



# THE DISPATCHER

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

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Workers represented by Local 6 at the biotechnology company Bio-Rad in Hercules, CA, are organizing for a new contract and wages that meet area standards.

## Rebuilding the union at Bio-Rad

### Workers at Bay Area biotech company fighting for new contract, new direction

**M**elody Resendiz has worked at Bio-Rad, a manufacturer of life science research and clinical diagnostics products, for nearly nine years. She is part of a group of workers at the company's campus in Hercules, CA, who are leading an effort to revitalize and strengthen a bargaining unit represented by Local 6 that has worked under an open-shop contract since the 1980s.

The bargaining unit represents approximately 200 workers at the campus, but because it's an open shop, workers are not required to join the union. Currently, only a few workers are dues-paying members of Local 6. With their current contract set to expire at the end of the year, workers are fighting to address longstanding issues. The issues the workers are currently bargaining over include raising wages to match area standards, including guaranteed

wage increases, adding a union security clause, improving safety conditions, and giving workers control over when they use their paid time off. In previous contracts, wage rates were not included, allowing management to set wages. As a result, many workers are struggling to make ends meet despite Bio-Rad's nearly \$3 billion in annual revenue.

"We all like working for Bio-Rad. It's just that we feel like we're not being valued because of our low wages," Resendiz said. "The cost of living keeps rising, but our wages stay stuck."

Wages at Bio-Rad are well below the area standards for similar companies. Resendiz said that wages for some workers at Bio-Rad are more comparable to those at McDonald's than to those at other biotech companies, such as Bayer in Berkeley.

Coworkers recently nominated Resendiz for the negotiating committee. "It's something that I really didn't think of being a part of before," Resendiz said. Still, she eventually

agreed because she was hopeful that being part of the process to improve the contract would benefit workers.

"At the beginning of the negotiations, management kept saying that this contract has worked for us for more than 30 years. That's not true. I've heard so many people complain about everything from wages to safety."

The effort to improve conditions at Bio-Rad has been in progress for years. Local 6 Business Agent Joseph Hunter recognized that the local needed to significantly change its approach to the unit when he first became the business agent three years ago. During his first year, he participated in Bio-Rad's negotiations. Hunter said the workers' bargaining power was limited because only a small number were dues-paying members. "The workers lacked power during the negotiations. We had no leverage. We weren't talking wages, and we ended up with a weak contract," Hunter said.

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## International Executive Board meets in San Pedro

The ILWU International Executive Board met at the Local 13 offices in San Pedro, CA, from December 10-12. The Executive Board rotates through different regions as part of the Titled Officers' efforts to re-engage the membership and increase transparency by making it easier for rank-and-file members to attend and observe the Board's work. Over 70 rank-and-file members attended the meeting, mainly from Southern California ILWU locals. A delegation of Hawaii Longshore Division members, along with members from ILWU Canada and Local 19 in Seattle, were also present.



International Executive Board member and President of Local 26, Luisa Gratz.

The IEB heard reports on the union's legislative and organizing efforts, a financial report from the union's trustees, area reports from Executive Board members, and updates from the Titled Officers.

The meeting was dedicated in honor of ILWU International Representative and Hawaii Longshore Division member Hopena Pokipala. Local 142 President Chris West described Hopena's impact on the union's work and called him an exceptional young man.

International President Bobby Olvera, Jr. recognized Local 13 President Gary Herrera, who welcomed everyone to San Pedro and the Local 13 offices.

### Recognizing a hero

First on the agenda was the Board's special recognition of Local 94 member Priscilla Appell for her heroism and quick thinking in providing life-saving assistance to a drowning victim at the 2025 ILWU Women's Conference (see the article in the October 2025 issue of the *Dispatcher*).

ILWU Education Director Robin Walker and President Olvera presented a certificate of recognition, signed by the Titled Officers, to Appell.

Appell thanked the Board for the recognition and described how the empowerment and energy from the conference, along with her extensive safety training as a foreman and



International Executive Board member Dan McKisson from Local 19 in Seattle, WA.

former lifeguard, gave her the confidence to act.

### Mainland organizing report

Organizing Director Ryan Dowling gave an extensive Mainland organizing report, including updates on regional International Organizing Committee meetings that bring together Executive Board members to identify targets and engage rank-and-file membership in organizing efforts across the West Coast and in Alaska.

The report also included updates on organizing efforts in the Columbia River, Puget Sound, Northern California, Southern California, the IBU, and Alaska.

Local 56 President Albert Ramirez was recognized to speak during the report. He thanked the Titled Officers, the International Organizing Department, and ILWU General

Counsel Lindsay Nicholas for their assistance in rebuilding the local and achieving significant contract gains in new collective bargaining agreements with their signatory contractors. Local 56 provides hazardous materials clean-up and spill prevention services. Ramirez said the new leadership at the local is committed to transparency, accountability, and organizing.

Assistant Organizing Director Jon Brier gave an update on the supply chain and logistics organizing campaign. He described how thousands of jobs have been moved away from the docks inland over the past few decades to places like the Kent Valley in Washington State and the Inland Empire in Southern California. He emphasized how organizing down the supply chain was about the fight for the ILWU's future, power, and jobs.

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### Statement of Policy Adopted at ILWU International Executive Board Meeting Dec 10-12, 2025

## ILWU Statement of Policy: The ILWU Versus Fascism

The December of 1945 issue of the *Dispatcher*, quoting the late President Philip Murray of the CIO, warned, "it is not impossible for fascist ideas to conquer America."<sup>1</sup> This warning came mere months after the end of World War II — a war that escalated across the world because of the rise of fascism in Europe.

The IEB heard reports on the union's legislative and organizing efforts, a financial report from the union's trustees, area reports from Executive Board members, and updates from the Titled Officers.

Those words written in December of 1945, warning us that fascist

ideas can not only come to America, but conquer it, have never been more true.

### What is Fascism

Fighting fascism is not new to the labor movement. Fascism is in direct opposition to labor and working people everywhere. A defining characteristic of fascism is that it is an authoritarian mass political movement centered on militant nationalism.<sup>2</sup> It stands in direct opposition to the values we hold as union members: democracy in action and the rights and freedoms of individual people. Instead, the interests of the nation (and the interests of big business) come first — not the people. It is authoritarian nationalism pushed to the extreme.

One of the most glaring examples of fascism is when Nazis came to power in Germany. The Nazis didn't immediately start by committing genocide. Nazis passed laws restricting jobs for "non-German" races and argued that money should not be spent on disabled people because they were a drain on society. Instead, they should be institutionalized and later eliminated. Nazi militias and leaders publicly flouted the law, because they knew they would not be held accountable. They encouraged voluntary self-deportation of Jews. Each one of these (and more) was another brick laid for the foundation of the concentration camps, which killed millions of people over the course of a decade. It didn't happen overnight — it took years of meticulous planning and cementing fascist power structures and authority

that enabled the Nazis rise to power so their plans could be carried out.

Most of the power of authoritarianism is freely given.<sup>3</sup> "Anticipatory obedience is a political strategy," says Timothy Snyder in his book *On Tyranny* — it's a strategic test to see what people are willing to compromise on and let slide in the name of "protecting the nation." By the time concentration camps were built, it was already too late. The power was cemented, and the only way to stop it was war.

### The Threat of Fascism is Already Here

History has lessons — and warnings. European democracies collapsed into right-wing authoritarianism and fascism in the early 1900s — and we are witnessing those same warning signals play out again in America right now.

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## DISPATCHER

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Communications Director

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Ryan Whitman, Vice President, Mainland  
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# In dark times, Labor Studies is looking bright

## Annual Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Awards honors labor scholars, activists

**O**n Sunday, November 9, the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington hosted its annual Awards Celebration, bringing together the labor community in Seattle and beyond to honor the achievements of faculty, students, and labor activists. Founded in 1992 by members and pensioners of the ILWU in memory of the union's late president, Harry Bridges, the Center has since grown to serve hundreds of faculty and students in the study of labor and working people's issues through classes, scholarships, internships, and research.

The evening began with a welcome by Moon-Ho Jung, Bridges Center Director, Harry Bridges Endowed Chair, and UW Professor of History. Jung's remarks were followed by a heartfelt tribute to Kent Wong, former director of the UCLA Labor Center and founding president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), who passed away this October. Former APALA President Ligaya Domingo, former Harry Bridges Chair Michael Honey, and Richard Gurtiza of the Inlandboatmen's Union Region 37 (retired) each spoke to Wong's legacy.

"The labor movement lost a great labor leader," said Gurtiza, "but the generation of workers who follow in his shadow will know and understand that Kent's aspirations, determination, and resolve will continue to be the foundation of a true and mighty labor movement."

Next, ILWU Vice President Ryan Whitman appeared via video message,

congratulating the scholarship recipients and acknowledging the work of the Bridges Center. "Thank you for your vital contributions to labor research, and for producing new generations of scholar activists dedicated to democratic unionism and uplifting all workers. With increased attacks on unions and threats to academic freedom by the federal government, the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies is more essential than ever," Whitman said. "Establishing the Harry Bridges Chair was a labor of love led by the members and pensioners of the ILWU. While most academic chairs were funded by millionaires and billionaires, the Bridges Chair was financed by working-class people to serve the interests of the working class. The Bridges Center is a source of pride and honor for our union. ILWU members and pensioners have continued to support the Center by establishing scholarship funds that honor ILWU leaders."

Whitman also recognized two of the evening's scholarship recipients, who are members of ILWU Local 19: Alison Steichen, recipient of the Kennedy-Drayton Scholarship, and Justin Hirsch, awarded the Frank Jenkins Jr. Fellowship. "Justin and Alison, I want to congratulate you both; you join a proud tradition of dockworker-scholars and working-class intellectuals who have contributed so much to the history, culture, and traditions of the ILWU."

The Kennedy-Drayton Scholarship, awarded to Steichen, honors Ian Kennedy and Michele Drayton, both former officials and rank-and-file members of Seattle's ILWU Local 52, who created this scholarship in 2018 to advance their deeply held commitment to education and organized labor. Steichen, a Seattle dockworker, union member, and student in Comparative



Local 19's Alison Steichen received this year's Kennedy-Drayton Scholarship from the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies. The scholarship, awarded to Steichen, is named in honor of Local 52 pensioners Ian Kennedy and Michele Drayton.

History of Ideas, Political Science, and Labor Studies is studying the human toll of port automation. She is also highlighting the voices and experiences of women through the Women on the Waterfront Oral History Project. This project includes a series of recorded and archived oral history interviews that engage directly with women who have worked on the docks, capturing their firsthand accounts of labor, gender, and solidarity within the ILWU. In addition to Steichen, the Kennedy-Drayton Scholarship was also awarded to Emily Gonzalez Garcia, an incoming first-year student in Law, Societies, and Justice; and Rowan Herbst Minino, a budding journalist and Public Interest Communications student.

The Frank Jenkins Jr. Fellowship, awarded to Local 19's Justin Hirsch, honors the legacy of Frank Jenkins Jr., an early leader in Local 19, a lifelong civil rights and union rights activist, and one of Seattle's first Black and Filipino longshoremen. Hirsch, a rank-and-file longshoreman and graduate student in Marine Affairs and International Studies, is researching the impact of labor, immigration, fisheries policy, and ecosystem change on Pacific Coast migrant tuna fishers. He aims to facilitate an understanding of how these policies affect the lived experience of migrant fishers in the North Pacific albacore fishery, identify aspects of the policy landscape that create avenues for exploitation, and make policy prescriptions to improve the lives of migrant fishers.

Additional scholarships honor the memory of past ILWU leaders. The Martin and Anne Jugum Scholarship, established in 1997, honors the late Local 19 leader Martin Jugum. Jugum and his

wife, Anne. This year, three undergraduate students received the award:

Cyril Jonathan Clement, a Medical Anthropology and Environmental Studies student working to help immigrants navigate the convoluted U.S. healthcare system; Zeke Cohn, a Civil Engineering student and local labor activist; and Nadir Tokombayev, a Bioengineering student developing accessible health technology.

The Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes Scholarship honors two inspiring Filipino labor leaders from Seattle who advocated for union democracy. Working alongside Filipino cannery workers in ILWU Local 37 (now part of the Inlandboatmen's Union) and supporting resistance to Ferdinand Marcos's dictatorship in the Philippines, they were murdered in 1981 by agents of the Marcos regime. This year's scholarship recipients are: Rachael Benson, a graduate Social Work student committed to social justice and expanding her capacity to address the systemic, interconnected issues that perpetuate injustices through policy advocacy; and Johnny Nguyen, a Nursing Science PhD student dedicated to creating safer working conditions for immigrant workers and small businesses through his studies.

Another award, the Gundlach Scholarship, was created in honor of siblings Jean Gundlach, an ILWU secretary and labor activist, and Ralph Gundlach, a former UW Professor. This award was presented to Gioia Robinson, a PhD student in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, whose passion for labor and social justice issues stems from her experience studying abroad in Polynesia, where she witnessed the effects of French nuclear weapons testing on Tahitian communities.

In addition to scholarships, research grants were awarded to UW graduate students and faculty who are investigating labor issues. Topics ranged from global perspectives, such as "It Takes A Village: The Human Rights Activism of Mothers Under the Philippine Drug War" and "Assessing Gender-Based Violence and Mental Health Among

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Local 19 member Justin Hirsch received the Frank Jenkins Jr. Fellowship, named after Frank Jenkins Jr., an early leader in Local 19 and a civil and labor rights activist.



ILWU members and pensioners had a large turnout again this year for the annual Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Awards.

# ILWU's Feed the Community Day feeds 1,500 harbor families for Thanksgiving

**Volunteers dedicate a day to the memory of Local 13 member and committee volunteer Zoila Cama**

ILWU members in Southern California celebrated their annual Feed the Community Day by supporting local families with Thanksgiving meals, including turkeys and all the fixings. The event was sponsored and staffed by volunteers from Locals 13, 26, 56, 63, 94, the Inlandboatmen's Union, the So Cal Pensioners, Auxiliary 8, and the ILWU Credit Union. Thanks to the generous contributions of ILWU members, the event provided dinners for 1,500 families in the harbor area.

The Local 13 Holiday Committee collaborates with several local community groups and churches to screen families in advance, ensuring that meals reach those who are truly in need. The event requires months of planning and coordination by Local 13 volunteers. This year's Feed the Community Day was dedicated to the memory of Local 13 member and committee volunteer Zoila Cama. Committee members wore polo shirts in her favorite color with her name and registration number embroidered on the sleeve.

Preparations began early on November 25 at the Longshoremen's Memorial Hall in Wilmington. A refrigerated container loaded with 1,500 turkeys was positioned outside, ready for unloading. By 8 a.m., volunteers started setting up tables, organizing food, and assembling hundreds of bags for families, with distributions beginning at 11 a.m.

## Humble beginnings

Local 94 member Mike Ponce was one of the founders of Feed the Community Day in 1997, when he was an ID at Local 13. Ponce and others started the "Yes We Can Committee" to give back to the community, beginning with a backpack and school supply

giveaway for harbor-area youth. They organized the first Feed the Community Day with the modest goal of giving away 50 turkeys, but the idea quickly gained momentum, and they ended up distributing 500 turkeys and baskets with dinner supplies during that first year.

## Volunteer Voices

This year, more than 500 ILWU volunteers, including family members, helped distribute food to the community, according to Steve Roldan, Committee Vice President. Roldan, who has been volunteering at the event for over two decades, attended despite having recently recovered from surgery.

"My father and my uncles worked down here on the docks. They all knew Harry Bridges. They always gave back to people, especially during the Depression when things were really bad. I was raised that way. When you have enough, help somebody else out."

Roldan explained that volunteering has always been part of his life. While serving in the Navy, he used his training in the performing arts to volunteer for USO shows. "I just volunteered for stuff. That really was my passion. And so once I became a casual and heard about this committee, I joined. Here I am, still doing it after 20-something years later."

This year's volunteers included the Banning High School baseball team. Several Watchmen from Local 26 took the day off to volunteer, ensuring the day was smooth and orderly. Antonio P. Jones—also known on the docks as "Sargent Jonsie"—was among the Local 26 members volunteering their time for the Feed the Community Day; he has been volunteering for more than a decade. Another Local 26 Watchman, Max Quitasol, was also volunteering. He has been doing security at the event every year since he joined Local 26 twenty years ago.



Volunteering at the annual Feed the Community Day is a family tradition with generations of ILWU members and their families giving back to the harbor community.

Local 94 pensioner Rusty Monroy has been retired for 13 years after a 34-year career on the waterfront, but is still a frequent volunteer at the Feed the Community Day event, the Christmas for Kids event, and other union events. "This union is so great. It was great for me, and it's been great for the community. I just want to continue to be a part of it," he said.

munity, and I am a big proponent of giving back. I think it's important to come out and do what you can to support our neighbors. Volunteering has always been a part of my life. Now that my kids are grown, I have the time to volunteer with the union."

**"Because you are providing, you are about to be a blessing to all of them. Don't let the work that you're doing be lost. It's not small. It's big. People will have food this Thanksgiving because of the members of the ILWU who are making it possible."**

**— CA Assemblymember Mike Gipson**

Local 13's Robin Gregg, who has been a part of the Holiday Committee for the past three years, said, "We are very blessed to be a part of the com-

## Blessings

Before distributing the dinners, volunteers gathered together outside of the Memorial Hall. Local 13 Secretary-Treasurer Jesse Lopez led the blessing of the food and heard from several speakers.

Local 13 President Gary Herrera expressed his gratitude to the volunteers for their dedication to supporting the community. "This is what true giving back is. It doesn't require getting paid to do this."

It's about giving somebody an opportunity to have what we have, and that's family, food, and time to break bread with your loved ones," Herrera said.

Among the elected officials at the event were Los Angeles City Councilmember Tim McOsker and State Assemblymember Mike Gipson.

McOsker recognized ILWU members for their professionalism and efficiency in moving goods and their dedication to uplifting the community. "You are the best at what you do, and that is moving goods safely and efficiently and risking your lives doing it," McOsker said. "But what I know as a kid growing up in this commu-



Hundreds of volunteers came out to make the Feed the Community Day event a success this year. ILWU members, pensioners, Auxiliary, and family were joined by community members including the Banning High baseball team.

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nity is that that's not all what you're great at. There's nobody like the ILWU that leans in harder on community, whether it's decades of doing the Feed the Community Day or just all of the things that you do to coach our kids and take care of our community and participate in this harbor area."

Assemblymember Gipson expressed gratitude to the ILWU for providing vital food during a difficult November, ensuring struggling families will be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

"The food we're about to give out is the food that will be on the table in a few days. And the ILWU is responsible

for that. If it weren't for the ILWU, they would go hungry," Gipson said. "And because you are providing, you are about to be a blessing to all of them. Don't let the work that you're doing be lost. It's not small. It's big. People will have food this Thanksgiving because of the members of the ILWU who are making it possible."

Steve Roldan said he was thankful for the opportunity to serve the community and looks forward to the event every year.

"Thanksgiving dinner always tastes better knowing that I did something to give back to my community," he said.



Local 94 pensioner Rusty Monroy

## Longshore Division Administrator Diana Gomez retires

Coast Longshore Division Administrator Diana Gomez is retiring at the end of December. Diana began her career with the Longshore Division in 1998, but has been connected to the ILWU her entire life. Her father was a longshore worker from Local 54 in Stockton, CA, who later transferred to Local 13.

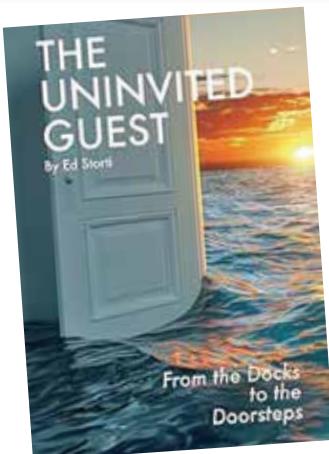
In an interview with the Dispatcher, Diana reflected on her long career and her service to the union. "I really enjoyed working the Longshore Division caucuses, because all the people that I got to meet—the longshoremen, the members, and all the delegates. They were always welcoming, understanding, and helpful. And I'm really going to miss them, all of them." She added, "I take pride in my work,

and I take pride that I was a part of this union from childhood. I had all the benefits that the ILWU provided. To this day, and into retirement, I still benefit from it. I love the ILWU; it's family."

Thank you, Diana, for all you have done for the membership. We wish you a long and happy retirement.



### BOOK REVIEW



Former Local 13 member Ed Storti is an expert at helping people deal with alcohol and drug addiction. He has worked in his field of choice continuously since leaving the waterfront 50 years ago. Along the way, Storti wrote books in 1988 and 1995 about the pioneering methods of intervention he perfected in his practice.

Now he has published a captivating memoir, *The Uninvited Guest: From the Docks to the Doorsteps*, about his own life and his long career as a practitioner. The book features

## Local 13 veteran Ed Storti's new memoir about his life in alcohol crisis intervention

two major themes that run concurrently. First, Storti chronicles his own struggles from trauma and alcohol addiction early in life to sobriety and confidence in later years. Second, he traces the evolution and development of the "Storti Model" of treatment, also known as the "Storti Method of Intervention." All of this is communicated free of technical jargon. The book, while highly instructive about its topic, is written in straightforward, easy-to-read language.

Storti was born in San Pedro, California. He worked on the Southern California waterfront from 1963 to 1974. The son of a longshoreman, Storti labored hard in the pre-container era, rolling 300-pound bales of cotton and transferring maggot-infested cowhides to pallets. He also drank too much and became an alcoholic. In 1974, when Storti was 32, he suffered a severe injury in an accident while discharging steel beams from the Tokai Maru, a Japanese ship anchored in the Long Beach Harbor. A huge beam shifted loose from its

bundle, hit his hard hat, and slid onto his left leg with crushing force. Storti recalled the pain in his leg as "excruciating." It took him two years of surgeries and physical therapy to recover.

That experience changed his life. Storti, who had started taking college classes shortly before the accident, left the waterfront, volunteered and then landed jobs in rehab programs, and collected degrees in psychology and sociology. Before long he entered an Alcoholics Anonymous program, stopped drinking, and overcame haunting issues from his earlier life, including the suicide of his grandfather, his debilitating lack of confidence as a young man, and his humiliation at being detained by a policeman on San Pedro's Vincent Thomas Bridge for driving under the influence.

Ultimately, Storti hit upon the idea that crisis intervention involving family members might convince addicts to agree to institutional treatment. He frequently visited an addict's home

unannounced. Hence the title of his memoir. He usually arranged for family members to be there to lend support. Storti emphasized positive reinforcement. He discouraged shaming and finger pointing. His approach generally worked. It attracted a significant following. In the 1980s, he opened his own ARS, or Alcohol Recovery Services, practice. The Uninvited Guest is rich with descriptions of Storti's many experiences helping people in San Pedro and the South Bay region opt for treatment, recover, and see immense improvement in their lives.

As many readers of The Dispatcher know, the ILWU has long sponsored its own highly regarded Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program. For supplemental reading, or just for an education about a significant public issue presented in an accessible package, take a look at Storti's memoir. You'll find it at once engaging and informative.

— Harvey Schwartz, Curator,  
ILWU Oral History Collection



### ADRP Volunteer training

Local 10 hosted a training for Alcohol Drug and Rehab Program volunteer coordinators. The volunteers provide valuable assistance to the ADRP Area Coordinator in connecting members to services and assistance for recovery. In the photo are: (Top, left to right): Stanley Scott Jr, Eric Sanchez, Norman McLeod, Ernie Aguayo. (Bottom left to right): James Curtis, ADRP Northern California Coordinator Hunny Powell, Lee Brainstetter, John Budes, Eric Linker, Anthony Golden.

# Rebuilding the union at Bio-Rad

## Workers at Bay Area biotech company fighting for new contract, new direction

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After the negotiations, Hunter and Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer Jose Nunez came up with a plan. "We set up a meeting with the International to see if we could get some assistance from the International Organizing Department to make a push to build worker power here and turn this into a real union shop," said Hunter.

Hunter added that they received a surprisingly warm reception when they began the internal organizing campaign at Bio-Rad.

"When we first started, we expected people to be much more upset because the union hadn't had a strong presence here for decades, but people have been receptive. It definitely helps that Bio-Rad's wages are at the bottom of the barrel, so I think workers were already frustrated with conditions," he said. "There's been a real push by the company toward efficiency, and people are getting a lot more pressure to increase productivity without any pay increase. We came along at a good time, and that gave workers an opportunity to channel their discontent into union organizing."

Local 6 is prioritizing winning significant gains in the contract, not convincing workers to join the union. "We need to prove the value of the union to these workers. After not having a strong presence here for so long, we want to deliver significant improvement in the contract to show workers why it's worth signing up to defend that," explained Hunter.

In addition to negotiating the new contract, an additional group of approximately 30 facility techs is organizing to join Local 6. An NLRB representational election was held on December 16. The company engaged in an intensive union-busting effort, hiring a third party 'union-avoidance' consultant to scare workers out of joining the union. Despite the union busting efforts, workers stayed strong and voted 15 to 11 to join the union. While there are contested ballots that need to be resolved before the result is official, Northern California ILWU Organizer Evan McLaughlin is confident that the final result will show the union has won.

Alvin Lester is the senior member of the negotiating committee. He has worked at Bio-Rad for nearly 25 years. He is the Local 6 Chief Steward and one of the few dues-paying union members. He said efforts to rebuild the union's strength will give workers more power at the bargaining table.

"Revitalizing the union is important because it gives us a stronger position to negotiate a contract. If our numbers and strength are increasing, management might not like us, but they will have to respect us," said Lester.

Negotiating Committee member Kayla Hardcastle has worked at Bio-Rad for 10 years. When she first started, she wasn't aware that there was a union at the company. She only found out about it three years into her employment.

Kayla said the organizing efforts have empowered her to become more outspoken, and she now has frequent discussions with colleagues about their shared concerns, such as wages and safety.

"Everybody's looking forward to a livable wage," she said. "It's going to take all of us standing together to get what we deserve."



Bio-Rad's rank-and-file negotiating committee members and Local 6 business agents:  
From Left to right: Carlos Rios, Alvin Lester, Melody Resendiz, Don Luckey, Local 6  
Business Agent Joseph Hunter, Kayla Hardcastle, Tyler Hansis, and  
Local 6 Business Agent Pedro de Sá.

### Statement of Policy Adopted at ILWU International Executive Board Meeting Dec 10-12, 2025

## ILWU Statement of Policy: The ILWU Versus Fascism

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**"Fighting fascism is not new to the labor movement. Fascism is in direct opposition to labor and working people everywhere."**

The current administration is openly pushing to "resurrect a deeply flawed past: institutionalization."<sup>4</sup> A critical component of this fight is the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program — a vital safeguard that has been in place since 1986, protecting people receiving mental health services by providing oversight of abuse in psychiatric settings and to prevent private institutions from falsifying documentation to involuntarily commit people. RFK Jr., with the full backing of the current administration, is moving toward forced confinement of people with psychiatric disabilities.<sup>5</sup> A leaked internal budget document reveals that alongside this call for mass institutionalization, part of RFK Jr.'s plan is to slash funding and eliminate the Protection and Advocacy systems altogether.<sup>6</sup>

President Trump campaigned on the promise to pardon those who were

convicted and charged with crimes for the Capitol Riot on January 6, 2021.<sup>7</sup> And on the first day of Trump's second term in office, he carried through on that promise,<sup>8</sup> erasing the justice we had received for those who attacked our nation's capitol and attempted a coup. The message of this pardon was clear: that the attempted fascist takeover was acceptable and approved of by this administration. "When the men with guns who have always claimed to be against the system start wearing uniforms and marching with torches and pictures of a leader, the end is nigh."<sup>9</sup>

In May, the Department of Homeland Security, under the direction of Secretary Kristi Noem, announced a voluntary deportation program to further deport "illegal aliens," offering financial incentives to persuade migrants to leave the United States.<sup>10</sup> Yet recent reports say that it's esti-

mated that "as many as 1,100 people of out 1,852 arrested in the Chicago area may have already been deported without due process or left the United States via voluntary departure in order to avoid prolonged stays in inhumane immigration detention centers."<sup>11</sup> Can it be called voluntary deportation if the only alternatives are living in fear, facing indefinite abuse in a domestic detention, or being deported to an unfamiliar country — sometimes to only end up imprisoned there?

These are not isolated events separate from each other. And they are not the only events that are taking place under our watch. They are all part of a strategic and coordinated effort to usher in a fascist regime — and we must stand against it. We must, as working people, as a labor movement, condemn these actions and name them for what they are: fascist.

Senator Jeff Merkley warns, "What people need to understand is countries don't lose their democracies because men with guns storm the Capitol in this modern age. It happens primarily because you have a president who starts to erode the checks and balances, and the separation of power. We have all three features of an authoritarian government: a rubber stamp Congress,

a Supreme Court handing more power to the president, and an authoritarian president."<sup>12</sup>

**"History Doesn't Repeat Itself, But It Often Rhymes"**

Over the 90+ years of the history of the ILWU, we have condemned fascism in all forms. The very soul of the ILWU is that of fighting racism, fascism, and authoritarianism. We condemned Apartheid in the 1980s and refused to load cargo from South African products. Echoing 90 years later, the warning printed in the ILWU *Dispatcher* all those years ago rings crystal clear: fascism can come to America. That moment has come. We must remain vigilant in the fight to confront, denounce, and dismantle fascism in all forms wherever it tries to gain a foothold. Fascism is antithetical to the ILWU's Constitution and the Guiding Principles of our Union and to working class people across America. We must protect our democracy and we call upon everyone in the labor movement to join us in condemning the rise of fascism and commit to ending it in all forms. While apathy can be fatal, courage is contagious: when we fight, we win.



Scan to read the  
Statement of Policy  
online

<sup>4</sup> <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/5308194-mental-health-policy-coercion-funding/>  
<sup>5</sup> <https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/5308194-mental-health-policy-coercion-funding/>  
<sup>6</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/04/16/hhs-budget-cut-trump/?next\\_url=https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/04/16/hhs-budget-cut-trump/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/04/16/hhs-budget-cut-trump/?next_url=https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/04/16/hhs-budget-cut-trump/)  
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/05/nx-s1-5200594/jan-6-attack-capitol-riot-victims-violence>  
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/g-s1-36809/trump-pardons-january-6-riot>  
<sup>9</sup> *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder  
<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/05/05/dhs-announces-historic-travel-assistance-and-stipend-voluntary-self-deportation>  
<sup>11</sup> <https://www.jurist.org/news/2025/11/us-federal-judge-orders-release-of-hundreds-of-immigrants-from-ice-detention/>  
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/10/23/oregon-senator-merkley-historical-long-speech-senate-floor-protest-trump/>

# Bruce Krieger, May 26, 1930 – September 20, 2025



**B**ruce Krieger, former Health Benefits Officer for Local 13, passed away peacefully on September 20, 2025, at the age of 95.

Bruce Krieger was a highly respected figure in the ILWU and throughout the Los Angeles/Long Beach harbor area for decades. He was a dedicated union member known for his compassion, commitment, and service to the local members. He will be remembered as the man who always went the extra mile to help anyone he could. Bruce was the longest-serving Health Benefits Officer in Local 13, serving the membership for 33 years. In 2021, the Local 13 Welfare Office was renamed "The Bruce Krieger Health Benefits Office" in his honor.

Bruce was born to David and Patricia Krieger on May 26, 1930, in Aberdeen, WA. The family moved nine months later to Wilmington, CA, because there were more work opportunities for longshoremen at the Los Angeles ports. The Krieger family established lifelong roots in Wilmington and became active in the community. Bruce's father was active in the union and labor movements and participated in the 1934 strike. Bruce's sense of community was instilled in him early, watching his parents' involvement in the harbor area. His dad also served as a neighborhood watch captain after Pearl Harbor.

Bruce spent his early years playing sports at Banning Park, where he made many friends and formed lifelong friendships. They called themselves the "Gophers." He attended Fries Ave. and was a proud graduate of Banning High School, where he played basketball, baseball, and was a kicker on the football team.

After graduating in 1948, he joined the US Merchant Marines to serve his country and see the world for a year. He visited ports in the Middle East and Korea, returning a year later to marry the girl he fell in love with at age 13, Eula Faye Riggs (Faye). They began their married life on December 11,

1949; Bruce was 18 and Faye 17. Their 63-year marriage ended when Faye passed away on June 28, 2013.

Bruce started working on the docks while also working at the Borax plant in Wilmington for two years, in 1950 and 1951. During that time, he only took banana jobs until he was initiated into the union on December 5, 1951, following in his father's footsteps. To learn and understand the union better, he served on every committee and the Executive Board, fulfilling time on the "Hold Board" for 5–6 years and the "Dock Board" for 4–5 years, driving wchenes.

In September 1961, he ran and was elected one of the two Welfare Officers for Local 13. He attended funerals and worked with doctors advocating for members. He loved his work and, after a few years in office, knew he had found his purpose in helping his union siblings. Members of Local #13 also recognized this was a good fit and re-elected him 33 times.

As Welfare Officer, Bruce worked tirelessly every day to support his union members and their families. Even after his retirement, his loyalty and dedication were honored by renaming the Welfare Office "The Bruce Krieger Health Benefits Office."

Bruce's parents taught him the importance of community service, and he carried those values throughout his life. In the 1960s, he joined the Wilmington Jr. Chamber of Commerce to improve relations between the community and unions. In the 1970s, he served on the Advisory Board of the Alcoholism Council of Greater Long Beach. In 1980, he joined the San Pedro Hospital's advisory board for alcohol and drug recovery programs. During the 1990s, he served on the San Pedro and Peninsula Hospital Foundation Board of Directors.

Bruce retired from the ILWU in 1996 at age 66, after 45 years of service. Even in retirement, he continued to serve the union by mentoring newly elected Health Benefits Officers and future leaders.

He is survived by two daughters, Lorelei and Paula; sister-in-law, Ava; three grandchildren, Brett, Alison, and Brady; and one great-grandson, Anthony Bruce Garcia. A Celebration of Life was held on December 5 at the ILWU Memorial Hall in Wilmington. It was attended by hundreds of friends, family, and ILWU members and pensioners whose lives were deeply impacted by Bruce and his generous, caring spirit.

## International Executive Board meets in San Pedro

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### Hawaii Report

ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Brandon Wolff delivered the Hawaii organizing report and discussed the organizational approach used there, highlighting the importance of strong leadership, safeguarding the interests of current members, avoiding division, and increasing membership.

Operations Director Brenson Wailehua provided an update on legislative efforts related to issues such as the minimum wage, addressing Hawaii's housing crisis, and protecting the Jones Act.

### Washington, DC legislative report

Senior Policy Advisor Alexa Jurczak delivered the legislative report, highlighting key policy issues affecting ILWU members. Jurczak said that the Trump Administration continues to prioritize AI deployment. She noted the successful efforts of the ILWU in defeating attempts to insert a provision into two pieces of legislation that would have prevented states from regulating AI for 10 years. The ILWU issued a call to action that mobilized members and pensioners, helped defeat the AI moratorium provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act this past summer, and again blocked a similar provision from being included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Jurczak also stated that efforts to protect anti-automation provisions in the NDAA were also successful.

The report also noted that Affordable Care Act subsidies are set to expire at the end of the year. The recent government shutdown resulted from a

fight by Senate Democrats to include an extension of ACA subsidies in the government funding bill. Congress's failure to pass the ACA subsidy extension will lead to premium increases becoming unaffordable for many working-class families, and millions of people are expected to lose healthcare coverage, raising healthcare costs for everyone.

Jurczak also highlighted potential cuts to Medicare. The administration's One Big Beautiful Bill Act significantly increases the deficit, which may trigger automatic \$45 billion in Medicare cuts unless Congress passes legislation to raise the debt ceiling next year.

On Friday, the Board heard a report back from Joulene Parent of ILWU Canada's Local 500 about the Maritime Union of Australia First Nations Maritime Workers Conference, held from July 22–24. (See the September 2025 issue of the Dispatcher.) Parent attended the conference as part of the ILWU delegation, led by Vice President Brandon Wolff, which included members of the Hawaii Longshore Division. The conference brought together 100 Indigenous unionists and allies from Chile, Hawaii, Canada, the U.S. Mainland, New Zealand, and across Australia. "The delegates gathered to share lived experiences of colonization, economic exclusion, workplace racism, and political resistance—reinforcing global solidarity in the fight for Indigenous rights and worker justice," Parent said.

### President's Report

In his report, President Olvera reflected on the past year and the Board's changes and accomplishments. He noted that the International Depart-

ments and IEB subcommittees are on track and ahead of schedule for the year plan. "I could not be more proud of every one of you, including our staff; I am going to ask for more from you because we've got work to do."

Referencing Joulene's Parent's presentation, Olvera also emphasized the need for the union to commit to Indigenous partnerships, including dedicating resources to fostering strong relationships. "We have to have a global plan about how we develop a true relationship with the First Nations, not just when jobs are not at stake," he said.

### The ILWU Versus Fascism

The Executive Board unanimously adopted a Statement of Policy titled "The ILWU Versus Fascism." The statement highlights the union's long-standing fight against fascism, emphasizes that democratic, working-class unionism is incompatible with fascism, and underscores the moral obligation to uphold the union's anti-fascist legacy.

The statement cites the Nazi rise to power to show how fascist power structures develop gradually and intentionally. It lists early Nazi policies, including restrictions on 'non-German' workers, the devaluation and persecution of disabled people, and the forced emigration of Jewish Germans, to illustrate how these measures paved the way for even more horrific policies of violence and extermination. The statement stresses the need to remain vigilant against the threats posed by fascism, racism, and authoritarianism, and urges the labor movement to join the ILWU in condemning the rise of fascism and commit to ending it in all



**International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris (left) and International President Bobby Olvera, Jr.**

forms. Read the full text of the statement starting on page 2.

Other decisions by the Board include approval of a \$5,000 donation to the Port of West Sacramento Community Alliance to support their work protecting the Port of West Sacramento. The Board also approved \$3,000 a month for 12 months to support the Southern California IBU's ongoing efforts to protect their work and jurisdiction in the ports of LA and Long Beach; the Hawaii Longshore Division pledged an additional \$14,000 to support the IBU. The Board approved a \$2,000 donation to Starbucks Workers United to support the ongoing strike by workers; Local 63 OCU pledged an additional \$500.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Maritime Union of Australia veteran Glen Wood after the Board learned of his passing.

The next Executive Board will meet in Honolulu in April of 2026.

# In dark times, Labor Studies is looking bright

## Annual Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Awards honors labor scholars, activists

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U.S. Mariners", to more localized and policy-focused research like "Labor Issues of Chinese Migrant Massage Parlor Workers in King County".

Each year, the Harry Bridges Center honors working people and the labor movement by awarding two distinguished acknowledgments: the Robert H. Duggan Distinguished Supporter of Labor Studies Award and the Distinguished Labor Studies Alumni Award. Named after labor lawyer and former longshore worker Robert H. Duggan, who championed the creation of the Bridges Center, the Duggan Award was presented by longtime IBU leader and Bridges Center Visiting Committee member, Terri Mast, to Emily Van Bronkhorst. Van Bronkhorst has been a member of the Visiting Committee for over seventeen years and is a lifelong labor organizer involved with LELO, ILWU Local 9, ILWU Region 37, and SEIU Healthcare 1199NW. Shaun Scott, house representative of Washington State Legislative District 43 and a UW alum, presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to Corina Yballa, a 2018 Labor Studies graduate and Political Director of MLK Labor, AFL-CIO.

Throughout the evening, speakers took to the stage to share their experiences as labor leaders in the current times. Carolyn McConnell and Stephanie Hung, two federal workers and union members of the Federal Unionists Network (FUN), spoke about organizing federal workers within the current administration. "I joined FUN in January 2025, and that was when I met tonight's speaker, Stephanie Hung. With Stephanie and other fired-up federal employees here in Seattle, we began our resistance—organizing rallies in the Spring that drew thousands. We even took to the streets and picketed our

workplace, the U.S. Federal building downtown in June, to protest ICE having turned our workplace into a place of terror," McConnell said. "Stephanie Hung is a leader in this resistance, both here in Seattle and nationally as part of the FUN. She is a federal worker and a proud union member of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Her work as a public servant helps keep our drinking water safe, and she witnesses firsthand how essential public services are to communities."

As a longtime organizer and president of SEIU 6, keynote speaker Zenia Javalera rose to leadership by organizing alongside janitors who fight for fair workloads and an end to worker exploitation. "We're part of the powerful, multi-racial working class. I know that the people in this room already know union jobs change lives, but there is so much more to it," said Javalera, "There are workers out there who have a spark who are going to fight back, no matter what. Capitalism is not going to reward that, but your union is going to put a spotlight on that. Your union will make sure you know you have a voice and that your power can grow. Your union will invest in that spark, and when we do that... that is when real transformation happens."

Professor Jung closed out the celebration with some parting words of hope, "...And so with collective creativity, critical knowledge, and a strong labor movement, we can and we will figure out how to advance [those] struggles; through, against, and beyond our current fascist moment."

— April Rubio,  
Communications Coordinator  
for the Harry Bridges Center  
for Labor Studies

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 4:** Spencer Darrel; **Local 8:** Larry R. Fast; **Local 10:** David A. Douglas; Robert M. Gonzales; Dana A. Harvey; Raul Rodriguez; George Ware; **Local 13:** Dennis M. Ambrosino; Raymond Barragan; Andy G. Bosnich; Alejandro Chavez; Joe Cromosini; Peter M. Gaglio; Antonio I. Grizzell; Gilles Grskovic; Alicia Lavea; Daniel R. Mc Eleney; Anthony Mitchell; Shirley Nguyen; Alexander P. Palumbo; Wesley R. Pigram; Dan A. Schultz; Roberto Valdez; **Local 19:** Raymond A. Kimber; John K. Krasucki; Ronald L. Manwell; Kenneth E. Roll; Alison H. Steichen; **Local 21:** John M. Brent; **Local 23:** James A. Collins; Peter K. Gutekunst; Michael W. Hillin; Michael L. Neff; Christopher R. Otto; Robert Rountree; **Local 29:** Orlando Alvarez; **Local 34:** Stephen D. Griffen; **Local 47:** Kirsten L. Williamson; **Local 63:** Terrence S. Bowman; Ranae E. Gomez; Frank S. Matura; Corinne M. Mendez; Debra L. Paiz; Yvonne M. Valdez; George E. Williams, Jr.; **Local 63 OCU:** Anna Williams; **Local 94:** Richard Negrete, Jr.; Henry Ruelas, Jr.; **Local 98:** Richard J. Ivelia;

### DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

**Local 10:** Eric C. Villeggiante; **Local 13:** Rich J. Linares; **Local 34:** Darrell L. Oliver; **DECEASED PENSIONERS:** **Local 8:** William E. Wear; Karen R. Young-Lugo; **Local 10:** Royal Clark; Gus P. Giacalone; Louis Navarro; **Local 13:** Andrew W. Lampkin; **Local 21:** Arthur G. Wines; **Local 23:** Billie G. Wheeler; **Local 32:** John N. Soriano; **Local 54:** Joe A. Valles Jr; **Local 63:** Rocky R. Garibay; Albert O. Glover; Toni I. Martinez; **Local 91:** Robert M. Johnson, Jr.; **Local 94:** Henry Sedillos, Jr.; **DECEASED SURVIVORS:** **Local 10:** Myrtis G. Anderson; Shirley Mc Knight; **Local 13:** Willie Mae Brown; Linda Canaday; Mary Fiamengo; Joyce M. Hamilton; **Local 19:** Vivian Arthur; **Local 26:** Esther Tejeda; **Local 34:** Margaret A. Faktor; **Local 52:** Doris H. O'Donnell; **Local 63:** Albert O. Glover; **Local 91:** Jeanette Cellini; Adelina M. Espinoza; **Local 94:** Benita C. Piro;

## A Helping Hand...

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

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Happy Holidays and  
a Safe and Very  
Happy New Year

Bobby Olvera, Jr., International President  
Ryan Whitman, International Vice President  
Brandon Wolff, International Vice President  
Ed Ferris, ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer  
Frank Ponce De Leon, Coast Commiteeman  
Cam Williams, Coast Commiteeman