



THE DISPATCHER

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

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ILWU holiday toy drives [page 7-8](#)



Photo by Zack Pattin, Local 23

ILWU members from Locals 19, 22, 23, and 98 attended the unveiling of the street named in honor of ILWU President Emeritus Willie Adams. "Willie Adams Way" is the new honorary name for the street leading into the Local 23 hall. In the photo on the left (from left to right) are: President Emeritus Willie Adams, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, and Local 23 President Jared Faker.

Tacoma names street in honor of ILWU President Emeritus Willie Adams

ILWU members and pensioners, city officials, and community supporters gathered in Tacoma on December 5 to observe the unveiling of a new street sign in honor of ILWU President Emeritus Willie Adams. Outgoing Mayor of Tacoma, Victoria Woodards, had the honor of presenting the sign as one of her final acts in office.

Mayor Woodards spoke about her relationship to Brother Adams and his significance to the entire labor movement, Port Commissioner John McCarthy said a few words, as did ILWU Local 23 President Jared Faker, and of course Brother Adams himself. Members of ILWU Locals 19, 22, 23, and 98 were in attendance, including a few who made registration with Brother Adams in 1980.

"Willie Adams Way" — the new honorary name for the street in front of ILWU Local 23's hiring hall — was a long time coming. Local 23 President Jared Faker pitched the idea in early 2024 leading up to Brother Adams' retirement in 2024. Local 23's delegation wanted to give him something that would last and leave its mark in Tacoma.

Navigating all the red tape and different agencies took much longer than expected though. (The street itself is the dividing line between the two cities, with the credit union in Tacoma and the hall in Fife.) By December 2025, Tacoma City Council was ready to read the motion into the record and unveil the new street name.

Brother Adams retired in 2024 following the last convention in Vancouver, BC after two terms as ILWU

International President. The first Black worker to serve in the position, he previously served five terms as International Secretary-Treasurer and one term on the ILWU International Executive Board, where he also served as a Trustee.

Prior to his time in office, he made a name for himself through the incredible Black Labor and Social History events he organized with fellow Tacoma longshoreman Mike Chambers, bringing major figures to Tacoma including Danny Glover, Paul Robeson, Jr., Yolanda King, Chuck D, and Betty Shabazz.

Local 23's building still has the same mailing address at 1306 Alexander Ave E. But from now on, every day that Tacoma's longshore workers go to the hiring hall to select their jobs, they'll be taking Willie Adams Way to get there.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



MESSAGE FROM THE TITLED OFFICERS

Announcing the ILWU Political Action Sustainer Program

Happy New Year, brothers, sisters, and fellow workers.

This November, every citizen of the United States will have the opportunity and duty to participate in our democracy by casting their ballots and making their voice heard in the federal midterm elections.

The results of these elections will decide who will represent our communities, families, and union interests in Washington, DC, and which policies will be enacted over the next two years.

Make no mistake, the policies that protect our jobs today and in the future are on the ballot, so we must vote.

But voting isn't the only thing that matters in politics.

That's why we are asking for your help.

This month, we are launching the ILWU Political Action Sustainer Program.

This program is designed to encourage members of the ILWU family to make recurring donations to the ILWU Political Action Fund.

The ILWU's Political Action Fund is supported solely through voluntary contributions from U.S. ILWU members and pensioners. With your support, the ILWU can support candidates who stand up for issues that matter most to working people: keeping our jobs and our right to unionize, securing healthcare for our families, addressing our nation's affordability crisis, and maintaining dignity in retirement.

The poster on page three of this issue gives you details about how to make your voluntary political donation to the ILWU Political Action Fund.

Now more than ever, we need to support candidates committed to fighting for working people in

Washington and advocating for workers in our hometowns.

The ILWU Political program isn't about blindly supporting specific political parties or politicians.

It's about promoting POLICIES that protect the interests of the ILWU membership in every industry, region, division, and local of our great union. Now more than ever, we must support candidates who will FIGHT for those policies.

This program is a grassroots effort, led by the Legislative and Political Action committees comprised of rank-and-file members from across the ILWU.

These volunteers have worked tirelessly, and the officers are extremely grateful for their commitment to the ILWU. We are excited to see what we can accomplish together.

As an ILWU member, you have the ability to make financial contributions to the ILWU Political

Action Fund and participate locally with your union family through rallies, phone banks, and precinct walks.

More updates will be coming in the weeks and months ahead. We will share videos and brief messages on our social media about the importance of getting involved. *The Dispatcher* will continue to post regular updates on our political program in Washington, defending our union, membership, and the labor movement, and highlighting key issues we're tracking.

As Harry Bridges, the founder of our union, said, "There is a weapon we can fight with. That is the weapon of political action." The Titled Officers, International Executive Board, and the rank-and-file members of our Legislative and Political Action Committees are committed to wielding this weapon to advance and defend the interests of the ILWU in Washington DC.

MENSAJE DE LOS FUNCIONARIOS TITULARES

Anuncio del Programa de Contribuyentes Sostenedores de Acción Política de la ILWU

Feliz Año Nuevo, hermanos, hermanas y compañeros trabajadores.

Este mes de noviembre, todos los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos tendrán la oportunidad y el deber de participar en nuestra democracia, emitir su voto y hacer oír su voz en las elecciones federales de mitad de mandato para el Congreso.

Los resultados de estas elecciones decidirán quién representará a nuestras comunidades, familias e intereses sindicales en Washington D. C., y qué políticas se implementarán durante los próximos dos años.

No se equivoquen: las políticas que protegen nuestros empleos hoy y en el futuro están en la boleta electoral, por lo que debemos votar. Pero votar no es lo único que importa en la política.

Por eso les pedimos su apoyo.

Este mes lanzamos el Programa de Contribuyentes Sostenedores de Acción Política de la ILWU.

Este programa está diseñado para fomentar que los miembros de la

familia ILWU realicen donaciones periódicas al Fondo de Acción Política de la ILWU.

El Fondo de Acción Política de la ILWU se financia exclusivamente mediante contribuciones voluntarias de miembros y jubilados de la ILWU en los Estados Unidos. Con su apoyo, la ILWU puede respaldar a candidatos que defiendan los temas que más importan a la clase trabajadora: proteger nuestros empleos y nuestro derecho a sindicalizarnos, garantizar la atención médica para nuestras familias y mantener la dignidad en la jubilación.

El afiche en la página tres de esta edición ofrece detalles sobre cómo realizar su donación política voluntaria al Fondo de Acción Política de la ILWU.

Hoy, más que nunca, necesitamos apoyar a candidatos comprometidos a luchar por la clase trabajadora en Washington y a defender a los trabajadores en nuestras comunidades.

El programa de Acción Política de la ILWU no se trata de apoyar

ciegamente a partidos políticos o a políticos específicos.

Se trata de promover POLÍTICAS que protejan los intereses de la membresía de la ILWU en todas las industrias, regiones, divisiones y locales de nuestro gran sindicato.

Hoy más que nunca, debemos apoyar a candidatos que LUCHEN por esas políticas.

Este programa es un esfuerzo de base, liderado por comités legislativos y de acción política, integrados por miembros de base de toda la ILWU.

Estos voluntarios han trabajado incansablemente y los funcionarios están profundamente agradecidos por su compromiso con la ILWU. Estamos entusiasmados por lo que podemos lograr juntos.

Como miembro de la ILWU, usted tiene la posibilidad de hacer contribuciones financieras al Fondo de Acción Política de la ILWU y de participar localmente, junto con su familia sindical, mediante manifestaciones, llamadas telefónicas y recorridos por los distritos electorales.

Habrà más actualizaciones en las próximas semanas y meses. Compartiremos videos y mensajes breves de sus compañeros, miembros de los comités legislativos y de acción política, en nuestras redes sociales, destacando la importancia de este programa y cómo usted puede ayudar. *The Dispatcher* continuará publicando actualizaciones periódicas sobre nuestro programa político en Washington, defendiendo a nuestro sindicato, a la membresía y al movimiento laboral, y destacando los temas clave que estamos siguiendo.

Como dijo Harry Bridges, fundador de nuestro sindicato:

"Hay un arma con la que podemos luchar. Esa arma es la acción política."

Los Funcionarios Titulares, o la Junta Ejecutiva Internacional, junto con los miembros de base de nuestro comité de acción política, están comprometidos a empuñar esta arma para promover y defender los intereses de la ILWU en Washington D.C.

DISPATCHER

Roy San Filippo
Communications Director

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Bobby Olvera, Jr., President
Ryan Whitman, Vice President, Mainland
Brandon Wolff, Vice President, Hawaii
Edwin Ferris, Secretary-Treasurer

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INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Join the ILWU PAC Sustainer Program. Your contribution has a direct impact on the midterm elections and beyond and ensures the ILWU maintains its influence when it comes to fighting for workers and protecting our livelihoods. Appreciation gifts are offered at various donation levels. Choose the amount that is right for you.

Let's PACK the PAC!

**"There is a weapon we can fight with.
That is the weapon of political action."
-Harry Bridges**

Once a \$500 contribution is reached members are eligible for a jacket. For example, a \$10 a week contribution will mean a member becomes eligible for a jacket in 50 weeks.



<https://www.ilwu.org/checkout>

PASSWORD: ILWU

Disclaimer The ILWU PAF is a political action committee that is connected to the ILWU and is established for the benefit of political candidates and activities on a state and national level. You have the right to refuse to contribute. Any suggested amount is only a suggestion. There is no minimum contribution requirement, and you may give more or less than the suggested amount. Any contribution amount, or decision not to give, will not create a benefit or disadvantage to you. Contributions are not tax deductible. Only members of the following restricted class are allowed to make contributions: Local Union members and their families, Executive and Administrative personnel of the local union and their families; Class B workers and Pensioners and their families. The political purpose of the ILWU PAF is to make political expenditures to protect and advance the interests of ILWU members and their families.

We are the ILWU



Local 34 Marine Clerks San Francisco, Bay Area

Local 34 in the San Francisco Bay Area represents approximately 200 marine clerks working at the ports of Benicia, Richmond, Redwood City, Stockton, Oakland, and San Francisco, along with roughly 16 office clerical members

The *Dispatcher* interviewed rank-and-file members and officers of the local regarding their careers on the waterfront and their membership in the ILWU.



Dave Gonzales Local 34 President

I was a member of the machinists' union for 25 years before joining the ILWU in 1999. I stood in line with my son at Pier 96 in San Francisco and signed up. I was among the first 100 people selected, and I worked both jobs: as a machinist and a longshoreman.

I would go to the hall and pick up a lashing job at night after finishing my day job. I'd sleep in my car for about three or four hours, then head back to my day job. That night, I would go home. Then I would repeat the process. I'd be gone for three shifts—about a day and a half—before returning home each time. Eventually, I got my A-book, and I decided to make the transition.

I had experience during my years as a machinist representing workers. I was responsible for negotiating our contracts. Since we couldn't get the machinist business agent to come out to the job site, I handled the workers' issues myself.

About a year and a half after I received my A-book at Local 10, I became eligible to run for office. I ran for business agent and was elected. The following year, in 2006, I ran for Local 10 president and was elected by the members.

When they opened sign-ups for the marine clerks, I just put my name down. I hadn't really thought about transferring because I loved being in Local 10 so much. I loved the lashing, the top picks, the whole experience. There's a wide variety of work to choose from, and you can do whatever you want. The transfer process started, and they accepted me. I began getting a lot of feedback from people at Local 10 telling me I couldn't leave. I don't know if that pushed me because I usually don't do things just to be contrary, but I felt like, "They can't tell me what I can or can't do." Ultimately, I transferred to Local 34 in 2010.

About five years after I transferred to Local 34, Sean Farley stepped down as president. I decided to step up and run for president. I served for three years at that time, and later served as a business agent and vice president. For the last two years, I have been serving again as Local 34 president.

Even before I joined the ILWU, I was welcomed. I've had the privilege of being elected to leadership positions, but I always see my role as advancing the membership's goals. In leadership roles, you sometimes need to step outside your comfort zone. For example, I am not good at public speaking. I get emotional, and my voice often cracks, but it has given me a chance to build solidarity with people and unions around the world.

Being in the ILWU isn't just a job; it's a way of life. The freedoms we have are often underappreciated, but I've been lucky to always have decent medical benefits. I've faced a few minor health issues, including a couple of small cancer scares, which were taken care of thanks to my coverage. I feel great. Now, at 70 years old, I feel like I'm 25.

The protection that you have as a union member is incredible. I've seen people on the management side get into an argument with their boss, only to be given their walking papers two weeks later. They can't do that to us.

Being a union member and advocating for working-class people has been an incredible experience, and I love it.

Deborah Sedasey

I've been doing this for about 40 years.

I started as a teenager after my mom told me about the jobs on the waterfront. At that time, you could work as a casual at Local 34. I wasn't in the union yet, and I just kept coming down and trying to pick up a job. I did that for about 12 years.

Then we were told that if we wanted to get in, we would have to go to Local 10 to work. I stayed at Local 10 for ten years. It was great working there.

I got my B book in 1991, and my A book in 1993. When I got my B-book, it was really great because we got medical coverage. That's very important when you have a family. I transferred to Local 34 in 2003. I've been doing it ever since.



"I'm especially proud to be an ILWU member and marine clerk. There's nothing quite like it. Everyone says the same thing: they're grateful to have this job, especially during these times. And I feel proud that we are the ones bringing in the cargo and supplies that the country needs. During COVID, we kept the supplies moving. I was proud to be part of that."

I was so nervous when I first started. I was really young. I was fragile. I was like 125 pounds. I was scared and had never done manual labor. I really learned to love it because of the different jobs available on the waterfront. I drove cars some days. Some days we did dock work. Some days we lashed. Just being able to come to a job and work, that's what we all loved. Everyone has been so nice over the years.

I'll never forget my first job at Local 10. It was a lashing job at Maersk. I went up to the window, picked up a ticket, and it said dock. I said, "Yes, a dock job." I'll never forget that shift. The ship was almost finished, and they were about to send us home. As we got ready to leave, I heard someone holler from the top of the ship, "Okay, you guys, you're going to have to come up on the ship." I thought, "What? Come up on the ship to lash?" All of us had come from the Oakland Clerk Hall or the San Francisco Clerk Hall. We were so nervous because none of us had ever worked a lashing job before. We went up on that ship, and when we finished, we left with our hands cramped. We never forgot that day, never. We all talk about it all the time.

Being part of a union is, to me, a great thing. We have the support of our officers when we're dealing with issues on the job, and we also have the support of our lead supervisors, our chief clerks. It's a job like no other. They have unions across the United States, but I'm especially proud to be an ILWU member and marine clerk. There's nothing quite like it. Everyone says the same thing: they're grateful to have this job, especially during these times. And I feel proud that we are the ones bringing in the cargo and supplies that the country needs. During COVID, we kept the supplies moving. I was proud to be part of that.

Our work creates jobs for others who aren't in our union. The truck drivers are working, and that's what makes me happy. I'm very proud to be a marine clerk.



Erica Johnson-Washington

I started as an ID in 2003 at Local 10. I had been part of the lottery pick in 1999. A friend of mine at the time had family working on the docks. They told me about it when the list opened. Back then, I worked at another job and would go down on my days off or get a night shift. My first job was driving cars off ships in Oakland. I had never heard of being a longshoreman before I got on the list and signed up. I didn't know what it was. It was a completely different world from my job at AAA. The port is huge. There's a lot of movement, and there's always a lot happening. It was definitely a different experience from what I was used to — it's a different world, a different language, and different terminology down there. I love this job.

I come from a union family. My mother worked for General Mills, Kaiser, and BART, and my father was a bus driver, so I was raised around unions. I was one of those people who wanted to try to learn as many jobs as I could. I was very curious. I always wanted to learn how to operate different types of equipment. It was easy for me because everyone was willing to teach me, and I learned so much from different people; I was always welcomed. It felt like I was joining a new family.

In 2015 or 16, I started having trouble with my lower back, so I learned how to be a clerk. I weighed my options and decided that it would be best for my health and the longevity of my career, and that led me to become a marine clerk. In 2018, I transferred to Local 34.

To be a good marine clerk, you need to know how to multitask. You must pay attention to detail, and you have to work well with others and communicate effectively.

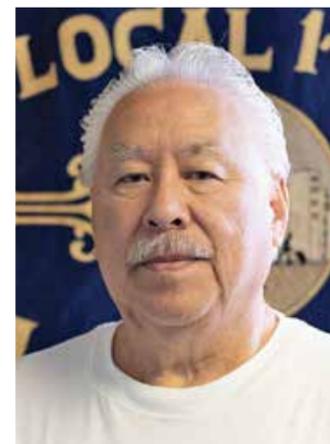
Being part of the ILWU has definitely improved my life. It gave me the ability to support my family. I came here when I was 22 years old, and now I am 49. My entire adulthood has been spent on the docks. The brotherhood and sisterhood there are truly wonderful. I have gained family members, not just friends.

Allen Fung Local 34 Secretary-Treasurer/ Chief Dispatcher

I was introduced to the ILWU by my future father-in-law and mother-in-law; he was part of a group of ILWU Local 142 members who came to the West Coast in the mid-1960s, and he became a member of Local 34. My mother-in-law worked on the staff at Local 10. I started my first clerk job as a "permit" man in 1977 and remained at "permit" status until 1988, when I was chosen as "B" status on the final marine clerk registration before the one-door policy took effect.

I always wanted to participate and give back to the union, so I ran for various committees. In 1996, I was elected as an assistant dispatcher and held that position until 2006, when I was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Dispatcher, a role I have held ever since.

I take great pleasure in serving and sharing my experiences with the members, which have evolved over the years and become more diverse. The one piece of advice I always give to the members is to be patient on the waterfront, as there will hopefully be another day. The ILWU is the best gig in town, and I don't see anyone leaving it!



Data shows that American workers and businesses are paying the price for U.S. tariff policy

President Trump declared April 2, 2025, as "Liberation Day" when he announced the country's sweeping tariff hikes, promising that "jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country" and that the tariffs' costs would be paid by countries exporting goods to the United States. New data and analysis tell a different story.

ILWU 'Policy Opposing Tariffs'

The ILWU International Executive Board passed a Statement of Policy Opposing Tariffs during their meeting from April 22-25, 2025. The SOP stated that the tariffs would "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 further explained that the costs of the tariffs would be passed on to workers. "These tariffs are nothing less than an economic war on working people," the statement concluded.

The claims in the SOP are supported

by new data and analysis of the tariffs' effects. 2025 economic data show that the \$200 billion in tariffs collected by U.S. Customs in 2025 mostly came out of the pockets of American consumers and businesses. Additionally, not only have manufacturing jobs failed to recover, but those jobs actually decreased in 2025, partly due to the Trump Administration's tariff policies.

Tax on Americans

A recent report by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy titled, "America's Own Goal: Who Pays the Tariffs," analyzed over 25 million shipment records, totaling nearly \$4 trillion in U.S. imports, and found that U.S. consumers and importers bore 96 percent of the financial burden from the tariffs. Researchers concluded that tariffs have effectively become "a consumption tax on Americans."

The report states, "tariffs are framed as a tool to extract concessions from trading partners while generating revenue for the U.S. government—at no cost to American households. Our research shows the opposite: American importers and consumers bear nearly

all the cost. This finding has profound implications. If foreign exporters do not lower their prices in response to tariffs, then the entire burden of the tariff falls on US buyers. The tariff functions not as a tax on foreign producers, but as a consumption tax on Americans. Every dollar of tariff revenue represents a dollar taken from American businesses and households," the report concluded.

Manufacturing job losses

U.S. manufacturing jobs declined each quarter for the last eight months of 2025 according to data released by the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics. By December 2025, the manufacturing sector employed nearly 72,000 fewer workers than a year earlier, as companies slowed hiring and tightened budgets due to the tariffs' costs. Manufacturing employment in the U.S. is now lower than during much of Trump's first term. The U.S. has also lost 18,000 mining and logging jobs since "Liberation Day."

The decline is due to several factors:

Increased Input Costs: Tariffs have negatively impacted manufacturing

in several ways, including by raising the costs of imported manufacturing inputs used by U.S. factory workers to produce "American-made" products, from aluminum cans to microchips and airplanes.

Market Unpredictability: A Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond survey found that the administration's "on-again, off-again" tariffs have led small and mid-sized firms to delay critical investments in new manufacturing amid the current climate of unpredictability.

Even the Cato Institute, a conservative think tank, concluded that the administration's erratic use of tariffs has been a significant driver of this industrial downturn, undermining the administration's own stated goal of domestic revitalization.

"This persistent decline comes despite the Trump administration's stated goal of revitalizing domestic manufacturing, and data increasingly suggest that the administration's own policies—particularly, its erratic use of tariffs—are a significant part of the problem," they concluded.



Bio-Rad update: The December issue of the *Dispatcher* reported on an election for 30 facility techs at the bio-tech company, Bio-Rad in Hercules, CA who organizing to join Local 6 at. Since publication, the results of the election including the contested ballots have been finalized with 17-14 for unionization.

ILWU Local 26 Memorial and Honor Guard Committee honors fallen comrades



Honor guard: ILWU Local 26 Memorial and Honor Guard Committee active members (L-R) Emmett “Rico” Hall Jr., Carlos Guillen, Naomi Berry, Elizabeth “Betty” McClure, Zerlaine Joseph, Debra Aguayo, Joe Quiroz, Paul Hunt, Christopher Tate, José Banuelos, Manny Pinson, not pictured Sonia Ortega, Christopher Castillo.

Before 2014, notification of a Local 26 Watchmen’s passing was often inconsistent. Many Watchmen working across the eight terminal locations in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach learned of a brother’s or sister’s death only after memorial services had already taken place.

Three Local 26 Watchmen—Carlos Guillen, Paul Hunt, and the late Michael Boyd—recognized the need for a more reliable and respectful process. With backgrounds in military service and city and state law enforcement, they began notifying Watchmen across terminals and attending memorial services in Watchman work uniforms with black ties.

With encouragement from fellow members, a petition was brought before the Local 26 membership. In 2014, the membership overwhelmingly approved the creation of the ILWU Local 26 Memorial and Honor Guard Committee (L26MHGC). The committee began

with two members, established an official memorial uniform, and recruited volunteers.

Over time, the committee developed into a fully functioning organization with designated officer positions. Membership has ranged from two to seventeen members. The committee currently has thirteen active members.

Present Members: Carlos Guillen; Christopher Castillo; Christopher Tate; Debra Aguayo; Elizabeth “Betty” McClure; Emmett “Rico” Hall Jr.; Joe Quiroz; José Banuelos; Manny Pinson; Naomi Berry; Paul Hunt; Sonia Ortega; Zerlaine Joseph

Past Members: April Smith; Mynor Aguilar; Jose Coronado; Jose Vasquez
Committee funding

The Local 26 Memorial and Honor Guard Committee is entirely volunteer-based and self-funded through fundraising efforts and donations from coworkers, friends, and family members. Committee service requires a significant commitment of both time and personal resources.

Scheduling memorial participation can be challenging. Memorial service dates and times are determined by families, requiring committee members to adjust work schedules accordingly. In some cases, participation may result in lost wages, particularly for members unable to change shifts. This reflects the level of dedication required to serve on the committee.

The Local 26 union hall supports the committee by providing flowers for memorial services and assisting with the deceased Local 26 work history information and memorial items for families. The committee’s volunteer/elected officers—including President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer—ensure coordination, communication, and financial accountability.

Committee provided services

The committee provides support to both Local 26 members in the workplace and to the families of deceased brothers and sisters. Upon learning of a member’s passing, the Committee President or Vice President confirms the information with Local 26 leadership and contacts the family member responsible for arrangements.

Families are offered committee services at no cost and may choose which services they wish to receive. These include:

- Posting condolence cards at all terminals
- Posting death announcements
- Posting viewing, funeral, and memorial service information
- Committee participation in viewings or memorial services

When participating in services, the committee provides an 8–12-minute

memorial presentation that includes a scripted reading, a simulated last radio call, and the distribution of Local 26 memorial gifts. All participation is guided by the family’s wishes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteer photographer and videographer Mynor Aguilar provided valuable support by recording memorial services when attendance was limited. Edited videos and photos enabled families to share the services with relatives and friends who couldn’t attend in person.

Since becoming an official committee, 29 Local 26 brothers and sisters have passed away. The committee has taken part in 28 memorial services and is currently preparing a presentation team for a recently deceased brother.

Most of these losses happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, the committee sometimes had to coordinate multiple memorial service teams within the same period. While dealing with personal losses of family and friends, committee members stayed committed to supporting grieving Local 26 families. These demands posed significant challenges and took a mental and emotional toll on several members.

The work of the ILWU Local 26 Memorial and Honor Guard Committee ensures that fallen brothers and sisters are honored with dignity and respect. The committee’s efforts keep members informed, support grieving families, and reflect the solidarity that defines Local 26.

Through volunteer service and collective commitment, the committee continues its mission to honor the memory of those who served before us.

– Rico Hall, Local 26

STATEMENTS ON RENEE GOOD AND ALEX PRETTI

**INTERNATIONAL
LONGSHORE &
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1188 FRANKLIN STREET, 4th FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 94109
(415) 775-0533
(415) 775-1302 FAX
www.ILWU.org

1/9/26

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) released the following statement:

“The ILWU strongly condemns the murder of Renee Good by a masked ICE agent in Minneapolis. Our condolences go out to her family and loved ones.

“The violent escalations by ICE agents in cities across the United States are an attempt to terrorize and intimidate migrant communities and anyone who dares to raise their voice in protest.

“This abuse of power by ICE agents and the militarization of our communities is making us less safe and poses an existential threat to our civil liberties, freedoms, and constitutional rights.

“The ILWU stands in solidarity with all of those courageously protecting their migrant neighbors, coworkers, and communities from the federal government’s ongoing reckless and dangerous attacks.”

**INTERNATIONAL
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WAREHOUSE UNION**



1188 FRANKLIN STREET, 4th FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 94109
(415) 775-0533
(415) 775-1302 FAX
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1/27/26

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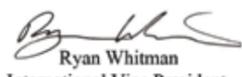
“The ILWU strongly condemns the senseless killing of Alex Pretti, an AFGE Local 3669 member and ICU nurse at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs.

“Alex was shot after being wrestled to the ground by a group of masked ICE agents while lawfully exercising his First and Second Amendment rights. He was one of thousands of Minnesotans who have courageously chosen to stand in solidarity with their neighbors, coworkers, and community amid an ongoing escalation of federal government violence against the people of Minneapolis.

“Our deepest condolences go out to Alex’s family and community. We join in calls for accountability and for an open and transparent investigation into Alex’s death led by local and state law enforcement.”



Robert Olvera, Jr.
International President



Ryan Whitman
International Vice President,
Mainland



Edwin R. Ferris
International Secretary-Treasurer

ILWU members supporting our communities

Toy drive reconnects ILWU with the West Oakland community at Black Panther Apartments

Members of ILWU Locals 10, 34, and 91 donated toys to the children living at the Black Panther Apartments during the Christmas holiday. The Black Panther Apartments is a 79-unit, 100 percent affordable-housing complex that also provides retail space for community-owned businesses in West Oakland's Lower Bottoms neighborhood, adjacent to the Port of Oakland.

Local 10 member and BALMA Treasurer David Newton helped to organize the toy drive to rebuild the ILWU's connection to the community of West Oakland.

"In addition to the toys we donate to the local firefighters toy drive, we felt

it was important to also give something back to the community that we all live and work in," Newton said.

On December 22, residents joined ILWU members in the community room of the Black Panther Apartments where children up to age 14 picked out toys and older children received gift cards. The event included games, cupcakes and sparkling apple cider.

Also in attendance at the celebration was Elaine Brown, former Chairperson of the Black Panther Party. Brown was the developer of the affordable housing project through her nonprofit, Oakland & The World Enterprises.

The toy drive underscores the union's commitment to supporting the community and highlights the creating stronger ties between ILWU members and local residents.



ILWU members joined residents of the Black Panther Apartments to celebrate the holidays and distribute children's gifts donated by Locals 10, 34, and 91.

Local 23 members step up with holiday toy drive, school gift card program



Local 23 completed another successful year of charitable giving this holiday season, raising/donating over \$123,965 in 2025 for the local community.

School Gift Card Program

Each year during the holidays, Local 23 donates \$200 Fred Meyer

gift cards to two students from every elementary school in Pierce County, totaling \$60,000. The students are chosen by their school counselor based on their continued good efforts and positive attitudes throughout the year, despite financial struggles outside of the classroom. For many families, this might mean the only opportunity for presents during the holidays.

Toy Drive

An additional \$63,965 in donations and gifts were raised by Local 23 members. The Toy Drive Committee is comprised of Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burks, and Holly Hulscher. The committee does most of the shopping for toys at Local Fred Meyer because it's a union store that offers discounts due to the large volume of toys and bikes we purchase.

On Dec. 6, the toys were distributed to help 1,040 children through 17 local community organizations. Many people from organizations that work with children in need are deeply appreciative of the toy drive. "It's been a hard year for everyone with so many families in need," explains Erika, who works with foster kids, "and they are grateful for the ILWU Local 23 stepping up in such a big way."

In addition to the chance to help the community, there are bragging rights on the line. The Toy Drive Committee organizes a friendly competition among members who typically work at different terminals and Longshore groups. This year, our Pensioners, who set the table for us, came in first place with a donation of \$15,688! Longshore workers, Evergreen Gate, and Longshore Mechanics came in second place by donating over \$11,667.

"Throughout the years, being part of Local 23, we have always given," explains Local 23 Pensioner President Bob Brown. "It's special at Christmas knowing children will receive a gift under their tree from us. Now, as a Pensioner it even feels better continuing the tradition." There was a big need in the local community, and we helped many children have a brighter holiday.

— Holly Hulscher

BALMA toy drive and Kids Christmas Party



BALMA Christmas Party: The Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA) hosted its annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, at the local 10 dispatch hall. Over 200 attendees enjoyed lunch, holiday music, photos with Santa Claus, face painting, a holiday photo booth, candy canes, a magic show, and henna artistry. The event's highlight was a performance by Lenny Williams from the Bay Area recording group Tower of Power. BALMA appreciates the many volunteers who helped make the event a success, and we also thank the ILWU Credit Union for their generous donation.



BALMA Toy Drive: Each year, the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA) proudly hosts its Annual Toy Drive in partnership with the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Drive. This year's event was especially meaningful, as BALMA honored late member Beth Susim for the many hours she dedicated to volunteering and decorating for past Christmas celebrations. Although Sister Beth is gone, her spirit of giving lives on through our active and retired members.

Thanks to the generosity of the Local 10 membership, a truckload of toys was donated, helping bring joy to countless children throughout the local community.

ILWU members supporting our communities



Local 12 Toy Drive: Local 12 and Auxiliary 1 collected toys and food that were donated to the North Bend Fire Department and the local Salvation Army to help families in need in the community. Local 12 and Auxiliary 1 have partnered for the past four years, and the toy drive has grown each year. Next year, the goal is to make it even bigger.



Local 8 Toy Drive: Local 8 held its annual toy drive, with all of this year's toy donations going to Presents With Partners and Labor Community Service. Toys were distributed to union members in need of assistance who had been referred by their unions. Local 8 has held this toy drive for almost 20 years. Three years ago, Presents With Partners started a "friendly competition" between the unions to see who could collect the most toys for donation. The Local 8 has won every year.



Auxiliary 5 Christmas Party: On December 13, Auxiliary 5 hosted the Annual Children's Christmas Party. The kids all showed up to see Santa, do crafts, and have pizza and cookies. Auxiliary 5 received support from the ILWU Credit Union, Locals 8, 40, and 92, and the IBU. This was their 35th Children's Christmas Party. Generations of ILWU families have enjoyed the visit with Santa!



Local 13 Christmas for Kids: Over 300 bikes, 100 skateboards, and hundreds of toys. About 1,500 families were helped. This year, the ILWU Brotherhood motorcycle and car club helped facilitate the toy drive. They were among many volunteers who, along with ILWU members' generosity, made the event a success.

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

The statement from our ILWU Officers about the murder of Renee Good by ICE thugs is straightforward and to the point. It embraces our Ten Guiding Principles and our Four Objectives and is a beacon for others to follow.

ICE needs to be abolished. In the upcoming elections I will only vote for Congressional candidates who support doing so.

It is time for all of labor and for all others who cherish justice to speak out against government-sanctioned murder, malice, and the demonization of migrants.

In solidarity,

Richard Austin, 7737 Retired

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

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: David G. Frasier; Jerry D. Webb;
Local 8: Robert M. Laughlin;
Local 10: Heather M. Ducroux; Diane M. Holden; Eugene W. Moore; Thomas E. Sensabaugh; Deldreque R. Tucker; Charleston L. Tutt; **Local 13:** Manuel Alcerreca; Gerald A. Ancich; Rufus L. Atchley; Antonio Barrios; Edward L. Bougere, Jr.; Arturo S. Diaz; Ruben Garcia; Rose A. Hale; Timothy O. Lunde; Victor Medina; Donald L. Richardson, Jr.; Jay C. Schildmeyer; Hugo R. Terrazas; Alonzo T. Tutt; **Local 19:** Robert L. MacDonald; Juan Ortiz, Jr.; **Local 23:** Ruben T. Chavez; James R. Conley; Michael E. Hartman; Gail A. Ross; Harald E. Spivey; James S. Williams; Lawrence Woods; **Local 29:** Jesus V. Flores; Adeline A. Moctezuma; **Local 34:** Stelvio Andora; Kathleen E. Cresci; Deborah E. Ferrell; **Local 40:** Jock S. MacGregor; Gary R. Modrall; Robert C. Nairne; **Local 47:** Jeffrey P. Davis; **Local 63:** Michael J. Esparza; Patricia R. Fox; Michael T. Matich; Paul J. Montano; Daniel B. O'Hara; Cheryl H. Powell; Robert R. Rubio; Adela J. Villa; **Local 63 OCU:** Edmund Lee; Kathleen Draskovich-Lopes; Pam Axt; Alicia Valdez; Pokam Leung; Rosalind Alday; Gregory Tribelhoen; Patricia Ehmann; Elvira Velasco; Wilma Tawagon De Guzman; Debbie Phelps; Barbara Jansen; Frances Lilla; **Local 94:** John T. Skunca; Doris A. Spencer;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 10: Horace K. Bordelon;
Local 13: Steven W. Anthony; Shane V. Frantz; Joseph A. Gonzalez; Daniel A. Hernandez; **Local 46:** Lawrence Payne, Jr.; **Local 63:** Robert W. Smith; Guy A. Spinosa; **Local 98:** Toby M. Albright;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: John E. Borst; Otis Thornton;
Local 10: Alfred Baxter; Sandra E. Villegiante; **Local 12:** Albert C. Butner Jr;
Local 13: Edward I. Cervantes; Lester A. Clarke; Angel G. Gonzalez; Lesa E. Mitchell-Odo; Gloria Rodriguez; **Local 19:** James B. Garrett; **Local 21:** James T. Schraeder;
Local 23: Douglas Woods; **Local 25:** Max M. Benjamin; **Local 29:** Joe E. Moreno;
Local 34: David I. Garland; **Local 51:** Michael S. Forbes; **Local 54:** Brian L. Erlanson; **Local 63:** Juanita Rosborough;
Local 98: Gary J. Reichl; Karen D. Walton-Arneberg; James I. Willie;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Helen T. Cresap; **Local 10:** Ruth A. Wilson; **Local 13:** Helen Mora;
Local 21: Naomi Bush; **Local 24:** Gail A. Bryson; **Local 27:** June A. Anderson;
Local 47: Shirley A. Edgbert; **Local 63:** Arlene B. Harrison; **Local 92:** Marian Schwarz; **Local 94:** Norma R. Houck; Erlinda Magallanez; **Local 98:** Karen D. Walton-Arneberg;



Lords of the Docks: On December 3, Local 8 presented Ian Ruskin in "From Wharf Rates to Lords of the Docks" at Local 8's dispatch hall.

It was a performance for the Local 8 Permits. It was also attended by registered members of Local 8, 40, and 92, as well as members of the Columbia River Pensioners. The ILWU Credit Union and Auxiliary 5 served pizza and helped out.