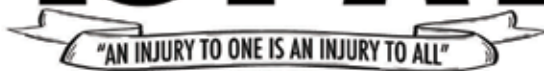




THE DISPATCHER



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Longshore Caucus convenes in San Francisco
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PCPA Poet Laureate Jerry Brady closed out the 23rd Annual First Blood memorial with his poem commemorating the violent clash between union-paid strike breakers and longshore workers and the sacrifice of Dickie Parker and John Knudsen.

Fallen workers honored at the 23rd Annual First Blood memorial

On May 15, several hundred ILWU members and pensioners from Locals 13, 63, 63-OCU, 94, 26, 56, Inlandboatmen's Union, the LA Port Police, and Federated Auxiliary 8 gathered in San Pedro's Gibson Park for the 23rd Annual First Blood Memorial.

The event remembers ILWU workers who died on the waterfront and marks the anniversary of the violent clash between dockworkers and company-paid strikebreakers that occurred in Wilmington on May 15th, 1934 which led to the deaths of longshore workers Dickie Parker and John Knudsen. Parker, a 20-year-old San Pedro High School graduate, was shot and killed during the 1934 clash. Knudsen died on June 5, 1934, from injuries he sustained on May 15. Several more workers and allies were subsequently killed during the strike

that is commemorated annually as Bloody Thursday.

The event is held every May 15th at noon behind the bust of ILWU co-founder Harry Bridges that faces Harbor Boulevard in downtown San Pedro. The granite stone base lists the names of 70 longshore workers who have died from injuries sustained while working. The names are inscribed in the stone monument as a reminder to all who visit how dangerous the waterfront can be.

The First Blood memorial was initially started to honor the first workers killed during the 1934 West Coast strikes that led to the formation of the ILWU. The memorial event has grown to honor ILWU workers who have been killed on the docks.

The presidents of the Southern California longshore locals were unable to attend this year because they were all in San Francisco at an arbitration on an important safety

issue. Local 63 OCU President John Fageaux, Local 26 President Luisa Gratz, and IBU Southern California Regional Director Cris Sogliuzzo were in attendance.

Southern California Pensioner President Greg Mitre was the event emcee. He recognized the importance of remembering the fallen workers and the families they left behind. Mitre also noted the personal connection he and everyone present had to the names on the list.

"As we read these names, a couple of things strike me. One is that everybody will know somebody's name on there. Everybody will be related to, or has worked with, or is associated with somebody whose name is on there," Mitre said before acknowledging the family of Jose Santoyo, an ILWU mechanic who was killed on the job in 2019. The Santoyo family has been in

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ILWU Executive Board meets in San Francisco

Board passes two Statements of Policy, unveils work of new committee structure

The ILWU International Executive Board met in San Francisco from April 22-25. The IEB heard area and committee reports from the recently formed and existing IEB subcommittees, including organizing, communications, education, legislative, infrastructure, and policy and programs. The Executive Board adopted this new structure at its October 2024 meeting to better utilize the skills, knowledge, and experience of IEB members to help strengthen the union.

Re-engaging the membership

The International Executive Board will hold upcoming meetings in different areas to increase transparency and allow members from different regions to observe the work of the IEB as part of the union's ongoing efforts to re-engage the membership.

"There are no secrets, there is no conspiracy," said International President Bobby Olvera, Jr., "This union is built on its members." He

added that the Titled Officers have set a goal to attend a membership meeting for every local at least once over the next three years to speak with the membership and show them what is being done to move the union forward.

Olvera also thanked the Board for the work they have put in getting the committee structure up and running and meeting the goals that were set at the last IEB. "There is no hiding from our duty and responsibility as leaders in this union. Strengthening the ILWU does not fall upon just me or the other Titled Officers; it doesn't just fall on you as Executive Board Members. It falls on every member of this union to contribute and to find their place, and it is our responsibility as leaders to help them find the space and time where they can contribute."

Legislative Committee

The Board heard a comprehensive legislative committee report. Senior Policy Advisor Alexa Jurczak introduced representatives from NVG, the new government relations firm hired by the ILWU to work with the legislative committee and to ensure every ILWU member across every



Former Building Manager Victor Duran (third from left) pictured here with his family and the Titled Officers for the ILWU offices in San Francisco was given long-overdue recognition for his dedication and service to the union.

division has a voice in Washington, DC. The report emphasized that the legislative committee will work with politicians who support the interests of the ILWU and the membership, regardless of party affiliation.

The representatives of NVG gave an overview of their firm, which was started in 2002. They spoke about their commitment to ensuring that working people have a voice in Washington. They are no strangers to working with unions; two of their first clients were the United Farm Workers and SEIU.

NVG gave an overview of Trump's first 100 days in office, spoke about the emerging framework of the Trump Administration's budget bill, and addressed other issues impacting ILWU across divisions, such as the Trump Administration tariffs and the Jones Act.

Honors for Victor Duran

The IEB took time for a long-overdue recognition of Victor Duran, who served for decades as the Building Manager for the ILWU headquarters building at 1188 Franklin St, the

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Longshore Caucus convenes in San Francisco



Local 10 presented a check to the Longshore Division at the caucus paying their local's contribution for the ICTSI settlement in full.

The Coast Longshore Division's Longshore, Clerk, and Walking Boss Caucus met May 5 through May 9 in San Francisco.

The 91 delegates elected from up and down the West Coast met to debate policy and provide direction for the Coast Committee and the

Longshore Division of the ILWU. The Coast Committee is comprised of ILWU International President Bobby Olvera, Jr., ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Ryan Whitman, Coast Committeeman Frank Ponce De Leon, and Coast Committeeman Cam Williams.

Guests from ILWU Canada, the Alaska Longshore Division, the

Hawaii Longshore Division, and the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, and President Emeritus Willie Adams, also attended the caucus. The Area Welfare Directors and Area ADRP Representatives were on hand to answer questions.

Delegates discussed and debated the Coast Committee report, as well as committee reports including

health and safety, health and welfare, education, and public relations. The clerks' technology report included a white paper presentation by Local 40's Dane Jones on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the industry.

Delegates also heard a presentation by Local 18 President Tim Campbell, who was accompanied by more than a dozen rank-and-file members from Local 18, about his fight to protect the Port of West Sacramento for nearly 20 years from groups that have been trying to close the port down and redevelop the land.

Delegates also heard from pensioners Dan Imbagliazzo and Paul Zuanich about the upcoming "Ride the Coast" event to raise awareness of the ILWU fundraising effort to support Alex's Lemonade Stand, which raises money to fight childhood cancer. Zuanich will undertake a 30-day, 1,750-mile bike ride from Bellingham, Washington, to San Pedro and stopping at ports in between.

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IEB unanimously passes Statements of Policy opposing tariffs, supporting collective bargaining rights

On April 24, the ILWU International Executive Board unanimously passed two Statements of Policy—opposing the Trump administration’s tariffs and supporting the right of all workers to collective bargaining—written and introduced by the Board’s Programs and Policies subcommittee. Both statements passed unanimously after debate and discussion by the full Board.

Opposing tariffs

The ILWU Statement opposing tariffs condemns the Trump administration’s tariff policy as a “direct attack on the working class” that will “devastate American workers, harm critical sectors of the economy, and line the pockets of the ultra-wealthy at the expense of hardworking families.”

The statement goes on to say that the tariff policy is “America First in name only.”

“The reality is clear: these tariffs don’t put ‘America First’—they put American working people last. They will kill jobs, raise costs, and fuel economic instability that will ripple through every community in this country,” the statement reads.

The statement received national media attention and was quoted by anchors on MSNBC and CNN. Shortly after the statement was released, news coverage about the tariffs shifted to focus on the impact that they would have on workers. Trump administration officials, including Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, and even President Trump, were asked to respond to the impact that tariffs were having on supply-chain workers.

One reporter said to the president at a press event in the Oval Office:

“We’re seeing as a result that ports here in the US, the traffic has really slowed, and now thousands of dockworkers and truck drivers are worried about their jobs.”

Trump replied, “When you say it slowed down, that’s a good thing, not a bad thing.”

Standing up for collective bargaining rights

The ILWU Statement of Policy in Support of the Rights of all Workers to Collectively Bargain was a response to the attacks on the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers by the Trump administration and the State of Utah.

The ILWU represents many public sector workers, including Local 22 members in the Port of Tacoma, and IBU members working for the Washington State Ferry and the Alaska Marine Highway System.

“The International Longshore and

Warehouse Union (ILWU) reaffirms its position that all working people must have the right to unionize and collectively bargain. These rights belong to all workers, whether they work in the private or public sector. Recent attacks on public sector union members in this country must be opposed outright by the entire labor movement,” the statement reads. “Throughout our history, the ILWU has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with other unions to defend the rights of the working class. Collective bargaining rights for public sector workers have been under attack for decades, and the ILWU, which has hundreds of public sector workers in our ranks, has always vigorously supported public sector workers’ rights. These attacks are not just attacks on public sector workers, but attacks on the labor movement as a whole.”

Read the full text of both Statements of Policy below.

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ILWU Statement of Policy Opposing Tariffs

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) unequivocally condemns the recent tariffs that the Trump administration has imposed. Tariffs are taxes. These and other reckless, shortsighted policies have begun to devastate American workers, harm critical sectors of the economy, and line the pockets of the ultra-wealthy at the expense of hardworking families. The tariffs have also sown distrust among our allies and inflamed geopolitical tensions. These tariffs are nothing more than a direct attack on the working class and should be opposed outright.

Massive Job Losses Projected Due to Tariffs

Recently imposed tariffs on China have instigated a de facto trade war, with the United States imposing a staggering 145% tariff on all Chinese imports and China retaliating with a 125% tariff on all U.S. imports. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are dependent on or connected to global trade. Constricted trade between the world’s two largest economies could lead to devastating job losses for workers employed in the global supply chain.¹ For example, last week, Ocean Network Express announced the cancellation of one of its shipping routes in response to these tariffs. Indirect effects of these tariffs, like rising fuel costs and increased costs of construction materials, have already led to layoffs as American businesses struggle to adapt.

Crushing the Working Class with Higher Prices

Prices for food, gas, and household goods are rising due to tariffs. According to some economic estimates, families will be forced to pay \$1,600 more per year on basic goods and services due to these tariffs.² Everyone knows that the United States is currently in a housing crisis, with sky-high rents and homeownership completely out of reach for millions of Americans. Tariffs that increase the costs of construction will only accelerate this crisis.

Despite claims to the contrary, recent history indicates that the cost of these tariffs will be passed on to the American worker. In 2018 and 2019, when the U.S. imposed tariffs on Chinese imports, those tariffs did not meaningfully change the balance of US-China trade. Instead, the import prices were passed onto U.S. consumers. It is clear that corporations and foreign countries will pass on costs to consumers while they continue to rake in record profits. Meanwhile, families struggling to get by are being hit with higher grocery bills, unaffordable car payments, and soaring costs for everyday necessities. These tariffs are nothing less than an economic war on working people.

“America First” Trade Policy in Name Only

The reality is clear: these tariffs don’t put “America First” -- they put American working people last. They will kill jobs, raise costs, and fuel economic instability that will ripple through every community in this country. It is undeniable that decades of free trade agreements have negatively impacted American workers and prioritized corporate profits at the expense of good paying, union jobs in America. However, this haphazard and destructive tariff plan is a sad excuse for a “fair trade” policy. We demand fair trade policies that put working class Americans first, protect jobs, and reduce taxes on the American people, not trade policies dictated by a president’s whims.

The ILWU stands strong in the fight for fair trade policies that protect American workers and sustain economic growth. We refuse to accept policies that destroy jobs, inflate costs, and sell out the working class. We call on every worker, every union, and every person who believes in economic justice to stand with us against these Trump tariffs.

¹ Kaye, D. (2025, March 5). “What to Know About Trump’s Tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China.” *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/trump-tariffs-canada-mexico-china.html>

² Beyer, D. (2025, March). “Trump’s Tariff Plans Will Drive up Costs for the Average American Family between \$1,600 and \$2,000 per year.” US Joint Economic Committee. https://beyer.house.gov/uploadedfiles/jec_house Dems trump tariffs report_3.3.25.pdf

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ILWU Statement of Policy in Support of the Rights of all Workers to Collectively Bargain

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) reaffirms its position that all working people must have the right to unionize and collectively bargain. These rights belong to all workers, whether they work in the private or public sector. Recent attacks on public sector union members in this country must be opposed outright by the entire labor movement.

On March 7, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security announced it was cancelling the collective bargaining agreement with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Transportation Security Officers (TSOs).¹ TSA workers, who are represented by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), had signed a seven-year collective bargaining agreement in May 2024. Over 47,000 TSA agents at 400 airports across the United States lose union representation under this policy. AFGE is currently contesting this sweeping policy change in court.²

Just a few weeks later, on March 27, 2025, the current Administration signed an executive order that effectively ends collective bargaining for large numbers of federal employees across several federal agencies, under the false premise that unionized federal workers are a threat to national security.³ Historically, the national security exception to collective bargaining rights has been narrowly applied to specific intelligence-related roles within the CIA, FBI, and NSA – not federal workers as a whole. This executive order strips over 1 million federal workers of their right to union representation; it is also being contested in court.⁴

The *Federal Workforce Freedom Act*,⁵ which was introduced in the Senate on March 13, 2025, aims to strip collective bargaining rights from all Federal employees – the bill essentially prohibits all federal employees from organizing, joining, or participating in a labor union or engaging in collective bargaining. While this bill is unlikely to become law, the escalating attack on public sector workers is dangerous and demoralizing. In recent months, some states have also been moving to restrict the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers. For example, in February 2025, the governor of Utah signed a bill into law that bans collective bargaining for all public sector workers in the state, from teachers to firefighters.^{6,7} Utah joins the states of North Carolina and South Carolina in fully banning collective bargaining rights for public sector workers.

In light of these increasing attacks on federal workers’ rights, some members of Congress are looking to enshrine in law collective bargaining rights for federal employees. A group of lawmakers has reintroduced the *Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act* in both the House and Senate. If it’s enacted, the bill would guarantee public sector workers the ability to join a union and collectively bargain. The bill has bipartisan support and the backing of multiple federal unions.

Throughout our history, the ILWU has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with other unions to defend the rights of the working class. Collective bargaining rights for public sector workers have been under attack for decades, and the ILWU, which has hundreds of public sector workers in our ranks, has always vigorously supported public sector workers’ rights. These attacks are not just attacks on public sector workers, but attacks on the labor movement as a whole.

¹ *DHS Ends Collective Bargaining for TSA’s Transportation Security Officers, Enhancing Safety, Efficiency, and Organizational Agility*. (2025, March 7). U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration. <https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2025/03/07/dhs-ends-collective-bargaining-for-tsas-transportation-security>

² *Eliminating TSA Officers’ Union Is Clear Retaliation AFGE Says*. (2025, March 7). Afge.org. <https://www.afge.org/publication/eliminating-tsa-officers-union-is-clear-retaliation-afge-says/>

³ *Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Exempts Agencies with National Security Missions from Federal Collective Bargaining Requirements*. (2025, March 28). The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/03/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-exempts-agencies-with-national-security-missions-from-federal-collective-bargaining-requirements/>

⁴ *AFGE Will Challenge Trump’s Illegal Directive Outlawing Federal Unions*. (2025, March 31). Afge.org. <https://www.afge.org/article/afge-will-challenge-trumps-illegal-directive-outlawing-federal-unions/>

⁵ *Blackburn, Lee Introduce Bill to End Backroom Federal Labor Union Deals*. (2025, March 13). U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee. <https://www.blackburn.senate.gov/2025/3/jobs%20and%20economy/blackburn-lee-introduce-bill-to-end-backroom-federal-labor-union-deals>

⁶ *Utah Bill Would Prohibit State’s Public Sector Unions from Collective Bargaining - PSHRA*. (2025, February 14). Public Sector HR Association. <https://pshra.org/utah-bill-would-prohibit-states-public-sector-unions-from-collective-bargaining/>

⁷ *Schoenbaum, H. (2025, February 15). Utah governor signs collective bargaining ban for teachers, firefighters and police unions*. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/utah-governor-unions-collective-bargaining-76b1fe205a9e7b4097c1d0b4a1a13cc6>

You’re living in the past, but which one?

Race has always been an obsession of the ruling class; working class unity overcame

The rhetoric around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is everywhere. Politicians and pundits claim that DEI is “divisive,” “woke,” or even “anti-American.” They argue it gives “special treatment” to certain groups or is part of some Marxist agenda.

Most of the political debate around DEI is deceptive and points to a history that the ILWU knows all too well. There are also valid critiques that exist. Looking at the question of diversity, equity and inclusion through the lens of labor helps us sort through the issue.

Pono Principle or Corporate Scam?

The truth is, DEI can be used for good or for bad. In principle, DEI stands for exactly what it says: diversity, equity, and inclusion. Are there three words that can better describe the history and impact of the ILWU? Or Hawai‘i, for that matter? If we are to be honest, whatever diversity, equity, and inclusion that exists in this union or Hawai‘i was achieved through hard-fought struggles against a very powerful ruling class of corporate racists. More on this in a moment.

However, labor should also understand the ways that corporations use DEI to flaunt righteous values to the public while acting hypocritically on the shop floor. Take Target and Krogers, for example. Both corporations adopted DEI programs in recent years. And both have been notorious union-busters. As this article is being written, Krogers, who doubled down on their DEI program in recent weeks, has 10,000 workers on strike in Denver. If workers have to walk off the job for fair pay and working conditions, does a company really believe in principles of equity and justice? Or are they just using them to bring more shoppers through the door?

Unfortunately, the current prevailing critiques of DEI are not coming from a labor perspective, but a corporate one. How can you tell? Because it’s dividing the working class. And this should be a red flag to any union member. Because the fact is, we have been here before. Racial equity is only a rallying cry because the corporate class has continuously used race to divide their most formidable opponent - the workers.



ILWU leader Jack Hall prepares for trial. In 1951 Hall and seven other ILWU leaders were arrested for “un-American activities” and put on trial as communist conspirators. What were they actually guilty of? Uniting workers across racial and national lines.

The Path of Division: The Plantation Oligarchy’s Playbook

In Hawai‘i’s early sugar plantation days, the white plantation owners were part of an oligarchy—a small group of wealthy people who controlled all aspects of society, from government to education, to industry, and more. This oligarchy was known as the Big 5, made up of owners of the top 5 largest plantations. The Big 5 knew exactly how to keep workers divided. They segregated labor camps by race: Filipinos in one camp, Japanese in another, Portuguese elsewhere. They paid different wages based on ethnicity, ensuring no group felt equal to another. They spread rumors and lies to stoke racial tensions and prevent unity.

National origin was also weaponized. Native Hawaiians, still grappling with the overthrow of their sovereign nation, and workers themselves, faced the impact of mass immigration for expanding plantations and the resulting wage suppression across industries. This stoked resentment among Native Hawaiians toward the immigrant workers.

The Hawai‘i oligarchy didn’t stop at workplace division—it built an entire system to keep non-whites “in their place.” They controlled most of the courts, the medical system, and public education, including the University of Hawai‘i.

“It is important that union members assess and comprehend debates around race through a union lens. Be steadfast for justice and equity. Be suspicious when corporations flaunt values around justice and equity but treat their workers poorly. And be on high alert when the richest people in the U.S. and the world make a boogeyman out of solid union principles like diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

The Territorial oligarchy also promoted the “race science” at UH, and were dazzled by the eugenics movement - a movement to promote reproduction among the white race and to slow reproduction among non-white races. As part of this, they wrote and taught a curriculum at Kamehameha Schools teaching Hawaiian children, whose parents had resisted the American take-over of Hawai‘i, that they were likely to die out unless they became “good American citizens.” The employer class of this time even promoted forced reproductive sterilization for so-called “troublemakers” on the plantations.

The Racism of the Sugar Planter: Justifying Empire

These attitudes and tactics were used prior to Territorial Hawai‘i. In fact, they fueled the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, which made their level of control in the early decades of the twentieth century possible.

When sugar planters, led by men like Sanford B. Dole and Lorrin A. Thurston orchestrated the 1893 overthrow of Queen Lili‘uokalani, profit was their motive, but racial superiority was their justification.

Dole, who became the first president of the Republic of Hawai‘i, once said, “The Hawaiian is a race of children... They are incapable of governing themselves.” Thurston was even more explicit, describing Native Hawaiians as “a race of barbarians” who needed to be “civilized” by white Americans.

This mindset was shared by certain U.S. expansionists to justify taking control of Cuba, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. Late 19th-century political cartoons in Puck and Judge portrayed Queen Lili‘uokalani, Filipinos, Cubans, and Puerto Ricans as savage, childlike, or grotesque—imagery designed to convince Americans that these nations needed to be “saved” through colonization and exploitation.

These are all examples of how race has been used to serve corporate interests at the expense of regular people. But our history in Hawai‘i also tells another story - one of an uphill resistance against these divisive tactics.

The Path of Unity: The ILWU’s Fight for Solidarity

In the 1940s, ILWU organizers like Jack Hall, Harry Kamoku, and countless rank-and-file leaders saw through the oligarchy’s lies. They knew that workers could only win by uniting across racial and national lines (this is why “international” is in so many unions’ names).

They taught workers that their real problem wasn’t each other—it was the employer class that was exploiting them.

The oligarchy fought back hard. They accused the union of being communist, of colluding with Joseph Stalin, of trying to overthrow the U.S. government itself. Just like with the anti-DEI rhetoric of today, they used the fear of Marxism to vilify the union and manipulate public opinion.

And here’s the hard truth: many workers believed them.

The sugar oligarchy’s power relied on working-class buy-in. Even in 1954, during the “Democratic Revolution” when the united working class in Hawai‘i unseated the oligarchy-run dominant political party, some

workers still voted to keep the party of the employers in control. In all cases, corporate power only succeeds with the allegiance of the working class.

The ILWU persisted through these very difficult and very real divisions. They did the relentless work of uniting enough workers to shift power. They organized historic strikes like the 1946 Sugar Strike and the 1949 Longshore Strike—two pivotal moments that reshaped Hawai‘i’s labor landscape.

These union leaders often found themselves fighting against the grain of public opinion. They knew that improving workers’ lives required confronting racism and standing together as one union, one working class—even as they were branded “un-American” and “Marxist.”

Perhaps we should take pause when we hear the most powerful men in the country today using the same tactical messaging that the Big 5 used on our strongest union leaders not that long ago.

Call to Action: Choose the Path of Unity

We are at this crossroads again, and the work toward true equity is not over. Look around your workplace. Do wage disparities exist that just so happen to fall along racial lines? Have we solved the wealth gaps that fuel our housing crisis in Hawai‘i? Does every keiki have access to three meals a day?

It is important that union members assess and comprehend debates around race through a union lens. Be steadfast for justice and equity. Be suspicious when corporations flaunt values around justice and equity but treat their workers poorly. And be on high alert when the richest people in the U.S. and the world make a boogeyman out of solid union principles like diversity, equity, and inclusion.

So let’s get real. Let’s have the tough conversations. Let’s challenge the lies. And let’s do what we’ve always done—unite, organize, and fight for what’s right. Because when we stand together, we win. The choice is ours.

— Ilima Long

This article was originally published in Local 142’s *Voice of the ILWU*



Workers unite in the 1958 sugar strike, standing together once again.

How African-American longshore leader Len Greer helped build the ILWU's culture of solidarity

The ILWU was founded in 1937, but its roots lie in the West Coast waterfront strike of 1934. That strike forever changed labor relations on the docks and planted the seeds of a union vigorously opposed to the divide-and-conquer tactics commonly wielded by employers. The San Francisco Bay Area was the heart of the strike in no small part because the region's longshore workers built a strong culture of solidarity across racial lines. Len Greer (1883-1975) of Bay Area Local 10 played a crucial part in those efforts. In the years that followed, Greer helped make the ILWU a persistent opponent of racial discrimination and a militant champion of all working people. His life shows how the bold actions and daring visions of ILWU members gave meaning to the union's powerful slogan: "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Len Greer was born in Monroe County, Georgia in 1883. Less than one generation removed from the abolition of slavery, he grew up at a time when legal segregation and racist violence were taking hold across the South. Like many African Americans resisting these conditions, Greer chose to leave his childhood home in search of a better future. He began longshoring at the age of 18, finding work on the waterfronts of Jacksonville, New Orleans, and Galveston. But it was in the timber industry that Greer first encountered a union whose commitment to solidarity would later influence the ILWU.

"The San Francisco Bay Area was the heart of the strike in no small part because the region's longshore workers built a strong culture of solidarity across racial lines. Len Greer (1883-1975) of Bay Area Local 10 played a crucial part in those efforts."

In 1910, Greer moved with his wife and daughter to rural East Texas to work for an outfit logging pine trees. There, he joined the newly formed Brotherhood of Timber Workers (BTW). The BTW was a trailblazer of racial integration, gender equality, and industrial organizing within the labor movement, a record all the more impressive given the union's location in the Deep South at the height of the Jim Crow era. The BTW found a kindred spirit in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), which likewise rejected racial divisions and craft distinctions. It was only natural then that two unions decided to merge. Two decades later, the IWW's legacy of steadfast solidarity would inspire the ILWU, and the IWW mantra, "An injury to one is an injury to all," would eventually become its own.

After several years in the forests and docks of Texas and a short stint in the military during World War I, Greer hit the road again. He arrived in San Francisco in 1919 just as a massive waterfront strike was coming to an end. Greer's prior experience in a militant, multiracial union made the strike's outcome unsettling. Shipping companies used the walkout as a pretext to crush the Riggers and Stevedores Union (R&S), which had been active on the San Francisco docks since the 1850s. One of their union-busting tactics was the recruitment of African American strikebreakers. The tactic was only possible because the R&S, like most San Francisco unions at the time, had limited its membership to white men. Len Greer absorbed this lesson in the importance of solidarity and would later apply it as an organizer in the 1934 waterfront strike.

But in the meantime, he needed work, and among the few jobs available to Black men in San Francisco was moving cargo in a segregated longshore gang. The work was brutal and degrading. Stevedore bosses frequently pitted Black and white waterfront gangs against each other, demanded bribes in exchange for employment, and often refused to hire African Americans altogether. Out of roughly 4,000 dockworkers employed in San Francisco before 1934, the number of Black men never exceeded several dozen. As Greer recalled of his early years longshoring in the city, "We learned then—as the saying goes, it was welded into us—that it was the natural way of American life that we were last hired and first fired. They just took us when they really had to use us."

Earning poverty wages on the San Francisco waterfront, Greer learned firsthand how the economic status quo tended to chew up and spit out people like him. After the economy crashed in 1929, Greer joined forces with other working people to demand something better. The Unemployed Councils (UC) offered a vehicle for advancing economic justice. Founded in 1930 by the Communist Party, whose dedication to racial equality, civil rights, and multiracial leadership attracted many African Americans during the Great Depression, the UC brought Greer once again into a diverse world of working-class struggle. As a member, he participated in acts of civil disobedience such as returning furniture into the home of a recently evicted family.

Greer's organizing background proved vital when Bay Area dockworkers



Few photos of Len Greer exist but this photo of Greer (right) with Bill Chester appeared in the January 4, 1952 issue of the Dispatcher.

walked off the job in 1934. The strike quickly spread to seaports up and down the West Coast, making it difficult for shippers to reroute their cargo to avoid the picket. San Francisco remained the strike's center, with Local 38-79 of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA)—the predecessor of ILWU Local 10—taking the lead. Facing enormous losses of revenue, employers resorted to their old playbook of hiring African American strikebreakers. But this time, the tactic largely failed. Harry Bridges, the future founding president of the ILWU who was then a leader in ILA Local 38-79, encountered little push back when he spoke at Black churches about honoring the picket line and joining the union. He was not the only one doing this outreach. Though small in number, Black dockworkers like Len Greer played a crucial role in earning support for the strike among African Americans. "I remember the time of the strike," recalled Greer, "I walked the streets day and night, trying to convince the Negro people: this is the time to join the union in order to make a better future for yourself." Greer's efforts paid off. Despite suffering violent repression—an experience still commemorated in the ILWU's annual "Bloody Thursday" work stoppage—the strikers claimed victory. Their win paved the way for a growing number of African American members in the union.

None of the strike's victories proved more essential to the future success of the ILWU than securing the right to a union-controlled hiring hall. In promoting the fair distribution of waterfront work, the newly won hiring hall became a cornerstone of the union's culture of solidarity and rank-and-file democracy. Len Greer took a keen interest in the hiring process. He recognized its potential to shift workers of color from the margins to the center of waterfront labor.

The first step in that direction was opening up the union's membership to people previously excluded from its ranks. Here too, Greer played a critical role. In 1935, he became the first African American on the Bay Area Local's investigating committee, giving him a say in vetting new applicants for membership in the union. The following year, he made history again as one of two African Americans elected to the local's executive board. As an officer,

Greer helped make sure that the union delivered expanding job opportunities for working-class communities of color. The result was a membership that better reflected the region's population.

Greer's onboarding of Karl Yoneda, the union's first Asian-American member, illustrates his outside-the-box approach to diversifying the rank and file. In 1936, Greer introduced Yoneda to the other members of the investigating committee, all of whom were white. In his presentation, Greer emphasized Yoneda's contribution to the 1934 strike, highlighting his role in persuading Japanese sailors to not take up struck work. But the committee members appeared unconvinced, so Greer tried a different tack. According to Yoneda, Greer told the committee that since "our union has a tradition of issuing a work permit or book to the son of a member, I adopt Karl right here and now as my son!" The ploy worked, and the next day Yoneda reported to the hiring hall for his permit.

Greer's friendship with Yoneda stemmed from their connection to Communist-aligned groups. Such political activity provoked endless government harassment during the anti-Communist hysteria that gripped the United States in the middle of the twentieth century. In this climate, Greer became a target of surveillance. Between 1940 and his death in 1975, the Federal Bureau of Investigation secretly tracked his movements and labeled him a threat to "domestic security." Even more damaging was the Coast Guard's decision in the early 1950s to deny Greer—along with hundreds of other ILWU members suspected of left-wing sympathies—the clearance to work piers hosting military cargo. Greer denounced the so-called "Port Security Program" for threatening his livelihood and blasted the screening process as "another form of discrimination." For Greer and other union members opposed to the program, it was no accident that African Americans made up the vast majority of workers rejected by the Coast Guard. The fight to end waterfront screening ultimately succeeded. In the process, the ILWU's foundational commitment to interracial unity gained new strength.

Greer's contributions to the union did not stop even after retirement. He

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Port of Long Beach supports 2.7 million jobs across the country study says

Economic impact of Trump’s trade war could ripple across the country

The Port of Long Beach supports 2.7 million jobs across the nation, including more than 1.1 million jobs in California, according to a new study that details the port’s far-reaching economic impact. In the five-county area of Southern California, more than 691,000 jobs are connected to port trade, construction, and tourism, which amounts to 1 out of every 17 jobs.

The Port of Long Beach’s trade is a pillar of economic vitality for the United States, driving consumer spending, job creation, and innovation, according to the analysis in the port-commissioned study that was released on May 12 at a news conference attended by Long Beach elected officials, representatives from the Port of Long Beach, leaders from Southern California ILWU locals,

and representatives from the business community. Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson, Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero, and Local 13 President Gary Herrera were among those who spoke at the press event.

The study started in August of last year and examines economic activity in 2023. Among other findings:

- The Port supports 2,714,707 jobs in the United States, providing \$176 billion in income and more than \$309 billion to the gross domestic product.
- Statewide, 1,138,156 jobs are connected to the Port, generating \$77.9 billion in income.
- Across Southern California, 691,607 jobs depend on the Port, providing \$46.6 billion in income in the five-county region consisting of Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

- Locally, in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, the port supports 543,122 jobs, providing \$38.9 billion in income.
- Port activity is a major contributor to the tax base, with \$84.4 billion in local, state, and federal taxes collected in 2023.
- Cargo moving to and from the port originates from or is destined for every Assembly and Senate district in California and every U.S. congressional district.

“This study affirms the benefits of international trade, which should be nurtured by carefully calculated, deliberate policies that serve U.S. businesses and consumers,” Mario Cordero said.

“A reduction in trade in our ports doesn’t just affect dock workers, truckers, and local businesses; it threatens American jobs and economic

security all across our country,” Mayor Richardson said during the press conference. “This new report makes it clear, when trade slows here, the effects ripple across supply chains, industries, and communities nationwide. There’s no denying it; we have now entered a space where there’s heightened attention on tariffs. I think what’s important here is that we understand just how impactful the Port of Long Beach is.”

Scan the QR code to read the full report.



How African-American longshore leader Len Greer helped build the ILWU’s culture of solidarity

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remained active in ILWU pensioner organizing, and in the early 1950s he traveled as a delegate to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the union’s ground-breaking pension plan. Greer recalled encountering frequent discrimination during the trip “in the capital of the

country that claims to be the greatest democracy in the world.” When he was barred from lodging in the same hotels as the white members of the delegation, ILWU president Harry Bridges decided to stay with Greer in his lesser accommodations. The act of solidarity

left an impression, prompting Greer to “reflect upon the difference between the leadership of our union and some others in the country.” In Greer’s eyes, the ILWU’s culture of solidarity set the union apart.

Though his name is not nearly as known as Harry Bridges’, Len Greer played an important role in building the union’s culture. His legacy endures in the steadfast commitment of ILWU members to fighting injustice wherever it appears.

– Andrew Klein

Upcoming ILWU Education Events

2025 Young Workers Conference September 10-12 • Vancouver, BC

We are pleased to announce that ILWU Canada is holding their Sixth Biennial Young Workers Conference September 10-12, 2025, in Vancouver, BC. As they have done in the past, they have graciously opened participation to ILWU members outside the Canada Area.

Local unions or affiliates may nominate participants who are each required to fill out an online application. Any ILWU affiliate is encouraged to apply, but please note that priority will be given to workers aged 35 and younger who have not participated in any previous ILWU Canada Young Workers conferences. Due to space considerations, we anticipate having to limit each affiliate to one (1) participant, but we encourage you to send in additional applications for consideration and will create a waiting list in case of cancellation or non-participation by any locals.

The conference will be held at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V5L 1K3. It will run from Wednesday, September 10, 2025, through Friday evening, September 12, 2025. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on September 10

The ILWU International and ILWU Canada will cover the cost of training materials, breakfast, and lunch from September 10-12, and a banquet on the evening of September 12. The ILWU will also cover hotel accommodations based on double occupancy for check-in on September 9 and check-out on September 13. This means that individuals willing to share a room with another participant will have no hotel costs. Neither the ILWU International nor ILWU Canada will cover lost wages, per diem, or other travel expenses.

The registration deadline is June 16, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact ILWU Education Director Robin Walker here at robin.walker@ilwu.org.



2025 ILWU Women’s Conference September 27-29, 2025 Maui, HI

The theme of this year’s conference is Strength, Self-Care, and Sisterhood. We will be covering issues such as gender equity, developing and mentoring new leaders, and women’s history within the ILWU. Instructors will be drawn from the ranks of active and retired members, staff from the International, and labor activists.

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

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

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

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

Please register below no later than 5 p.m. July 1, 2025



Nicholas “Nick” L. Buckles

December 10, 1942 – April 9, 2025

Nick Buckles, Local 32 pensioner and past WA Area Welfare Director, who was known for his kind, loving, caring, and humorous personality, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2025, with his family by his side.

Nick was born in Seattle on December 10, 1942, and soon took refuge with his beloved Uncle Pete Buckles on the 1500 block of Baker Street in Everett, WA, where he lived with Pete’s three daughters, Madeline, Goldie, and Georgia, who were more akin to his sisters throughout his life. He took great pride in his Greek heritage and made many indelible memories, including those with his lifelong friend Phil Johnson, who grew up just down the block. Georgia, Phil, and Nick forged a friendship that would last more than 75 years.

Nick held many titles in his life, but none brought him more joy than being Dad to his two sons, Nick and Bret, and a loving second father to Lizzy. His greatest pride came from being a Papou to his Granddaughters, Breanne, Jorda, and Emily, and the one and only “Bim-Bim” to Lizzy’s son Max. He held a special bond with each of his loved ones, built on love, laughter, and a deep sense of familial connection.

He graduated from Everett High School and, as a lifelong resident of Everett, took great pride in his hometown. In his early years, Nick started as a shoeshine boy for his Uncle Pete and went on to try his hand at many occupations that included making donuts at the Avenue Pastry Shop at 19th and Broadway, a year of construction in Alaska and even as a cook before finally finding his true and permanent home on the Everett waterfront.

He started as a casual longshore worker in June 1967 and received his B book at Local 32 in Everett in March 1979, advancing to “A” man in January 1983. Nick was elected to serve as Business Agent and Dispatcher for Local 32. He was later chosen to serve as Washington Area Welfare Director for the ILWU-PMA Benefits Plan, visiting and serving ports throughout Washington State. Although Nick retired in August 2014, he continued to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Everett Pensioners Club until his last days.

Nick’s combined service to the ILWU spanned upwards of 50 years, and he is still deeply respected by both the workforce as well as union officials and is recognized as an icon within the industry. He led a culture of care for longshore workers and their families, who will always remember him with deep appreciation and respect.

Many will remember the 20 years he spent as President of the North Everett Little League, where he served as both coach and umpire whenever the need arose, and for a time as coach for South Everett Little League as well. His time with the Everett Merchants baseball team is well remembered, as were his delicious hamburgers at the games were legendary, and he enjoyed his time behind the grill.

Nick proudly served his country in the Army Reserve for two years and was stationed in Louisville, Kentucky.

Nick’s kindness could fill a room, and he had a quiet, steady way of looking out for those around him, whether family, friend, or stranger. His heart was as generous as it was unwavering. Nick’s dry, effortless humor kept people smiling through

even the toughest days. That wry grin, the perfectly timed one-liner. He had a way of making people laugh without trying. Through it all, he was most proud of his 39 years of sobriety.

Andrea Stevenson, who succeeded Buckles as WA Area Welfare Director, recalled, “Nick trained me for about 3 months. He had the gentlest soul. His patience, care, concern, knowledge, history, and compassion were admirable. ‘You have big shoes to fill,’ people would constantly tell me. Even after he retired, he attended ILWU functions and volunteered countless hours of work for the ILWU. He was the kind of retiree who would always have that one toe in the industry, helping to make a difference, helping the community, and helping his family. Nick Buckles had those big shoes, and I am fortunate to have walked beside him for 11 years, learning from him, every step of the way.”

“It is said that being remembered as a ‘good guy’ is in and of itself a just reward. Nick was a good guy. He gave of himself as an officer in Local 32 and later as Area Welfare Director. Nick advocated for actives, pensioners, spouses, and dependents,” said pensioner Rich Austin, Sr.

“Nick was my treasurer when I ran for Vice President. He ran a tight ship and accounted for every penny. After retirement, Nick helped reinvigorate the Everett Pensioners’ Club, where he served as Secretary-Treasurer. One of Nick’s passions was Alex’s Lemonade Stand. Although our pensioners club has just 40 members, our contributions were second only to the Southern California Pensioners. Rest in Peace, Nick. You will be missed.”



“Nick was the perfect choice for the Washington Area Welfare Director,” recalled pensioner Dan Imbagliazzo. “I recognized that Washington was represented by the person that I had come to know as determined, kind, and compassionate. When we both retired, we served on a committee authorized by the Longshore caucus to formulate a long-term care benefit demand for contract negotiations. He was passionate about protecting members. One day Nick told me that he had taken a collection for one of my favorite causes, ILWU Walk the Coast’s support for Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation. His Everett pensioners accepted Nick’s leadership and generously donated because he inspired them. That is the person Nick was, the gentle giant of a friend who always underestimated the volume of light he transmitted. The ILWU is better off because of Nick.”

Nick is survived by his loving Wife Tammy, sons Nick (Christine) and Bret, daughter Elizabeth, granddaughters Breanne, Jordan (Dan), and Emily, grandson Maxwell, great granddaughter Navy, and great grandson Brooks. Nick is preceded in death by Linda Buckles (mother of Bret).

Fallen workers honored at the 23rd Annual First Blood memorial

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attendance every year since his tragic accident.

“If we didn’t have the ILWU, the employers wouldn’t be paying us what they pay us, and we wouldn’t have the conditions that we have,” Mitre added. “It’s because of those who came before me, it’s because the guys on this wall here—when the work was even more dangerous than it is now—that paved the way for what we have, and for that I am grateful.”

Also in attendance was Los Angeles City Council member Tim McOsker, who acknowledged the sacrifice of the fallen ILWU workers, the labor movement’s ongoing fight for safety and dignity in the workplace,

and emphasized the importance of collective action.

The ceremony began with a bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace, followed by the Wilmington VFW Honor Guard. During the ceremony, the names of fallen workers were read aloud by pensioners Herman Moreno and Jerry Garretson, and a bell was rung by pensioner Norm Tuck. The ceremony honors members from the Longshore Division, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, and port security guards from Local 26.

Although Local 13 President Gary Herrera was unable to attend in person, Mitre read his comments to those gathered at the memorial.

“I would like to extend my sincere

apologies for my absence from this year’s First Blood event,” Herrera wrote. “My presence in San Francisco is motivated by a cause that has been at the forefront of our struggle for over 90 years: fighting for safety on the waterfront. It is deeply ironic that on a day dedicated to commemorating the lives of those who have died while working in our industry, I find myself fighting and showing solidarity and an arbitration that underscores the ongoing battle for safety on this very important day. While we celebrate the legacy of our fallen brothers, the ILWU is compelled to confront a disconcerting reality. Certain employers seem to have a troubling disregard for our members’ safety, and these employers

are attempting to undermine the very protections that our union has fought so hard to secure. The quest for profit has overshadowed their contractual responsibility, as those employers now seek, in the union’s opinion, to allow ILWU members to work in hazardous conditions solely for financial gain.”

Pacific Coast Pensioner Association Poet Laureate Jerry Brady closed out the event with a reading of his poem commemorating First Blood, the 1934 longshore strike, and the sacrifices made by Parker and Knudsen.

Immediately following the ceremony, a picnic lunch was served featuring tacos, bacon-wrapped hot dogs, and corn on the cob.

Local 10 hosts Cesar Chavez holiday breakfast

On March 31, the annual Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Breakfast was at the Local 10 dispatch hall in San Francisco. This event serves as a fundraiser for the Cesar Chavez & Dolores Huerta Parade and Festival, which was held on April 12 in the Mission District.

There were guest speakers at the fundraiser, including Frederico Chavez (the nephew of Cesar Chavez), San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie, Lt. Governor Elani Kounalakis, and State Senator Jesse Arreguin. Several Cesar E. Chavez Legacy awards were presented by Eva Royale, Director of the parade and festival. These included the “Community Service” award for Viola Maestas, the “Arts and Culture” award for Juana Alicia, and the “Outstanding Labor” award for UNITE HERE Local 2.

Officers and members from ILWU Locals 10 and 34 were in attendance, including Local 10 President Demetrius Williams and Secretary-Treasurer Ed Henderson, and Local 34 President Dave Gonzales and Vice-President Jadine Trujillo. About 300 people purchased tickets to attend this fundraising event.

Many labor organizations sponsored the event, including the ILWU Local 10, ATU Local 1555, IBEW Local 6, Carpenters Union Local 22, NUHW, Theatrical and Stage Employees Union Local 16, International Union of



Elevator Constructors Local 8, TWA Local 250A, SF Firefighters Local 798, and SEIU 1021. Other sponsors included ILWU Credit Union, UCSF, and the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District.

A special thank you was sent out to all who worked and volunteered to make the day a huge success, including the Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA), ILWU Local 10, the Cesar Chavez Breakfast Committee (Eva Royale, Monica Navarro-Marroquin, Nicky Trasvina, Yolando Moreno, Beth Moseley), and the San Jaisco Restaurant, which catered the breakfast.

— John Castanho

ILWU Executive Board meets in San Francisco

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Local 10 hall, and the Local 34 offices. Duran was presented with a special certificate of recognition signed by the Titled Officers. President Olvera and Executive Board members Trent Willis and Dave Gonzeles thanked Duran for his dedication and service to the union and its members.

Statements of Policy

The Programs and Policy Committee presented two Statements of Policy to the Executive Board for discussion. Olvera said that the goal of the Programs and Policy Committee was to establish a transparent and democratic process for the union to take positions on important issues between conventions. “This is a democratic union. It should not be up to the International President and the other Titled Officers to issue Statements of Policy,” he said.

The “ILWU Statement of Policy in Support of the Rights of all Workers to Collectively Bargain” and the “ILWU Statement of Policy Opposing Tariffs,” both passed unanimously after extensive debate. See the article on page 3 for more information about these Statements of Policy.

Communications and Education Committees

The Education Committee reported that they completed an update of the pamphlet, “How our Union Works,” which includes an updated diagram on the union’s structure as well as updates to the text of the document. The Committee is also working on bringing “The ILWU Story,” which details the history of the union, up to date.

The Communications Committee completed a redesign of the banner for the *Dispatcher*. Two versions were submitted to the Executive Board for a vote. The new banner began running in last month’s issue.

Resolutions

The Inlandboatmen’s Union submitted two resolutions. One was a request to sign on to the statement “Labor Demands an End to the Assault on the Right to Organize and Protest,” which was voted down by the Board. The second was a resolution to join the National Labor Network for Ceasefire, which was approved. IBU President Robert Estrada was selected as the ILWU’s representative to attend the NLNC meetings and report back to the Executive Board.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held August 13-15, 2025, in Seattle, WA.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Lance L. Moore;
Local 10: Laverne M. Bell; Carl T. Easley; Joseph Hughes;
Local 13: James R. Amantea; Raymond M. Benavente; Francisco J. Garcia; Michele A. Hart; Gery Javier; James E. Jeffers; Lewis R. Loy; Gabino Ortega; Carlos Perez; Martin C. Perez; Agustina E. Reyes; Gloria Rodriguez; Joseph E. Rodriguez; Bonnie J. Ryan; Shawn R. Tate; Elvin W. Taylor;
Local 19: Scott L. Berkey;
Local 23: Greg J. Faker; Preston E. Guenther; John F. Kennedy; Duane V. Little; Thomas Roper; Ken E. Wilson;
Local 26: Mario P. Duarte;
Local 29: Maria A. Estrada;
Local 34: Annette Franklin;
Local 63: Anna I. Brooks; Linda A. Carreon; Pauline Galvan;
Local 94: Eric T. Stenehjelm;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 10: Perry L. Campbell; Eugene M. Felton; **Local 13:** Lawrence R. Elmore; Freddie J. Fernandez; Samuel P. Touchard; **Local 21:** Larry Barnhart; **Local 34:** Steven R. Grech; **Local 40:** David H. Miller;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Amos Jones;
Local 13: Kenneth Kilby; David A. Samudio; John Sukeena;
Local 19: Loren J. Keating; Albin M. Vrey; **Local 21:** Barry Myers;
Local 23: Mel W. Epstein; Frank J. Kern; Jim R. Thompson;
Local 32: Nicholas Buckles;
Local 47: Daniel A. Knittle;
Local 54: Thomas A. Dalesandro;
Local 63: Dortha M. Gravett; Tomas W. Perez; Joseph J. Svornich;
Local 91: Walter R. Hurlbut;
Local 94: George D. Kuvakas; Paul V. Trani;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Jeanine G. Bailiff;
Local 10: Shirley Owens; Opaline L. Shelton; Dolores West-Parks;
Local 13: Maria G. Placentia; Esther Schroeder; Dusanka Stanich; Carolina Suarez; **Local 23:** Darlene B. Lovitt;
Local 27: Nina J. Eyl;
Local 40: Ulla B. Hanson;
Local 50: Kathy Riva;
Local 54: Donna L. Keller;
Local 63: Dortha M. Gravett;
Local 92: Charlot Bryant; Vivian J. Turner; **Local 94:** Rebecca Cano; Lucille Pophoff;

CORRECTION: Local 92 pensioner Gary Duback was mistakenly listed in the deceased pensioner category in last month’s issue.

MEDICAL, DENTAL PLAN CHOICE ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and/or dental plans during the Open Enrollment period through June 20, 2025. The change will be effective July 1, 2025. In addition to the Open Enrollment period, members may change their medical plan and/or dental plan once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

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

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choices are Kaiser Permanente or the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 46, 63 and 94. Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92; and Washington State Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98.

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

Information on the medical and dental plans, and forms to change plans, can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Office.

All Medical and Dental Program Choice Forms and enrollment forms, as applicable, must be completed and received by the Benefit Plans office by June 20 for the enrollment change to be effective July 1.