



# THE DISPATCHER

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The Second Annual Women's Conference was held in San Francisco and included speakers, interactive workshop, and discussion about concrete ways the union can continue to create more pathways for women in leadership.

## See it! Believe it! Be it!: Second Annual ILWU Women's Conference builds camaraderie and power

More than 100 delegates and guests attended the Second Annual ILWU Women's Conference in San Francisco on October 20-22. The conference brought together women from across the ILWU's divisions to learn, build leadership skills, promote camaraderie, and discuss ways in which the union can create more pathways for women in leadership. This was the first in-person Women's Conference. Last year's inaugural conference was conducted online. In addition to delegates from the ILWU, there were women from the International Longshoremen's Association and Masters, Mates, & Pilots.

The conference is the result of a resolution passed at the 2021 ILWU International Convention. A com-

mittee of members from across the union have been working with ILWU Education Director Robin Walker to plan the event for the past year.

### Welcome by the Titled Officers

Delegates were welcomed by the Titled Officers starting with ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Sam Kreutz. Vice President Kreutz began by thanking everyone for their support to those affected by the fires in Maui.

"The help that came across the ILWU from the hands of our members was tremendous. I was blown away by how fast and how much support was given to the people of Maui," he said.

He thanked delegates at the conference for their leadership and sacrifice and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the camaraderie and opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen one another during the three-day event.

"Embrace this moment. You all

have an opportunity with the platform of the mighty ILWU to let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and to let your 'No' be 'No' and to stand firm in what you believe," Kreutz said.

ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr. followed the opening remarks by Vice President Kreutz.

"We're here to grow the next generation and to expand this tent to ensure everybody has a voice," Olvera said, adding that the strength of the ILWU is measured by the union's democratic values and commitment to uplifting workers.

Vice President Olvera closed by stating that, in addition to several women who were already local officers and executive board members attending the conference, he believed there were other future ILWU leaders among the delegates.

"The thing that inspires me to get back to all of the work sitting on my desk is what I see in here of what is

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# Stax Engineering on a mission to reduce air pollution in California's ports

New IBU signatory deploys new technology to capture CO2 and other harmful vessel emissions



From left to right: IBU members Matt Salceda, Paul Cruz, and Miguel Alba.

Air pollution in and around our ports impacts the health not only of port workers but also the surrounding community. The Southern California Region of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, the marine division of the ILWU, recently signed an agreement with Stax Engineering. This company provides emissions reduction services for terminal operators, container ships, auto carriers, and tankers in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

"What we do is capture and control," explained Stax Operations Manager John Holmes. "It's one of the two options to comply with the at-berth regulations. One is cold ironing, which is plugging into the electrical grid, and the other is capture and control. One way or the other, you have to reduce your footprint if you're a ship coming into the port. Capture and control is an option that doesn't require the ship to do anything. They don't have to do any engineering modifications or retrofitting. Some companies might like that option because it doesn't require a capital investment in the ship."

The company utilizes a mobile, barge-based emission collection system that removes nearly 100% of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur oxides, while also capturing carbon dioxide, the leading cause of global warming. The barge uses

a vacuum that attaches to a ship's smokestack via a boom that collects emissions which are then processed through a catalytic-converter-like treatment system with new patented technology developed by company founder and president Bob Sharp. One Stax unit connected to a ship at berth is equal to removing approximately 27,000 cars from the road.

"When a ship comes in, we pull alongside and crane up the boom, based on a concrete pumping boom, but instead of pumping concrete up, it sucks emissions down," Holmes explained. "The emissions go through a multi-part system and when it comes out the other end, it removes all particulates to meet the emissions requirements. There's a lot of elegant engineering but in its simplest form."

Stax currently has one barge, employing three IBU mariners in operation in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach with a second one slated to come online soon and more planned to service ports in California that could expand work opportunities for IBU members as the new emissions standards come into effect.

The California Air Resources Board At-Berth Regulation first adopted carbon regulations in 2007 that greatly reduced emissions in the ports. New regulations started in 2023 requiring container, reefer, and cruise vessels coming into regulated California ports to either use shore power or approved capture and control technology to reduce harmful emissions. Auto carriers will

need to comply starting in 2025. Tankers docking at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach must also comply by 2025, while tankers in Northern California have until 2027.

Holmes said Stax plans to expand its operations to meet the increased demand that the new regulations bring. "The intention is to build barges to capture business throughout the state. There are plans for the company to build about 25 barges by 2027," said Holmes.

Holmes has had a relationship with the ILWU since 2000. He is a 27-year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and served as the Captain of the Port for the U.S. Coast Guard for the Los Angeles-Long Beach sector.

"I was here during the 9-11 stuff, and we had a good relationship with the ILWU. In my mind, they were the tip of the spear. If something was going to happen from a security perspective, they would be the first to see it," Holmes said. "I've known a bunch of the people in the ILWU for a long time. When we were putting the barge together and we had identified our needs for personnel,

I immediately thought that I wanted to approach the ILWU, and they put me in touch with the IBU," Holmes said.

Miguel Alba, a six-year member of the IBU has been working for Stax for about two years as a deckhand.

"As deckhands, we've been able to help out the operators with everything that has to do with the maritime industry, since we have the skill levels of tying up the barge and knowing what the tugboats that move us need," Alba said. "Over my career, I've done hundreds of jobs. We help put the barge in the best position to connect our hose, and we have the familiarity of talking to ships' crews to get the job done."

Alba said he enjoys working for the company because they treat the workforce with respect. "A thing I like is what we're doing is making an impact on global warming and the green future. We are making a difference by at least trying to do something that's going to have a lasting impact for generations and, making the earth a little more green."



The Stax barge captures harmful emissions to reduce pollution. The newly-formed company currently operates in the Ports of LA and Long Beach but plan to expand to operate throughout California.

## DISPATCHER

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Communications Director

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# We are the ILWU



## The Federated Auxiliaries

**T**he Federated Auxiliaries have been integral to the union throughout its history. The Auxiliaries pre-date the ILWU and were formed in 1933 by wives of longshore workers who wanted to support the union on the picket line, in the soup kitchens, legal defense committees, and mobilizing community support.

Over their history, the Auxiliaries have been active in supporting not just the union, but serving the labor movement and workers more broadly through political action and community service. Auxiliary members have been active for decades in organizing voter registration drives, and letter-writing campaigns to elected officials on issues affecting workers including civil rights and labor rights, and have led boycotts of anti-labor businesses. They have long been active in the community by raising money for local charities, providing mutual aid to those in need, and other support work.

Past president of Auxiliary 16 (San Francisco) and 1934 strike activist Elaine Black Yoneda, was the subject of a biography by historian Rachel Schreiber released last year. A mural of the “Red Angel,” as she was nicknamed, adorns the Local 10 hall.

More than 42 Auxiliary charters have been granted since 1934. Throughout most of its history, membership in the auxiliaries was limited to “immediate women relatives” of active and retired ILWU members. At the ILWU Convention in 2015, in recognition of the changing composition of the workforce, delegates voted to amend the ILWU Constitution to no longer restrict membership in the auxiliaries by gender and open it to all relatives of active and retired ILWU members.

“The Auxiliaries fortify, strengthen, and support. That’s really what we do,” said Federated Auxiliaries President Victoria Sowers. “I would say to ILWU family members: join us because we do good work. We’re in the communities; we’re supporting the union and we’re giving back to the union and the community for the life we have because of the ILWU.”

*The Dispatcher* sat down with the members of the Federated Auxiliaries this past June when they held their 41st Biennial Convention in San Pedro, CA.



### Victoria Sowers Federated Auxiliaries President Auxiliary 35 Tacoma, WA

***When my husband started longshoring, I wanted to give back to the union.***

*When he was a casual going into B, I was discouraged from joining the Auxiliary by a member who told me it was just a bunch of old, crabby women and it wasn’t fun. When Dean McGrath became president of Local 23*

*I said, “I’m going to try this again,” so I went to a meeting. It was disorganized, but there was another woman there and we wanted to make a change. Within a year we got to re-establish Auxiliary 35 and we began to organize events to give back to the local.*

*When the pensioners’ convention was held in Tacoma, we organized the dinner for 320 people on short notice. After that, I wanted to get involved in the Federated Auxiliary. I started as a vice president and filled in when our Area VP was ill. I love the people. I love going to other Auxiliaries. I love encouraging. I love sharing ideas and doing the “rah-rah” stuff. That’s kind of where my strengths are.*

*At one point Auxiliary 35 had 24 active members. We had stuff going every single month. Everything from assisting the Local 23 and 22 membership, going to other union meetings, and being involved in other union activities within the community.*

*Having the support of the locals is huge. That makes all the difference in the world. If you don’t have that, it is hard for an Auxiliary to be successful. We raise our own money but the local has also provided some financial support so we can hold big events every year.*

*In September we do a car show. The local officers and trustees run the bar and cook. It’s an opportunity for the membership to get to know the officers and trustees and for the officers and trustees to get to know the membership. We’ve always felt that it was important to have that connection. For Halloween, we do an event, “Trunk or Treat.” Members bring their kids to the hall, the cars in the parking are decorated, the kids trick or treat at the hall and we have activities for them. I try to make sure that there are officers and trustees at every event we do because that’s important. Part of our job as Auxiliaries is to bridge that gap and create opportunities for the membership to have time outside of the job to get to know each other. People might have conflicts on the job but when they meet each other’s children they’re going “Oh my god, your kid is so cute.” It changes the dynamic between an A and a B man. They are both here as dads and can connect on that level. We try to foster that.*

*At the same time, we need to make sure that we’re in the community. We assist the Local 23 membership with their charity work—when they do their Christmas stuff and when they’re helping out other unions, we are here to help. Auxiliary 35 helped with a backpack program for homeless kids in the schools. We helped pack the backpacks. The kids got them at Christmas time. There was enough shampoo, and clothes in their packs so that they could couch surf, whatever they needed to do for about two weeks.*

*As an Auxiliary, we try to pick a charity every year to give back to—not only money but time. It is important to be out there and be visible. It’s easy to write a check but if we just do that, we’re not wearing our shirts and actively engaged with the community and representing the ILWU. We work hard and we’re passionate not just about the ILWU but about how we represent the ILWU in our community.*

### Denise Miken Federated Auxiliary Vice President Auxiliary 5 Portland, OR

***I’ve been in the Auxiliary for quite a while. I’m not sure for how long. The reason I got involved was my husband was the Secretary for Local 8 and Shelby, from the office staff there, said I needed to join the Auxiliary, so I did.***



*My family goes back a long time with the ILWU. My grandfather was a longshoreman. My dad was a longshoreman. My brother is one and my husband is a retired longshoreman.*

*Auxiliary 5 hosts a lot of events every year. We host bingo at the Bloody Thursday picnic. We have Easter parties every year for the kids, and we have a Christmas party. And then we help out wherever we’re asked.*

*Being involved in the Auxiliaries is important because it helps family members understand what the union is all about. If they joined the Auxiliary, they could learn a lot about the union and play a role in making the union stronger.*

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# See it! Believe it! Be it!: Second Annual ILWU Women's Conference builds camaraderie and power



Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler spoke about the important role unions play in the fight against racism and gender inequities.

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to come. In this room, there are future local officers, business agents, vice presidents, presidents, and secretary-treasurers. In this room, I believe there lies a future International Officer,” Olvera said.

ILWU International President Willie Adams was unable to attend the event but he recorded a solidarity video. In his recorded remarks, he said that as the first Black International President of the ILWU, he understands what it means to have to overcome obstacles and the ups and downs of leadership. He encouraged delegates to run for union office.

“We need strong women in the labor movement and the house of the ILWU,” he said. “We need you to run for any office that you feel you are qualified for. Run with passion, run with determination, and run without apology.”

**Evening keynote**

The keynote address for the evening was delivered by Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher, former member of the California State Assembly and current Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

Gonzalez-Fletcher spoke about her own experiences and how she managed the expectations and multiple responsibilities of being a labor leader and a mother.

“My mom was a single mother and taught me everything I know about the labor movement and working,” she said. “My mom taught me the most important thing: You’re going to fall down; you measure yourself by how many times you’re willing to stand up and keep going.”

She dispelled the idea that women must “do it all.”

“I was a single mom in organized labor and leading a Central Labor Council. One of the things I learned is that I am never going to do it all.” Noting that the leadership role the delegates play is crucial to improving the economic opportunities for themselves and their families.

“By taking leadership in your union, you are doing something important,” adding that “this economy can only be fixed by unions with good contracts and strong collective bargaining.”

Gonzalez-Fletcher closed by emphasizing the importance of sisterhood and the need for women to make room for more women in positions of leadership and power. “Sisterhood is real, and we don’t talk about it enough. We don’t talk about lifting every single woman. We know in organized labor that we are stronger together. Let’s have some sister solidarity and ensure

that as we rise, we are making room for the next generation, our generation, our mother’s generation, and our grandmother’s generation.”

The evening ended with an introductory group exercise that enabled the conference delegates to get to know one another and learn about each other’s experiences on the job and in the union.

**Morning keynote**

On the second day of the conference, the day’s keynote speaker, Yvonne Wheeler, President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, was introduced by Local 13’s Vivian Malauulu.

Wheeler spoke about her experience combating racism in Louisiana where she was born and raised and also in Los Angeles where she eventually relocated.

“I thought Los Angeles was going to be the land of opportunity and that racism was going to be a thing of the past,” Wheeler said, “but after a few weeks on my job, I learned that racism knew no boundaries. Racism and gender inequity are not just confined to the South. There were no signs when I left Louisiana that said, ‘Now exiting the racist part of America.’”

“My job at the telephone company was a stark reminder of that; I quickly realized how my co-workers who look like me—Black women—were discriminated against on the pettiest things in the workplace. I made sure that my union stewards knew about it. But before I knew it, my co-workers pushed me to become the first job steward in the telephone company and eventually elected me as the first Black woman president of our CWA local.”

Wheeler’s struggle against racism was a collective effort. She said that the power of her union and the strength of the contract allowed her the space to fight injustice in the workplace.

“I wouldn’t have been able to be so brave had it not been for the fact that I was protected by a collective bargaining agreement,” Wheeler said. “Our union contract allowed us to push back and call out injustices and inequalities without fear of retaliation. Our union contract allowed us to call out racism without fear of being fired and allowed us to call out gender disparities without fear of being passed over for promotions. Our union contract allowed us to look the boss in the eyes and speak truth to power. It was these early experiences that shaped who I am as a woman, and I carry them with me today.”

Wheeler explained how she first became acquainted with the ILWU when she was working for the AFL-CIO in 2002 and was assigned to the lockout of West Coast longshore workers.

“When I arrived at Local 13, I had no idea what I was walking into. I had not heard about the longshore workers but when I walked into that union hall, I found my tribe,” she said. “The ILWU’s legacy is a testament to the power that arises when the civil rights and labor movements work hand in hand. The fight against economic injustice, racial injustice, and gender inequality are things we have to continue to fight every day.”

Wheeler ended her speech by emphasizing the need for mentorship and uplifting one another in the labor movement.

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**Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher spoke about how she manages the expectations and multiple responsibilities of being a labor leader and a mother.**

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“Once you get up, you have got to hold the door open for someone behind you,” Wheeler said. “We need a union culture that supports union women. It requires a collective effort beyond individual actions. Supporting and uplifting one another is essential. No matter where you come from, no matter what you look like, and no matter who you love, there is a place for you in this labor movement.”

**Women leaders speak**

The next session, “Women Leaders Speak,” featured a panel facilitated by Local 63’s Patricia Aguirre and consisting of Local 10 Vice President Vanetta Hamlin, Local 63 OCU Vice President Dawn Feikema, Local 500 Executive Board member Joulene Parent, Local 13 Chief Dispatcher Brandi Good, and former Local 54 Vice President Stef Flores. They discussed their routes to leadership and some of the hurdles they had to overcome.

This was followed by a small group exercise that paired the tables with women leaders for a discussion about

the road to leadership. Delegates also had the opportunity to suggest ways that the locals can provide a supportive environment for women to get involved in the union and take on leadership roles. At the end of the session, a list of ideas was compiled and then posted for delegates to vote on with a large majority of delegates in favor of forming an International Women’s Committee.

Patricia Aguirre said that this exercise stood out for her during the conference. “This was a unique opportunity for all of us to bring our ideas forward and suggest ways that the union could create a more positive environment for women who want to get involved or run for leadership; we never had a forum to do that,” Aguirre said. “It was interesting to see the outcome. I thought maybe it would be a mentorship program or a committee at the local level, but this body wants something on a grander scale for us and we deserve that as women in the ILWU.”

**Working styles**

The next workshop was a presentation and group exercises focused on how different personality types and “working styles” can collaborate to make an effective team. Attendees learned about their working style and the strengths they bring to a team with a diversity of styles. The session was facilitated by Cathy Stevens of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services.

**Be More than a Bystander**

The afternoon session was an anti-harassment and anti-bullying training session called “Be More than a Bystander” led by Local 500’s Scarlett Kelly and Angela Talic, Local 502’s Amy Pawson, and ILWU Canada Third Vice President Jessica Isbister.

The training was adapted from a training program for ILWU Canada longshore workers that teaches people in the workplace the skills to inter-

vene safely and effectively when they see harassment or bullying in the workplace.

**Self-care**

The day ended with a workshop, “Self-Care for Union Leaders,” led by Maria Abadesco and Patricia Contreras-Flores that provided tools to cope with the everyday stresses and demands of work, union commitments, and family responsibilities.

**Paying it forward**

The conference’s final panel “Paying it Forward: Union Mentorship and Young Workers” featured Local 94’s Fran Grove, Local 23’s Tianna Kelly and Meghan Mason, and Local 13’s Vivian Malauulu, and brought together established ILWU leaders with emerging leaders from the ILWU’s Young Worker Committees to discuss the importance of mentorship and uplifting new workers to set them up for success in the industry and in the union.

**Conference reflections**

Local 30’s Rose Fowlkes said that the camaraderie and solidarity at the event were amazing and that she appreciated the opportunity to continue to learn about the union. “I was selected to come because I always attend my union meetings. I have been making an effort to meet everyone here because I want to learn about their experiences,” she said.

Local 4 member Amber Nelsen said she was glad that she came despite being overburdened with many responsibilities. “I didn’t know what to expect, but it’s far surpassed anything that I would have imagined. Here we are with a bunch of people who are asked to do 5,000 things a day and it’s nice not to feel alone in that experience,” she said. “It just feels good to be heard, seen, and understood. It’s great to be here where our main focus is unity and supporting each other even with all of our differences, especially in a world where

there’s so much division.”

Fran Grove was a driving force behind the proposal for the annual conference that passed at the 2021 ILWU Convention. “The Second Annual Women’s Conference has been fantastic,” she said. “It has brought 100-plus women together with like minds so they can share their ideas and build the greatest union that we can. This has allowed everybody an opportunity to find their voice, to find out how they can go back and be useful, and to connect with others. We are the groundwork right here, and we’re going to start to build something that will benefit the whole union.”



**Local 29’s Vieno Castillo casts her vote at the end of the “Women Leaders Speak” panel. Delegates generated a list of ways locals can provide a supportive environment for women to get involved in the union and take on leadership roles then everyone votes for their top selection. A large majority of delegates in favor of forming an International Women’s Committee**





# We are the ILWU



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## The Federated Auxiliaries



### Lanita Williams President, Auxiliary 3 Seattle, WA

**I've been involved with Auxiliary 3 for about six years.** I started because of my husband's grandmother, Amy Williams. She told us how important it was for us to be a part of the Auxiliary. A lot of the people her age were getting older and they were going to be moving on to the pensioners. She said that it's important for us to keep it alive. She had me, my sisters-in-law, and other women in our family go

to a meeting. With the family being a union family, you know, we just thought, "Okay, well, Granny said we should support it, so this is what we're going to do."

It was important to her because we supported Local 19 and it was important for the family to be involved in the union and help with fundraisers. It was important to her to be able to gather with each other and share stories. What we do as an Auxiliary in Seattle are fundraisers, and dinners, and was also pitch in for anybody who needs help. We support the local's Christmas for Kids program and any program that we can help, we're there to help.

### Tina Carranza California Area Vice President Auxiliary 8 Wilmington, CA

**My father, Dickie Alva, was a Local 13 member for many years** before he transferred to Local 63 and eventually retired. My husband, Mike Carranza, has been on the waterfront for 41 years. I also have family members who are in local 13, 63, and 94. One of my brothers retired from the ILWU Port Police.

I was never really interested in unionism until I attended an ILWU Convention in Portland many years ago. I sat in the back of the room and listened to the people speak about issues that not only affected the West Coast but workers around the world. I had no clue how essential the ILWU is to our economy locally and globally. I was shocked to hear some of the stories that speakers from around the world would share regarding how workers around the world are abused and subject to unfair labor practices.



I joined ILWU Auxiliary 8 in 2016. Currently, I am the California Area Vice-President and the Secretary Pro-tem Treasurer of our Auxiliary. The Federated Auxiliaries' purpose is to support ILWU locals, in addition to educating our family and friends on the importance of unions and the labor movement. We know how blessed we are being ILWU families, with the great benefits and good-paying jobs. We are grateful for that and want to give back to our communities by helping others. We serve lunch at the local pensioners meeting every month, and we raise money to support our work through 50/50 raffles at events like the Bloody Thursday Picnic and Labor Day breakfast. The money raised goes to support local charities: Beacon Light Mission/Doors of Hope, Harbor Pregnancy Help Center, Harbor Community Center, and Alex's Lemonade Stand, all in the name of the ILWU.



### Laurie Higgins Federated Secretary-Treasurer Auxiliary 14 Longview, WA

**My father-in-law and husband are both longshoremen and my kids are both longshoremen.** I didn't know anything about the Auxiliary until my kids were in high school. I joined the Longview Auxiliary in 2002 and I enjoyed the camaraderie at that time. Not too long after I joined, I

started being the secretary-treasurer. Then EGT came up. That was a big deal. Shortly after that, I became the president of the Auxiliary.

Our Auxiliary is very active. We have the first male member and he's great. We have a lot of young people that have come in as our older members are leaving us. The younger members are bringing a lot of really great ideas. We do a lot of fundraising and all of our fundraising goes back into the community. We have several annual donations that we do. Mainly we like to support charities for kids; it all goes out in the name of the ILWU.

We just started something new this year. We are doing a teacher scholarship. We selected five of the elementary schools in our county—we just pulled them out of the hat. We have the principal nominate one teacher, and we've given them a monetary scholarship because we all know teachers put out a lot of money out of their own pockets for their classrooms.

We are there to support the membership. We are there to help them in any way that they need us. We help support unions and help the community. It's not all work. We also have fun and lots of social gatherings and events.

We have a great local that supports our Auxiliary. Local 21 is amazing. They appreciate us. They include us and they ask us to be part of things. We are always trying to reach new people and have them join and strengthen the Auxiliary.

### Carrie Perrin Washington Area Vice President Secretary, Auxiliary 35 Tacoma, WA

**I started with the Auxiliaries in 2018.** I got involved because I am married to a longshoreman. His family has been in longshore for multiple generations. I wanted to get involved to give back because the union has provided for me and my family; it was an opportunity for me to support the ILWU.

My husband always talked about things that the Auxiliary did when he was a kid—the fun things like Easter baskets and things like that. When I asked him about it early on after we got married, he said that he didn't know if they even existed anymore. I started asking more questions, and then a flyer went out in 2016. I called the number on the flyer and got involved.

I got involved before all of the changes started at Auxiliary 35 when Victoria was beginning to lead. We pushed for evening meetings because most of us were working and there was no way we could attend during the day.





# Local 5 bargaining committee reaches tentative agreement with Powell's Books

After nine months of contentious negotiations for their eighth contract, Local 5 announced that the Powell's bargaining committee reached a new tentative agreement (TA) with the employer on November 22. The agreement will be sent to the membership for review. Then they will vote on whether or not to ratify the TA.

Earlier this month, workers voted to reject an initial tentative agreement, citing the need for a livable wage. This was the first contract rejection at Powell's since workers unionized in 2000. Members said that starting wages well below a living wage was the primary reason they voted "no" on the first agreement. Another reason cited for

rejecting the agreement was the nominal increase of \$0.25 workers would receive when moving out of entry-level positions. After workers voted down the first TA, the Local 5 bargaining team contacted Powell's Books, requesting a return to negotiations.

As the *Dispatcher* was going to press, details of the second tentative agreement had not been publicly released. We will cover the results of the ratification vote in a future issue.

The previous Powell's contract expired on June 7. Throughout the bargaining process, Powell's workers have been engaged with the community generating support through a social media campaign and informational pickets outside of Powell's stores. On Labor Day, Powell's workers engaged in a one-day unfair labor practices strike that drew massive community support

and support from ILWU members from across the West Coast and Canada.

Powell's Books, which is often described as the largest independent new and used bookstore in the world, is a Portland tourist attraction. The company was formed in 1971 by Walter Powell and has remained under the sole ownership of the Powell's family; first with Walter's son, Michael Powell, and now with his granddaughter, Emily Powell. Powell's Books includes three retail locations: the flagship store in downtown Portland, another in the nearby tech hub, Beaverton, and a third in Southeast Portland. The large downtown store on Burnside Street, also called the City of Books, is internationally renowned, regularly receiving mentions as a top tourist destination from a variety of travel media outlets and guides.

Local 5 represents the majority of workers at Powell's, whose operations include the three Portland bookstores, a local warehouse, call center, corporate annex and training center, and a small group of work-from-home employees. Local 5 has represented Powell's workers since 1999 when workers first organized with the ILWU. Negotiations for the first contract between Powell's and Local 5 were lengthy and contentious, with workers staging several strikes and walkouts before finally reaching an agreement in August 2000. Though Powell's workers were the founding members of Local 5, the local now represents workers at nine other organizations in the region.

For more campaign updates, follow Local 5 on social media: @ILWULocal5 on Instagram and Twitter.

## BOOK REVIEW

### ***Cleophas Williams, My Life Story in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10***

Introduction by Clarence Thomas and edited by Delores Lemon-Thomas

**C**leophas Williams, *My Life Story in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10*, is a welcome addition to the rich literature about the famously progressive ILWU. Williams (1923-2016) was a four-time Local 10 president, the first African American to hold that office, and an iconic figure in the union's history. Former Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Clarence Thomas describes him in the volume's introduction as the Jackie Robinson of the ILWU.

The book is a collection of Williams's writings, including a previously unpublished 92-page manuscript, brief occasional pieces, and other offerings. It was compiled by Thomas and edited by his wife, Delores Lemon-Thomas, with the support of Cleophas's widow Sadie Williams and Sade's daughter Jackie Chauhan. One great strength of the book is its accessibility. It presents Williams's recollections in rich narrative form in his own powerful voice.

*Cleophas Williams* is divided into

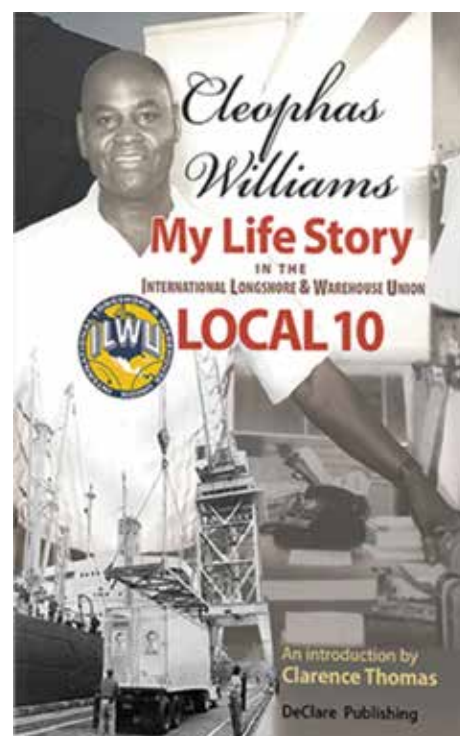
two distinct and informative sections. The first focuses on Williams's personal life from his youth in the Deep South during the Great Depression of the 1930s through his early career as a longshore worker and Local 10 activist in Northern California between 1943 and 1967. Williams relied on his strong family background, his religious faith, and his belief in education to survive and persevere despite the challenges of poverty and southern Jim Crow racism. In California, he became a civil rights advocate and an elected job dispatcher in his local. He won the first of his four terms as Local 10 president in 1967.

In the second section of the book, Williams explores the intersection of union politics and race in Local 10, which has had an African American majority since 1959. In running for office, Williams had to contend with a conservative, white-led faction in the local. Going beyond this problem to review other issues, Williams analyses race and politics in the local in complex and sometimes troubling terms. At one point he perceptively observes, "Racism made monsters out of us all... We seek a utopia but we are not there yet."

This second section of the book begins with the period immediately after World War II. Williams vividly describes pre-container break-bulk-cargo handling and has insightful observations about the 1946, 1948, and 1971 longshore strikes. He recalls how ILWU founder and long-time International president Harry Bridges defended African American longshore workers from job losses during a post-war decline in cargo tonnage, and he recounts Black-led Local 10 efforts to protect the Australian-born Bridges from deportation. Williams also traces Local 10's sustained push to integrate many of the best jobs on the Bay Area waterfront. He retired from the job—but not from the struggle, as members of the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association put it—in 1981.

*Cleophas Williams* can be read profitably by all members of the ILWU, regardless of their local or their background. Everyone who is interested in work and unionism will benefit from reading it. The book contains a useful glossary, a helpful index, and numerous attractive illustrations.

—Harvey Schwartz



## The Beer Stays Here: Local 6 Anchor workers form co-op in attempt to save historic San Francisco brewery

**L**ocal 6 workers have launched a fund raising effort to purchase Anchor Brewing and run it as a worker co-operative after Anchor's parent company, Sapporo, announced it would be closing the iconic brewery in July of this year.

Anchor workers were laid off on August 1 and an intermediary has been appointed to oversee the sale and liquidation process for the brewery's assets.

After the surprise announcement that Anchor would be closing, workers sprang into action to save the 127-year old company. They formed a

co-op and began working with legal, business development and fundraising experts to buy back the brewery and run it cooperatively.

Workers are asking the community to help them ensure that the beer they love continues to be made in San Francisco.

You can find out more about the fundraising efforts by following Anchor Workers accounts on social media: @anchorunionSF on Instagram and Twitter



LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I had the privilege of overseeing the celebration of life for Brother Jack Mulcahy (82013). Jack was a child of deceased. He passed unexpectedly while descending the North Sister Mountain in Central Oregon.

Jack was a past officer in Local 8 several times. He also worked tirelessly and diligently on our grain negotiations with the Northwest Grain Growers Association and was very involved with Local 21 in the grain negotiations over at EGT. He disagreed with the final agreement, but he still abided by it. He worked with the International on the wording of our Benefit Plan to get back lifetime benefits for retirees. He was respected and loved up and down the Coast. People flew in from the San Francisco area and people drove from the Seattle-Tacoma area to pay their respects. Jack was a trade unionist and loved the ILWU and stood up for us everywhere he went. Terry Teague, secretary of the Liverpool dockworkers sent the following statement.

“Condolence on the sad loss of a good man, and a great trade unionist. On behalf of 500 former Liverpool dockworkers their families and supporters I send deepest condolences to the family and friends of Brother Jack Mulcahy. During the Liverpool dockworkers dispute 1995 -1998 Jack and his good friend Norm Parks and the longshoreman of ILWU Local 8 brought the true meaning of international solidarity to all the men and women involved in the historic Liverpool docks dispute to the sacked Liverpool dockworkers, and their families. Jack Mulcahy was the man who gave us all hope and inspiration for which he will always be remembered and respected.”

I was lucky enough to not only be Jack’s friend, but also his partner at work. Jack was devoted to us and truly loved the ILWU.

With love and solidarity always  
Stephen Hanson (Ret.)  
Portland, OR

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*,  
1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to [editor@ilwu.org](mailto:editor@ilwu.org)



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TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Paul D. Davison; John P. Rutherford; Randal L. Williams;  
**Local 10:** Anthony B. Aiman; Zefferan Lovett; Horace J. McAroy;  
**Local 13:** Loredona Adley; Lorretta E. Aguirre; Georgia A. Ahumada; George F. Ardron; Jeffery Arosteguy; Eric W. Atkeson; Donna M. Bareford; Ronald C. Briggs; Randy D. Delabarcena; Todd D. Finley; Philip M. Hilliard; Edward J. Jurak; Gordon N. Liana; Michael C. Luerken; Dale K. Merrell; Philip C. Mladinich; Efrain Noriega; Clarence Pitts Jr; Paul H. Reyes; Jose A. Rojas; Felix Salazar; Sheila A. Seals; Eve M. Shoats; Penelope A. Smith; Scott A. Thiedeman; Lisa M. Wright;  
**Local 19:** James C. Walden;  
**Local 23:** Calvin Hughley; Terence M. Morrow; Carl A. Olson; Bruce B. Shaffer;  
**Local 29:** Robert A. Bolata; Henry M. Dominguez; **Local 46:** David C. Mezo;  
**Local 52:** David M. Perez;  
**Local 63:** Judith D. Ardron; Vincent J. Comparsi; Larry J. Felando; Tony F. Fiamengo; Carrie Q. Katsumata; Nick L. Kordich; Anita L. Malin; Ernesto Torres; Kim A. Trkulja; Bruce M. Yip;  
**Local 98:** Scott R Reid; Troy Dean Russi;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

**Local 10:** Christopher R. McKay;  
**Local 13:** Nickolas Bonilla; Juan Guzman; Perry Lavea; Tomo Matulic; Paul O’Neill; **Local 23:** Anthony Armstrong; Christopher McCurle;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 10:** Joshua Evans; Max L. Gutierrez; Tony M. Nuanes;  
**Local 13:** Francisco J. Aguilar; William R. Cummins; Arlene De LaCruz; Darl Elliott; Donald Hamilton; Gloria Lightner; Geoge Macias; Stanford P. Warner; Jr.; **Local 19:** Robert A. Bowles; Vanessa Rasberry; Franky Searles; **Local 24:** Michael G. Manenica; **Local 27:** Robert Plute; Local 46: Jorge E. Renteria;  
**Local 52:** Barney P. Hattaway;  
**Local 63:** Mary E. Tousseau; Joel C. Vitalich; **Local 92:** Roger Bayly; William Schmitt; **Local 94:** Charles E. Huggins; **Local 98:** John L. Fern; Neal C. Slavich;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 8:** Alice Kramer;  
**Local 10:** Elaine G Bernal; Concepcion Oliveros; Jannie M. Rowe; June E. Zulim; **Local 13:** Patricia Espinoza; Bertha A. Torres;  
**Local 14:** Betty J. Norman;  
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