THE INSIDE NEWS

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Feed the Community Day marks 25 years of generous Thanksgiving dinners with an extra treat

The Southern California ILWU’s Feed the Community Day turned 25 this year. This event is sponsored by Locals 13, 63, and 94, So Cal Pensioners, Auxiliary 8, and the ILWU Credit Union. The work to make it happen is done by ILWU volunteers and their families.

For a quarter of a century, the ILWU has donated time and money to help feed families a Thanksgiving meal. This year, more than 100 volunteers provided 1,500 families from the surrounding community with all of the groceries needed to prepare a full turkey dinner for 10 people, with all of the fixings for a traditional family holiday dinner.

“Everything they need, from the turkey to the salad,” said Holiday Event Committee Secretary-Treasurer Katy Witowski. “This year, because it’s our 25th year, they’re getting a pie as well. We wanted to do something a little bit special for them.”

Community partnerships
Witowski said that she has been working on this year’s event since August. She personally screens everyone who applies for the Thanksgiving meal for need. The Committee works with area schools and organizations to outreach for applicants.

“We go through a lot of the elementary schools here in Wilmington and San Pedro Harbor City, and we work with Catholic Charities,” she said. “We also do some shelters and senior centers. It’s a lot of work.”

Most of the recipients are required to come and pick up their meals at the Longshoremen’s Memorial Hall in Wilmington, but a portion of the meals are delivered, Witowski said. “We recently brought in an organization called Helping Hands that does a lot of work with veterans, and they will drive a Thanksgiving meal all the way up to Riverside,” which is several hours away.

Rising costs
Committee president Jose “Junior” Alvarez said rising costs impacted event planning. “This year was a tough year, everything went up in price, but we made it happen,” he said. He also thanked Albertsons for coming through with 1,500 pies at the last minute when the original vendor fell through.

Giving in tough times
Local 13 President Ramon Ponce De Leon added, “The industry has continued on page 4
James Gyerman describes backbreaking work of the 1950’s, working first container ship in 1960’s

I walked down the aisle leaving, they were cheering. He was just that type of a man.

Discharging bananas

The work was tough. We had bananas on Mondays and Tuesdays, whether you liked it or not—and you were discharging bananas. The stalls were bigger than you. When you unloading bananas, there was a line, you were in that line, and you never got out of that line. If you tried to get out of the line, the guy behind you would grab you. If you were trying to leave, it was usually because there was a huge stall coming up and it was yours. We would put the stalls on a conveyor belt and the conveyor belt would take it out onto the dock and somebody on the dock would take it off the conveyor belt, put it another conveyor belt, where it would go into a rail car. The Lane Victory, which is one of the ships tied up here on the waterfront, was basically the type of ship that we worked.

Long John — when they found out that I was a Gyerman and Long John was my dad, it was like clouds opened up and the sun shined down on me. The older guys would take me under their wing and show me what to do.

First container ship

I worked the first container job over at Matson. The containers were two high on deck all over the deck. The ship was like the Lane Victory — the same type of ship. I remember lashing on it was horrendous because you were up on top of two-high containers and then you had to pull this iron lid. It was two inches thick, and you had to pull these things up. They gave us a crank to pull it up, but after but two containers, it broke. So, I had to do that by hand, and I was lucky enough — well don’t know if I’m lucky enough, but I was there on the first ship.

This was the early 60’s—probably 62. Now three of those Lane Victory's were 7, 10, and 14-day jobs. That and swatting those damn gnats; they give you a little burlap cap and a huge vacuum cleaner. It was a vacuum cleaner. It was a huge vacuum hose that you put into the hatch, but the trick was not to sweep it all in and around, but it was to create a trough so that all you have to do is touch it and it falls by itself.

The first 15 minutes were probably the hardest part of the whole job. That and sweating those damn gnats; those were 7, 10, and 14-day jobs.

Running for Business Agent

In the early 70’s I was getting involved with the union. Bobby Olivera, Sr., God Rest his Soul, we were pretty good partners. He got me involved with the unions. Bobby Olivera, Sr., God Rest his Soul, we were pretty good partners. He got me involved with the union.
Welcome to the union: Security guards at the Port of Vancouver, WA voted to join ILWU Local 28 on December 14th.

“It’s a great day to be a Port of Vancouver Security Officer. This win was a long time coming,” said Security Officer Don Bryant. “We keep the Port safe and we deserve better. I am so proud to be a member of the ILWU and of Local 28. Let’s go get that contract!”

ILWU Local 28 President Greg Chavez added, “Security Officers keep our communities safe. From the Ports of Portland and Longview, and the Convention Center to the halls of the Kaiser Hospitals, the members of Local 28 are there to help. We welcome the Security Officers at the Port of Vancouver into the Local 28 family and stand in solidarity with their right to fight for better conditions in the workplace. An Injury to One is an Injury to All.”

ILWU volunteers get out the union vote in Georgia: Eight ILWU members volunteered to go to Georgia to help get out the union vote in the December runoff election for U.S. Senate. The ILWU delegation consisted of Local 10’s Melvin MacKay, Ed Henderson, Soni Johnson, and Tawanisha Watkins, Local 19’s David Ross, Local 34’s Chris Christiansen, Local 23’s Brock Graber, and Local 19’s Dan McKisson. The ILWU volunteers worked out of the AFL-CIO’s Atlanta offices and did door-to-door canvassing to speak with union members about the importance of voting in the runoff election. “The efforts of all to get out the vote was massive and successfully resulted in Senator Warnock’s historic election to a six-year term,” McKisson said. “Sending ILWU members here to work on this campaign made a difference and it was noticed.”

ILWU Virtual Book Event
Meet the Authors!
Join authors Harvey Schwartz and Robert Cherny for a special online event celebrating two new books on the ILWU:
• Labor Under Siege, Bob McEllrath and the ILWU’s Fight for Organized Labor in an Anti-Union Era
• Harry Bridges, Labor Radical, Labor Legend
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
6:00PM—7:30PM
Register online:
www.ilwu.org/book-event

Solidarity down under: ILWU International President Willie Adams spoke at the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU) National Conference that took place November 23-24 in Melbourne, Australia. The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) is a division of the CFMMEU. More than 400 delegates participated in the conference. Pres. Adams brought words of solidarity and spoke about the unbreakable bonds that unite dockers around the world. The MUA and West Coast longshore workers have ties that date back to before the formation of the ILWU through ILWU co-founder Harry Bridges.
Feed the Community Day marks 25 years of generous Thanksgiving dinners with an extra treat

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diverted all its cargo away from the West Coast during our contract talks. We've had fewer jobs, steadies are getting laid off, and there are people in the hall who can't get work. Even though they are struggling, they still have the heart to give back to the community: We are going to continue with this tradition in good times and in bad."

Team effort
Volunteers began early on the morning of November 22 to get everything set up for distribution. A refrigerated container filled with 1,500 turkeys was set up outside the hall, ready to be unloaded. Tables and tents were also set up, and the food was organized to make it easy for volunteers to assemble bags of groceries so they would be ready to hand out to the community starting at 11 a.m. Reusable canvas grocery bags were donated by the ILWU Credit Union. Volunteer shifts of around 50 people were staggered throughout the day.

Wisowski said she was motivated to join the committee because she understands first-hand that families struggle to make ends meet and sometimes need a helping hand.

"It’s my 15th year in the program," said Witkowski, "and I do it because I grew up dirt poor. I lived in a tent for six months because we didn’t have a house. Now I have a fantastic job, and the least I can do is give back to the community.

The effort utilized skills from a range of ILWU workers, from fork-lift drivers moving pallets of food, to Local 26 Watchmen who took the day off work to volunteer to ensure the day went smoothly. Local 26 member Vincent Slater, a 28-year Watchman, said he has been volunteering at the event since 2003. "I am from Wilmington, and this is just a way for me to give back to the community," he said.

Origins of a tradition
In an interview with the Dispatcher at last year’s event, Local 94 member Mike Ponce explained the history of the Feed the Community Day that he helped to found when he was a Local 13 ID.

"In 1998, we were coming up on a contract year. There were about four or five of us—all IDs—and we were talking about how we wanted to do something for our community. We started having meetings and started what we called the ‘ILWU, Yes We Can Committee,’" Ponce said. "We started with the goal of 50 turkeys. We got a reefer donated by a company, and then the 50 turkeys grew to 500. Jerry Avila and I went to local grocery stores and asked if they would donate some food. The 500 turkeys grew into 500 baskets in the first year." Ponce said that the committee has been a success because Local 13 members have continued to step up to volunteer for the committee.

"It’s my 15th year in the program," said Witkowski, "and I do it because I grew up dirt poor. I lived in a tent for six months because we didn’t have a house. Now I have a fantastic job, and the least I can do is give back to the community."
ILWU Research Director Russ Bargmann to retire after 44 years with the union

ILWU Research Director Russ Bargmann will be retiring early next year after more than four decades of service to the union. Russ’s immense contributions to the union were celebrated at the International Executive Board (IEB) meeting on December 8th.

“Today, we’d like to take a moment to thank Russ Bargmann, ILWU Research Director, for his 44 years of service with the ILWU,” said the IEB statement. “Russ will be retiring as of the first of the year, and it’s only fitting that he be recognized at this IEB meeting, which will be his last as the ILWU Research Director.”

Bargmann started with the ILWU in 1978, after graduating from Michigan State University with a Master’s Degree in Labor and Industrial Relations. Then-ILWU International President Jimmy Herman and Research Director Barry Silverman hired Bargmann to develop a health and safety program for the union.

Bargmann quickly gained a reputation for his dedication, hard work, and sharp mind. He gathered the latest information about how to protect members from being killed and injured on the job. He wrote dozens of articles for our Dispatcher newspaper. He conducted trainings and worked with local union leaders to improve safety on the job.

In 1989, Bargmann was promoted to ILWU Research Director, where Barry Silverman retired due to illness. Since then, Bargmann has helped the ILWU with a wide range of assignments, going far beyond research to include collective bargaining, budgets, member education, management of the political action fund, and a slew of other administrative responsibilities. Until recently, he even served as the ILWU’s Information Technology manager.

Bargmann has spent a considerable amount of time helping with union negotiations. For the Longshore Division, he analyzed contract demands from the Longshore Caucus and performed cost estimates of both union and employer proposals. He’s also provided corporate and economic data about maritime and shipping companies.

Bargmann has helped locals throughout the union — including hospital workers at Bartlett Hospital in Juneau, Alaska, warehouse workers in Northern California, and workers at the Rio Tinto mine in Boron, CA.

Bargmann has also helped locals facing tough times, assisting the Titled Officers develop and implement plans to get distressed locals facing financial difficulties back on their feet.

At the International office in San Francisco, Bargmann performed many behind-the-scenes tasks, such as administering the pension plans for officers and staff, reviewing the international’s budget, answering correspondence, and assisting the President with administrative appeals. This work has been critical to the International’s successful operation.

“Almost 40 years ago, I walked into this office as a 12-year-old kid with my dad,” said ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera Jr. “In 2018, I came up here as an officer. Aside from the carpet and some of the furniture, Russ was the last bastion of what I remembered. You’re what is left of the old guard, and the institutional knowledge of this building. We can change the carpet; we can paint the building and buy new furniture, but your legacy will remain forever. Thank you for being part of this family.”

ILWU International President Willie Adams thanked Bargmann for his decades of friendship and nearly half-century of service to the ILWU membership. “Russ and I’ve taken a long road together. When I came here in 2003 as a Secretary-Treasurer, Russ took me under his wing. As President, Russ has been a confidant and a friend. Russ goes back in history and he can quote it. He is a walking encyclopedia. He’s seen every president and up here since Harry Bridges. He’s a part of this family. Leaders come and go, but the rank and file has always been. Russ is the salt of the earth, and I’m going to miss you.”

“I have been blessed over the years to work for an organization whose principles and beliefs are almost exactly in line with my own. I’ve worked with wonderful people that have made going to work a pleasure,” Bargmann said. “The union is blessed with wonderful, thoughtful, hardworking, principled people. That is something extremely special, and I urge you all to keep that in mind and keep it going. I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to have served the members of the ILWU.”

IBU rallies at L.A. Harbor Commission to save good jobs

Scores of union members from the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific (IBU) and other divisions of the ILWU rallied in front of the Los Angeles Harbor Commission on December 15 to raise awareness about the impact that closing Westoil Marine Services will have on local workers and their families.

Centerline Logistics recently announced that it will be closing operations at its subsidiary, Westoil, at the end of December. The rally at the Harbor Commission was part of the IBU’s political and legal efforts to protect its membership from being killed and injured on the job. It’s only fitting that he be recognized at this IEB meeting, which will be his last as the ILWU Research Director.”

In December 2020, Salchuck Marine announced that it acquired eight ship assist tugs owned by Centerline Logistics and operated in the Pacific Northwest and California. Centerline Logistics, in turn, purchased six bunker tugs operated in California from Foss Maritime, a subsidiary of Salchuck. A bunker barge is like a floating petroleum station. The bunker barge pumps fuel oil into the ship’s storage (bunker) tanks. That transaction impacted 55 IBU members working for the Centerline-owned Westoil/Millennium when Centerline’s Millennium-branded tug operation was sold to Salchuck operation.

Instead of folding the six bunker barges and the contracts it acquired from Foss into its existing marine fueling companies including Westoil, Centerline gave the contract and barges to its newly created subsidiary, Leo Marine Services, leaving many of the IBU mariners who manned both the Millennium tugs and the Westoil barges without work.

The transfer of work from Westoil to Leo Marine by Centerline is currently being challenged by the IBU at the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Southern California IBU Regional Director John Skow addresses a rally of IBU/ILWU members and supporters from UAW Local 2865 outside the Los Angeles Harbor Commission on December 15.

Southern California IBU Regional Director John Skow told the protestors, “We’re going to fight for those jobs because these guys worked during the pandemic, and they worked here for years. There is a lot of experience here, and they just want to throw them out into the street like garbage. We want their jobs back or have the company find jobs for them at their other facilities.”

Newly elected L.A. City Councilmember Tim McOsker, who represents San Pedro, voiced his concern...
Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies celebrates 30 years of building labor movement through scholarships and education

Graduate says Bridges Center taught her ‘what many others from union families learn about at the dinner table’ about ILWU history

On November 13th, the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington (UW) held an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies. Members of the ILWU and the Washington state labor community joined students and faculty to celebrate the legacy of Harry Bridges and the work of the Center.

The anniversary event honors the many students receiving the Center’s scholarships and awards. This year was the first time the event was held in-person since the Covid-19 pandemic and was well attended—especially from ILWU members and affiliates, over 70 of whom attended. ILWU locals and the Inlandboatmen’s Union sponsored tables at the event, and young workers committeees played a huge role in mobilizing so many ILWU members to participate.

Alison Steichen of Local 19 was one of the members in at the event. Chair of the local’s Young Workers Committee, Alison took time to speak to the Dispatcher about the importance of the Bridges Center. “The University of Washington is a world class university,” she said. “To have a Center named after us, and to have them respect and honor labor, is special and uncommon. Labor sometimes gets bad press, but this banquet honors the labor movement, and specifically the ILWU. This shows why it is so important that the ILWU helped establish the Center and supports its role in the community.”

Steichen is one of a handful of ILWU members in attendance who are UW alumni themselves. Zack Patrin from Local 23 also attended school at UW. As students, Steichen and Patrin were both recipients of Bridges Center Awards. Patrin received the award for Best Undergraduate Paper in Labor Studies, 2016-17, and Steichen received the Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes Scholarship in the same year.

“I was the first person in my family to be a part of the ILWU,” Steichen reported to the Dispatcher. “I appreciate the ILWU old-timers who took the time to give me books and talk with me about the union, which was very important to me as a young worker—especially as a person who did not grow up with family members in the union. As a student at the University of Washington, the Bridges Center helped teach me a lot about ILWU history that many others from union families learn about at the dinner table.”

The Bridges Center used the event to highlight a much-anticipated new book, Seattle’s Working Waterfront, 1884-Present. Written by the late historian and honorary Local 23 member Dr. Ron Magden, the book documents the history of the waterfront and highlights the contributions of Local 19 members. “Dr. Ron,” as Magden was affectionately known and who passed away in 2019, always took time to educate younger workers in the ILWU on the union’s history. The Local 19 and 23 young workers committee members honored Magden by volunteering at the book table so participants could sign up for free copies of the volume.

Pattin commented on the event and the number of young workers who attended “The Center is deeply important to me personally, both as a former student and as a worker. The Center’s work helps inform our union’s young workers and education committees, and it’s powerful to be at this event and see students, faculty, and scholars in the same room breaking bread with workers and union organizers, finding ways to connect and celebrate one another’s work.” He added, “when we’ve introduced our young workers to the Center, it makes them swell with pride knowing that the ILWU’s legacy exists beyond the union and into the community.”

The Harry Bridges Chair was established in 1992 through the financial support of ILWU members who wanted a way to honor Harry Bridges’ life by creating a place for working people in higher education. Among these people was Robert Duggan, a lawyer for the ILWU who once was a dockworker in Seattle. Duggan envisioned a permanent fund to support a professor who specialized in the study of working people, their organizations, and their experiences.

Establishing a Chair required an initial investment of $1 million. Generally, university Chairs are established by large donors—not working people—but Duggan and a few others in the ILWU were determined. A small group of ILWU members, including Phil Lelli of Local 23, Martin Jugum of Local 19, former Bridges secretary Jean Gundlach, and ILWU historian Magden and others formed the Harry Bridges Memorial Committee to launch a grassroots fundraising campaign to raise money to establish the Chair. They raised money from ILWU locals and affiliates, hundreds of individual ILWU members, plus other labor organizations in the Puget Sound.

The first Harry Bridges Chair holder was David Olson. Olson moved to establish the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies to organize activities that would go beyond the personal research and activities of the Harry Bridges Chair. Despite some initial resistance from the university, the Center was established. Among the Center’s first activities was a conference in 1994 “Harry Bridges and the Tradition of Dissent Among Waterfront Workers,” which brought together scholars from across the country to discuss Bridges’ legacy as a union activist.

In the years since its founding, the Center has expanded its programs. This includes working with the university libraries to establish the Labor Archives of Washington, and creating a Labor Studies minor within the university. In recent years, the Center acquired additional funding from the State of Washington, which has allowed them to

Dr. Ligaya Domingo (right) with IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast. Dr. Domingo was recognized as this year’s recipient of the Robert H. Duggan Distinguished Supporter of Labor Studies.

Local 19 Young Workers tabling to promote Seattle’s Working Waterfront, 1884-Present, written by the late historian and honorary Local 23 member Dr. Ron Magden.
ILWU pensioner reflects on his 51-year career in Locals 13 and 94

Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies celebrates 30 years of building labor movement through scholarships and education

The ages of six and sixteen, who sold and delivered newspapers in cities and towns across the United States. Drawing on his experience as a labor journalist, DiGirolamo skilfully uses stories about individuals to illustrate topics, including racism, sexism, crime and the daily living and working conditions of newsies.

The book explores their role in the economy and as cultural symbols. It argues that the newspaper industry had a formative influence on working-class youth that is important to our understanding of American childhood, labor, journalism, and capitalism. Newsies were framed as “little entrepreneurs” and independent contractors by the newspaper industry in order to deny them rights as workers and obscure their exploitation by employers—a situation familiar to today’s ride share and food delivery drivers in the so-called new “gig economy.” Despite being the foundation upon which America’s modern newspaper industry was built, their earnings remained marginal even as the newspaper industry grew and thrived with technological advances in production.

Newsies were not just passive victims of an exploitative industry. They frequently organized for their own benefits through unions such as Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor (AFL), the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and, in the mid-1930s, the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO). DiGirolamo argues that laws regulating child labor, however limited in their impact, were products of children’s collective action as much as the efforts of Progressive-era reformers.

This book will be of great interest to anyone appreciates labor studies, child labor, social and cultural history, and labor history, and the history of mass media and journalism.

There was maybe one superintendent for three or four jobs. Now, you’ve got three or four superintendents on one ship. I mean, it’s like we’re no longer running a job anymore, and we’re the ones with the experience.

When I was a foreman, they hired a superintendent off the lunch wagon. It’s not to demean him. It’s the employer that hired him, but I showed up on the job—I knew who he was because I ate off the lunch wagon. Maybe a month later, I caught that job again, I said, “What are you?” And he says, “I’m the superintendent.” I asked, “What happened to the lunch wagon?” He said, “I’m a superintendent now.” I told him I’m gonna treat you like a superintendent: “Get out of my face. Get on the dock where you belong, and don’t do nothing.” That’s the way it was. Simple.

I can’t tell you how many times I threw a superintendent off the ship because he didn’t belong on the ship. They go down in the hold to make sure what you do is right. They don’t hire another ILWU person to make sure you did what’s right. They have some guy off a lunch wagon. I mean, you’ve got 30 years of experience!

The ILWU means the world to me. That’s been my whole life. I sometimes wish I hadn’t backed off when I was a foreman. My cause changed. It was trying to put a stop to what the superintendents were doing, as opposed to staying in 13 and running for who knows what and maybe staying more involved in the union than I was.

The union has been great. That’s why there are so many people that want to come down here. In time, I hope we realize the union’s following the waterfront, and the waterfront is growing up. It’s been a good run. Greatest job in the world. 51 years on the waterfront. The only bad ones were the first four years and the black sand.

Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies celebrates 30 years of building labor movement through scholarships and education

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to further expand to include a labor internship program and to hire a labor research coordinator to develop research programs in the center.

Student scholarships remain at the heart of the Center’s programs. Each year, the Center offers more than 20 scholarships and research grants to students—several of which were established by members of the ILWU community. This year, the Center awarded more than $150,000 in funding to students and researchers to support the study of labor-related issues.

Among this year’s recipients was Dr. Ligaya Domingo, who was given two awards: the Robert H. Dugan Distinguished Supporter of Labor Studies, which honors individuals who have been exceptional supporters of the Center; and the inaugural Labor Studies Distinguished Alumni Award. The daughter of Inlandboatmen’s Union activists and a graduate of the UW, Ligaya has deep ties to the local labor community and the university. She helped establish the Center’s current “Building a Movement” labor internship program and the Domingo and Vernet Labor scholarship.

The evening’s keynote speaker was Cherida Carter, Political and Strategic Campaigns Director of the Washington State Labor Council. Carter is also the Council’s newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Former Secretary-Treasurer April Sims is now the first African American person to head the Council. Carter gave a rousing speech on the role of the labor movement to build up communities.

Also speaking at the event was the new Harry Bridges Chair, Professor Moon-Heo Jung, who was featured in last month’s issue of the Dispatcher. A historian of race, labor, and politics, Moon has been a part of the Bridges Center since he joined the university in 2001. His talk focused on “racial capitalism” and how the Bridges Center’s work highlights where the diverse needs of working people intersect.

Moon said of the current labor movement: “We are living through a seemingly endless wave of crises, with an immense toll, especially on the most vulnerable among us. That is why Labor Studies matters now more than ever. To me, Labor Studies is ultimately about framing, understanding, and highlighting the struggles of those who confront the horrors of racial capitalism, state violence, and gendered exploitation every single day. I believe it is in studying those struggles that we can find hope and creativity in our own struggles for collective justice.” – Robin Walker

Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies celebrates 30 years of building labor movement through scholarships and education

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started in the union—Executive Board-wise and Caucus-wise, different committees, and then he talked me into running for Business Agent. I guess he saw something in me that I didn’t have. He was a good Business Agent. He knew sections of the contract by heart. I would follow him on days I was working. He talked me into running. I ran, but I didn’t get elected until my third try. On my third try I won by about seven votes. The second time I ran, I was unopposed, which I took to mean that guys liked the job I was doing.

Transferring to Local 94

When I went over to 94, I was on the Executive Board for 10 or 13 years. I ran for president and lost by only five votes. In the old days, there was maybe one superintendent on the job.
IBU rallies at L.A. Harbor Commission to save good jobs

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at the commission hearing and told the demonstrators outside, “We need the Port Commission to enforce all the rules and to hang onto these good jobs and stick with working families and the contracts that you have signed.”

IBU member and Westoil employee, Cris Sogliuzzo, made his third appearance speaking before the L.A. Harbor Commission. The commission administers the lease agreements for tenants like Centerline Logistics in the port of LA.

“One of the main charges at the NLRB is that the transfer of our work to Westoil is illegal,” Sogliuzzo said during the public comment period. “I am asking the Harbor Commission to conduct an investigation into the labor law charges pending at the NLRB and to investigate the intent to close Westoil operations as it relates to the lease permit 882. If the Commission finds that wrongdoing has occurred, I would like to see the Harbor Commission and City Attorney take affirmative action on our behalf. I would also like to see injunctive relief, so that Westoil is not allowed to close its doors on us while the other affiliates are allowed to continue to operate at this location performing our historical work, despite being challenged before the NLRB.”

Solidarity from UAW

IBU members were joined by dozens of United Auto workers Local 2865 members working at UCLA. IBU members have walked the picket lines at UCLA and UC San Diego as an act of solidarity supporting the 48,000 academic workers striking throughout the University of California system. IBU members have also been out to Moreno Valley to support the organizing drive by the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) at the giant warehouses there.

“We wanted thank the IBU for sending their members to teach us what real picket lines are all about,” said UAW 2865 member Jared Brewe. “They helped us picket construction sites at UCLA and gave inspiring speeches. This is how we can mutually support each other’s actions. As long as we are isolated, it is a boon to the bosses.”

— Mark Friedman, veteran trade unionist, International Association of Machinists

The ILWU Titled Officers would like to wish our entire ILWU family a very Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year!

Willie Adams, President; Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President (Mainland); Sam Kreutz, Vice President (Hawaii); Ed Ferris, Secretary-Treasurer

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.

The ILWU Book and Video Order Form

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