILWU Motorcycle Club to Pier 91 for a wreath-laying ceremony on the waterfront to memorialize the workers whose lives were lost during the 1934 strike.

Following the wreath-laying service, members, and pensioners gathered at the graveside of Shelvy Daffron to pay

their respects and honor his sacrifice that helped build the ILWU. The event was organized by the Seattle Pensioners Club.

This year's picnic was held at Lincoln Park in West Seattle. It hasn't been there in over 25 years. The picnic committee itself was bigger with more than 20 members ranging from A-registrants to casuals and was chaired by Ann Norton. The hard work of the volunteers made the day possible. It was the most well-attended picnic in over 15 years with almost 600 people in attendance.

ILWU Canada members ratify new four-year agreement

Negotiated longshore agreement comes after a 13-day strike, government's attempt to force a mediated settlement

Members of the ILWU Canada Longshore Division ratified a new four-year agreement with their employer group, the BCMEA with 74.66 percent voting in favor. The results were announced on August 4 by ILWU Canada.

On July 28, the membership voted down at a tentative agreement mediated by the Canadian government. The BCMEA returned to the table and

on July 30, the Bargaining Committee announced that it had reached a negotiated tentative agreement with the employer group.

ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton thanked the entire ILWU family for the outpouring of support and solidarity during the 13-day strike. "This was the first strike in 30 years for the ILWU Canada Longshore Division. It was an uplifting and challenging time and it was incredibly emotional to see how much support we received,"

Ashton said. "What we do in this union is heard throughout the world."

ILWU International President Willie Adams thanked Pres. Ashton for his leadership through the difficult negotiations and strike, noting the tremendous pressure and spotlight ILWU Canada was under from the Canadian government and the media. "God is not going to look you over for your medals, but for your scars," Adams said.



ILWU Canada longshore workers went out on a 13-day strike for a fair contract and to protect work for future generations.

Photo by Vic Zuniga

ITF West Coordinator Jeff Engels retires

His 45-year career included stints as rank-and-file activist, IBU officers, and ITF Inspector



Jeff Engels (left) on the picket line during the nine month Crowley Strike in 1987 that sparked Engels to become a union activist.

Puget Sound ITF Inspector and West Coast Coordinator Jeff Engels retired at the end of July after a 45-year career that has included work as a mariner, multiple elected positions in the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU)—the ILWU's marine division—and, for the last 19.5 years, Inspector for the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) where he has helped to protect the rights and well-being of seafarers calling on ports in the Puget Sound.

Engels started his career in 1977 as a cook on an ocean-going tug two days before it was leaving Seattle.

"It was rough weather, and it was a non-union vessel. I should have quit," Engels said of his first job as a mariner. "They always say to seamen, 'If you don't quit in that first trip or two, you never will.' I made it, got 90 days of sea time, and made some money. When I came back, I tried to go to college and work a shoreside job, but the ocean started to call to me."

Engels was not the first mariner in his family. His great-grandfather was a Croatian seafarer who jumped ship in the Puget Sound in the 1880s. "My Aunt told me the story of how they tried to make him a farmer, and every now and then he would just drop the hoe, and walk into the Port of Seattle to find some shipmates from Croatia on the docks," Engels said.

The job on that tug was his first, "pierhead jump" a term Engels said defined much of his career. "That's an old seamen's term. That's when they just grab somebody off the dock. My whole career has been one long pierhead jump, including the ITF inspector job."

From late 1978 until August 1982, Engels sailed on deep-sea tugs and tugs in the Gulf of Mexico. He then hired on with Crowley Maritime in Seattle as an Able Bodied Seaman on the tug Bulwark and started his career in the IBU.

"I lived a carefree sailor's life," said Engels. "I really bought into the

lifestyle of a seaman which was 'work hard, bring home money, have a great time, blow it, and go back to sea.' I didn't do the 'save all your money, buy land and stocks, and retire early' route. Most sailors didn't back then. I got broken in by the last of the World War II merchant seamen who built the unions; it was a different time."

From mariner to activist

If the life of a mariner and working at sea was a calling for Engels, it was the Crowley strike in 1987 that turned him into an activist.

"I was a guy that would just go to union meetings, pay my dues, and read the contract, until the big 1987 Crowley strike," Engels said. "I found out that the bosses aren't your friend and how important it is to stay involved in the union. Sometimes the leadership, if left unchecked by an active, militant base of workers, can sway the wrong way. I learned later that you got to organize your competition. If you don't bring them up to your level, you're going to be dragged down to theirs. I lived through all that and then I became an activist. That means learning how to organize at union meetings, make a motion, and also reading books about the international maritime labor movement and learning from history."

In 1996 Engels ran for patrolman on a program of membership involvement and activating the rank and file and won by 15 votes. "I knew that we had

to activate and involve the members at all levels to build real power to take on the bosses," Engels said.

His push for rank-and-file activism in the IBU led him to run for IBU President as his term as patrolman was expiring. While running for IBU President, Engels became active in the ant-globalization movement and the protests against the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle in 1999 along with other ILWU members. Engels said the experience had an important impact on his personal and political development.

"I was blown away by the experience. I was tear-gassed in the streets by the police. I got radicalized again. When I was tear-gassed, some young activist in a turtle outfit helped me rinse out my eyes. I gave up the campaign for IBU President for that week while I was at the protests and I ended up losing by 10 votes," Engels said.

Engels wrote about his participation in the WTO protests at the time for the *Dispatcher*.

His election loss prompted his return to sea where he worked until he was elected as Puget Sound Regional Director of the IBU in 2002, a position he held until he was hired as ITF Inspector in 2004 where Engels worked to protect vulnerable seafarers from exploitation and abuse for nearly two decades.

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Local 23 celebrates Women in Maritime

On June 25, Local 23 hosted a Celebration of Women in Maritime at the Foss Waterway Seaport. Hundreds of Local 23 members, their families, folks from nearby locals, and other members of the maritime community, including Port Commissioner Dick Marzano, gathered at the historical venue and maritime museum on a bright Sunday evening. The museum houses a bronze statue of Harry Bridges and has an exhibit dedicated to the Port of Tacoma and Local 23.

The event was professionally catered and began with a cocktail hour. Many attendees traded in their steel-toed boots and Carhartts for fine evening wear. Before commencing the program, a first-of-its-kind photo was taken of all current and former Local 23 sisters in attendance.

The event kicked off with Janice Peralta of Local 23 giving a speech detailing her journey on the waterfront, followed by the event's guest speakers. ILWU-PMA Washington Area Welfare Director Andrea Stevenson gave a powerful history highlighting her many "firsts" and other struggles and triumphs for women in the industry since she started on the waterfront in Local 19 through the child of the deceased program. IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri



Past, present, & future: This photo captured all current and former Local 23 sisters who attended the Celebration of Women in Maritime at the Foss Waterway Seaport.

Mast was a commanding presence as always and left the crowd inspired by her impressive career and feeling hopeful for the future. The program closed with Gail Ross of Local 23 presenting a plaque to Beverly Berge and posthumously to Marlene Peterson, the first two women to work on the Tacoma waterfront in the late 1970s. Attendees of the event said it felt very

good to be celebrated and the honored guests were grateful to be recognized.

The idea for the event formed when Meghan Mason of Local 23 was introduced to Foss Waterway Seaport's Education Director Julia Berg, through a real estate transaction. Berg was excited about the possibility of a collaboration with Local 23 to hold an event celebrating "International Day

for Women in Maritime," an annual event held every May 18 since 2022. Local 23 had just created a committee to honor the founding sisters of their local; Mason brought the concept to the committee and soon the event grew to be something much more than Berg and Mason had imagined.

— Meghan Mason

New Electric Tug – A Model of Recognition and Solidarity

Reconciliation begins when recognition of the past inspires meaningful action in the present.



ILWU Local 400 Union Executive Ziggy Mangat, Treasurer, Jason Woods, President and Peter Lahay ITF Inspectorate Coordinator in front of HaiSea Wamis.

For Local 400, it inspired historic action. A decade ago, when LNG was still a quiet rumour in Kitimat, ILWU Local 400 Marine Section recognized immediately that the project would include maritime jobs, and that any future tug work belonged, above all, to the First Nations seafarers there. We set about ensuring it went to them—and we did so with a sense of purpose, solidarity, and the belief that an injury to one is an injury to all.

We began by acknowledging that First Nations peoples were the West Coast’s first seafarers. We secured a change to the section of our union constitution governing shipping rules. We travelled to Kitimaat Village to meet with the Haisla Nation to consult on next steps in the process of reconciliation. All of this work began before Seaspan launched its own work in the region — something all our members can forever be proud of.

Our union and the company initially began their work with the Haisla Nation on separate paths, but arrived independently and genuinely at the same conclusion. The result was a new company, HaiSea Marine, a joint venture majority owned by the Haisla Nation in partnership with Seaspan ULC. Our members will crew all its vessels.

After years of hard work by all parties, ILWU president Jason Woods and secretary treasurer Ziggy Mangat were present last month as we finally welcomed the HaiSea Wamis to British Columbia. The vessel is the world’s first fully electric tug. It is named, appropriately, for Wamis, the first ancestor who sought sanctuary at Kitimaat.

We are enormously proud of the work this tug embodies. And we are firmly committed, among other actions, to continued reconciliation through faithful union representation of our new Haisla members.

“We welcome the HaiSea Wamis to our shores, but more than that, we welcome this new beginning that the partnership of Seaspan, First Nations and our union allows us. We are proud seafarers, every one of us, proud of the work we do, the strength of our solidarity and the value of our contribution to our families, community and country,” Woods said.

ILWU 400 has also established scholarships to be awarded annually to First Nations mariners seeking to upgrade their marine certifications. The low-barrier scholarships are open to any First Nations persons in British Columbia.

— Peter Lahay
ILWU Local 400

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.

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

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

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

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

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

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

ILWU CANADA
EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5W9
(604) 254-7911

ITF West Coordinator Jeff Engels retires

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Their job is to inspect ships calling in their ports, to ensure seafarers have decent pay, working and living conditions, and to enforce ITF agreements on board ships to ensure compliance. Engels said the inspectors protect dock worker jurisdiction by making sure that seafarers aren’t doing dockers’ work.

Engels was able to help protect seafarers throughout his career, recovering wages, helping to repatriate stranded seafarers during the height of COVID, and working with the ITF and local health officials to get seafarers vaccinated.

“I didn’t grow up saying, ‘I’m going to be an ITF Coordinator,’” Engels said. “It just ended up that way. I’ve met some of the most interesting, wonderful people on the waterfront. And I’ve also met some of the worst. I hope I have made a positive difference for workers and certainly had an interesting time of it. I’m ready to retire, take my union pension and Social Security, and do some traveling.”

Ryan Brazeau will be the new ITF-WEST COAST, USA, Coordinator. He can be contacted at 971-500-8596 or via email at brazeau_ryan@itf.org.uk.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: James R. Schaefer; William N. Simdorn; **Local 10:** Neil K. Bennesen; Michael B. Harper; Fernando V. Hernandez; Horace McArroy; **Local 13:** John N. Califano; James W. Campbell; Gregory S. Crossen; Deborah D’Orio; Fuarosa Darne Faleu; Joe Gonzalez; Magdalena L. Kuhn; Patrick J. Murphy; David P. Pimentel; Renee M. Rathburn; Raul S. Rubio; Gabriella A. Russo; Peter T. Tran; **Local 19:** James D. Charon; Jeffrey B. Merk; John Rodriguez; **Local 34:** Evan Charles Eldridge; August Kim; **Local 40:** John G. Phillips; Local 46; Patrick D. Garcia; Jorge E. Renteria; **Local 63:** Deborah J. Klein; **Local 94:** John J. Sullivan;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Annie Fuller; August Martins Jr.; **Local 13:** Gilbert G. Guerra; Charles H. Henderson III; Alfred H. Kuhia; Travis S. McDonald; Paul D. Montiel; Michael Negrete; William C. Scott; **Local 19:** Phillip P. Emard; Samuel J. Huniu; **Local 21:** Thomas Ramey; Gary

P. St Onge; **Local 23:** David T. Hardy; Dale W. McCarty; **Local 34:** Philip Alley; Robert L. Lotfi; Eleazar Perez; **Local 34A:** Donald Stevens; **Local 40:** Darrell R. Dickson; **Local 54:** Louis B. Cuevas; **Local 63:** Carl W. Marsch; Paul W. Ybarra; **Local 94:** Reynaldo Avila; **Local 98:** Paul H. Wieser;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 10: Joel B Alcantar; Ray D. Jackson; **Local 13:** Steven M. Castaneda; Jeffery K Heston, Jr; **Local 19:** Richard M. Haas; Donald D. Wallace;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Eddie M. Jolly-Bryant; Dorothy M. Miller; **Local 10:** Pamela Coates-Taylor; Flossie Davis; Willie Lee Gray; Margaret Pryor; Eva Rodrigues; **Local 13:** Annie P. Waddell; **Local 21:** Theodora Kinnunen; **Local 23:** Joyce A. Jefferson; **Local 63:** Paddy Henon; Sylvia Youngker; **Local 92:** Betty L. Lukins;