



THE DISPATCHER

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ILWU's toy drives show generosity, solidarity [page 3](#)



Member to member solidarity: ILWU members along the West Coast responded to last year's Maui wildfires by filling 55 shipping containers full of relief supplies within weeks after news broke of the tragedy. Pictured here are Local 10 volunteers collecting donations and loading a container. Local 142 continues to lead in providing extensive and on-going support and mobilization efforts for the thousands of ILWU members impacted by the fires.

Local 142 continues to lead in the fight to support, assist those impacted by Maui wildfires

In early August of 2023, wildfires broke out on the island of Maui causing widespread damage, killing at least 100 people and destroying the town of Lahaina on Maui's northwest coast. The impact of the fires was devastating to the people of Maui and affected thousands of ILWU members.

The International Executive Board (IEB) was meeting in Vancouver, B.C. when news of the tragedy broke. The Local 142 delegation briefed the IEB on the unfolding emergency and the Board responded by raising \$160,000 from the International, ILWU Divisions, and locals which was administered by the ILWU Credit Union to support fire survivors.

Approximately 1,700 ILWU members live in Lahaina. Many of these members lost their homes and possessions. Many lost loved ones as well. Some ILWU members perished in the fire. The fires impacted all of

the nearly 3,000 ILWU members who work in Lahaina and West Maui. Some workplaces were destroyed in the fire, others attempted to issue work furloughs, and some of the largest worksites—west Maui hotels—shut down to tourism and shifted to response efforts.

While the story of the wildfires has dropped from the headlines, relief and recovery efforts in Maui continue. Local 142 Officers, Division Directors, other leaders, and members continue their commitment to organizing relief, recovery, and support efforts.

After returning from the International Executive Board, the Local 142 Officers established a Maui Emergency Response Team to address membership communications, employment impacts, and organize mutual aid and support. What follows is a summary of the extensive and on-going support and mobilization efforts undertaken by Local 142 since August.

ILWU Maui Relief Hotline

Local 142 established an ILWU Maui Relief Hotline: (808) 777-4818. Many members impacted by the fire have called the hotline and were connected to services and support that are available to them, including housing, insurance claims, unemployment, and legal support.

Membership Meetings

In August, Local 142 held four emergency response support meetings for members and community members sheltering in West Maui hotels. Members met with Local 142 President Chris West, Vice President Corinna Salmo-Ngyen, Secretary-Treasurer Michael Victorino Jr., the Local 142 legal team, and the membership services team. They heard members' stories, and connected members to pro-bono long-term legal support and membership services.

Local 142 representatives were the first people who many of those sheltering in hotels had contact with

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Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves visits Port of Tacoma, Local 23 hall



From left to right: ILWU Legislative Consultant Kyle Mulhall, Dan McKisson (Local 19); Brock Graber (Local 23), Local 23 President Jared Faker, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves; ILWU International President Willie Adams, Coast Committeeman Cam Williams, Dane Jones (Local 40) at the Local 23 hall.

The Biden Administration's Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves visited Local 23 and the Port of Tacoma on January 16. He was the keynote speaker for the Tacoma Propeller Club's Annual Spaghetti Feed event hosted each year at Local 23.

The Propeller Club's mission is to promote the maritime industry in the Puget Sound through education and civic engagement.

Before speaking at the event, Deputy Secretary Graves toured the Port of Tacoma with a delegation led by ILWU International President Willie Adams, Coast Committeeman

Cam Williams, Local 23 President Jared Faker, and Longshore Division Legislative Committee Chair Dan McKisson and discussed issues related to the West Coast ports.

Faker served as the master of ceremony for the event. He started with a brief welcome and thanked

the volunteers for setting up the tables and preparing the meal for all of the guests. Volunteers from Local 23 and the Federated Auxiliary spent the day preparing a pasta dinner for the attendees.

"Here we have employers and labor, industry and government, all sitting in the same room together, breaking bread, looking for common sense solutions to move our industry forward," Faker said. Adding that the partnership with the Port of Tacoma and terminal operators has been a recipe for success for Local 23, noting robust container volumes, record-setting breakbulk cargo, and an increase in auto imports and U.S. military work.

"I am happy to tell you that the work hours in the Port of Tacoma in quarter four of 2023 were our highest quarter in 20 years," said Faker. "These numbers not only mean gainful employment for our 1,500 members, but it also means that we'll soon be doing additional hiring of new workers, new training, and advancement for our incumbent workforce. This means opportunities not just for longshore workers, but also truck drivers, warehouse

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ILWU's bankruptcy filing and ICTSI litigation settled

The ILWU and the Coast Longshore Division (CLD) and ICTSI Oregon, Inc. have reached a settlement of all legal claims and disputes.

The settlement finally resolves the decade-long litigation pending in the Oregon district court and the ILWU's bankruptcy filing. The settlement was reached after several days of mediation and provides for, among other things, a mutual broad release of all claims and disputes among the parties, including the claims in the ICTSI lawsuit, and payment of \$20.5 million to ICTSI. The ILWU has filed motions asking the bankruptcy court to approve the settlement and dismiss the bankruptcy case.

The ILWU filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on September 30, 2023, due to mounting legal expenses and potential liability exposure that the ILWU was facing from the decade-long litigation with ICTSI. The bankruptcy case was filed in order to allow the ILWU to address and resolve the litigation with ICTSI so that the ILWU could move forward and focus on the future. This settlement will allow both the ILWU and CLD to move on from any further litigation with ICTSI.

CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY & LABOR HOSTED BY I.L.W.U. LOCAL 23

We invite you to join us for a jubilant evening celebrating the many accomplishments and history of Black longshore workers in the Port of Tacoma. Featured speakers: April Sims, President of the WSLC and Willie Adams, ILWU International President.

DATE: February 18th 2024

TIME: 5-8pm (Southern style food will be served)

LOCATION:

Foss Waterway Seaport
705 Dock St.
Tacoma, WA 98402



Register on Eventbrite with link below or with QR code. Attendance is free.



bit.ly/black-labor-history

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ILWU's toy drives show generosity, solidarity

ILWU members, pensioners, and auxiliary clubs continued their annual tradition of giving back to their communities through toy drives and donation efforts that benefit our community's most vulnerable members. This year ILWU locals organized toy drives and donated their time and money to local charity groups. Because of the generosity and solidarity of ILWU members, thousands of struggling families along the coast had a happier Christmas.

Southern California

The annual ILWU Children's Christmas Party in Southern California helps approximately 3,000 kids have a happy holiday season. Each year, volunteers set out rows of toys and sports equipment at the Longshoremen's Memorial Hall in Wilmington, where children pick out a toy of their choice. Locals 13, 26, 63, 94, the Federated Auxiliary 8, Southern California Pensioners, and Longshoremen's Memorial Association all made this year's holiday party possible. The Holiday Events Committee works year-round to plan and organize annual charity events.

Bay Area

The Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA), in conjunction with Locals 10, 34, and 91, held a toy drive at the Local 10 Hall to benefit the San Francisco Fire Department Toys Program.

Tacoma Toy Drive & School Gift Card Program

Every year during the holidays Local 23 donates a \$200 Fred Meyer gift card to two students from each elementary school in Pierce County, totaling \$60,000 in gift cards. The students are chosen by their school counselors/principals based on their continuous good efforts and positive attitudes throughout the year, despite their struggles outside of the classroom.

Under the direction of the ILWU Local 23 Trustees, Mandy Peterson, Amy James, Kimberly Boespflug, Melissa Burks, and Holly Hulscher comprise the Local 23 Toy Drive Committee. The Committee does most of the shopping for the toys at the local Fred Meyer, because it is a union store, and because they offer discounts (even on sale prices) due to the large volume of toys purchased. They also make sure we have a dedicated check-out

lane staffed with people to help. "I'm so grateful to Fred Meyer for partnering with us yearly, to make every dollar count and go so much further," explained longtime Committee member Melissa Burks.

Since the toy drive has grown over the years, the Committee has found more streamlined ways of doing a few things. Members and pensioners are able to make donations through the ToyDrive account at the Longshore Credit Union over the phone (or in person). The Committee did the shopping for each group and labeled the bags with each name to help with separating the toys for each organization. When the toys were distributed to local organizations that work with kids in need, they have a 10-minute time slot where they picked up the pre-bagged toys at an outdoor tent at the Hall.

This year, longshore members and Pensioners combined to bring in more than \$65,670 worth of toys and bikes, which were distributed to more than 1,080 children represented by 18 local organizations. Longshore mechanics put together the bikes so they were sturdy and safe for the kids.

"This is the time of year when we should all be thinking of others before ourselves," said longshore mechanic Arch Chaney, "We all see and hear about the many people who are not as blessed as we are, and with a little time and effort we can collectively do so much."

In addition to the chance to help the community, there are bragging rights on the line. The Toy Drive Committee puts on a friendly competition between longshore workers who typically work at different terminals and different longshore groups. This year the pensioners, who set the table for us, came in first place by donating \$15,500.

Longshore workers who work at Evergreen Gate and longshore mechanics weren't too far behind by donating over \$9,300. There was a big need out there in the local community, and Local 23 helped many children have a brighter holiday.

Portland

In Portland, this year Labor's Community Service Agency through their "Presents from the Partners" Christmas program had a toy drive challenge for all the area unions. ILWU Local 8 came in first out of 25 area labor organizations and brought home this year's "Presents from Partners" champion-

ship title. Local unions competed to see who could donate the most 32-45 gallon bags filled with toys. Local 8 members donated 60 bags. The toy drive benefited more than 275 local families. Specials thanks to Crystal Barnes, Justine Hansen, Kevin Knoth, and Ashley Hill for spearheading the drive.

Seattle

Seattle's Local 19 Christmas for Kids program had an outstanding year. Together with Locals 52, 98, and the pensioners, they raised just nearly \$46,000 through local union and pensioner support, individual donations, raffles, and a car wash organized by casuals. The generosity of the Seattle-area ILWU family enabled the support of 14 different agencies throughout the greater Puget Sound area that serve many different needs of the community. This year's donations benefited organizations that assist families in need, foster families, children with incarcerated parents, services for youth in foster care, kids in Harborview's burn center, and families facing homelessness.

Every year, on the day after Thanksgiving, Local 19 sets up a Christmas tree on the A and B side of the hall with gift tags for kids' Christmas present requests hung on the tree. There are generally two or three gift ideas on each tag. Members select a tag, fulfill the request and return the gift of gifts to the hall. This year, every tag was taken and returned. In total, between 100-150 Christmas wishes were fulfilled.

Local 19 also hosts a Santa party where kids meet and have pictures taken with Santa—and this year the Grinch also made an appearance. Each child received a party bag from Santa. The party included a bouncy house, cookie decorating, snowman making and a "grow your own candy cane" craft.



The Local 19 kids' Christmas Party included photo ops with Santa and the Grinch

Vancouver, WA

Local 4 members held a bike drive for the Children's Justice Center this year. The membership donated a total of 76 bikes to children in the community who have experienced abuse. Vancouver Firefighters Local 452 donated helmets for each child and they were at the hall on delivery day to assist the Justice Center with transport of the bikes. Members Dustin Goodwin and Jeshua Scott were able to establish a discount on bikes through Fred Meyer this year which helped to achieve the goal of 76 bikes. Local 4 had a great turnout of volunteers again this year. "I love the bike drive because it gives the local a common cause of goodwill to rally behind bringing us closer together. It also is an opportunity to strengthen and build Local 4's ties to the community," said Local 4 Recording Secretary Josh Goodwin.



Bay Area ILWU members donated toys at the Local 10 hall for the BALMA Christmas Toy Drive held in partnership with local firefighters.



Local 4 members donated and assembled 76 bikes for kids at the Children's Justice Center



Left to right: Crystal Barnes (Local 8), Gabi (Labors Community Service), and Justine Hansen (Local 8)

We are the ILWU



Local 56 Ship Scalers San Pedro, CA

Local 56 was chartered on October 12, 1937. At that time, they worked as ship scalers—scraping barnacles from the hulls of old ships—and as ship painters which were difficult and dangerous jobs.

Today “scalers” work in environmental services providing vessel and tank maintenance, oil recovery, hazardous waste removal, and spill prevention services. Local 56 members work for four employers who subcontract with the Ports of LA and Long Beach and terminals to provide those services. Scalers’ work is not limited to the ports. They are also called on for hazard waste removal jobs after natural disasters and to clean up homeless encampments where they dispose of biohazards like hypodermic needles.

During the devastating oil spill in 1990 in the Los Angeles harbor, Local 56 members tirelessly worked to clean up the spill and minimize damage to the local environment. The Local 56 membership continues to work hard to respond efficiently and safely to disasters and emergencies in Southern California.

Before being eligible to be dispatched, individuals have to attend a 40-hour HAZWOPER Training. “It’s kind of like a boot camp,” said Local 56 President Albert Ramirez. “You can’t miss a day, you can’t be late.”

Classes are conducted in English and Spanish. The program is a joint partnership with the ILWU and the Teamsters. “After the 40 hours of training, they have to pass a test to become certified and also pass a drug test before starting the application process. Applicants are also required to pass a federally-mandated drug test.

“We have gender equity, and sexual harassment training,” Ramirez said. “We are emphasizing the importance of treating people with respect. We welcome everyone into our hall.”

Currently, Local 56 has approximately 69 members, far short of its heyday, but with the assistance of the ILWU International Organizing Department, Southern California ILWU Locals, and the Southern California District Council (SCDC), Local 56 is striving to recapture lost work in the harbor that could significantly expand work opportunities, membership, and signatory companies, Ramirez explained.

“Our work is automation resistant, according to a recent UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs report. Right now the moment is right. We have a lot of companies that we want to go after and start unionizing them. It’s about raising the standard of living for our members and also our siblings who want to join a union,” said Ramirez.

Ramirez said that with the help of the SCDC, the Local is also looking at state legislation and working with local elected officials to protect their jurisdiction in any publicly funded work that emerges.

He added that he wants to make sure that—as new technologies emerge—they are a part of Local 56’s contracts.

“Whatever new scopes of work and technology develop, we want to bake that into our contract. We want to make sure it’s under the ILWU, period.”

Ramirez said the revival of Local 56 is moving along because of the solidarity of the other ILWU locals in Southern California. “We’re grateful to Locals 13, 63, 94, 26, 63OCU, 20, 30, the IBU, and the SCDC because they provide us wisdom, advice, and suggestions. They are our eyes and ears on the terminals. There is real solidarity and not just a slogan. It’s, “Hey, I got your back. How can we be a service?” We’re getting that from the other locals on the waterfront, and it’s a blessing.”

Albert Ramirez Local 56 President

I grew up hearing about my grandfather, Roberto Ramirez, being a scaler, He then went to Local 13 in 1944, but in the late 20s, and early 30s, he was a scaler and was a part of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront Strike.

Fast forward a few decades to 2013, I was pursuing a Master’s Degree in Urban Regional Planning at UCLA and [then ILWU Organizing Director] Peter Olney and [ILWU Southern California Lead Organizer] Carlos Cordon came to our class looking for students to help with a research project. They asked if anyone knew what a ship scaler was and I was like, “Actually, yeah. My grandfather was a ship scaler.” It was a really powerful serendipitous moment.

Over the years I’ve worked with labor organizations like LAANE, worked on school board races, and had a relationship with Local 56 through labor activism.

I became a scaler in late 2021 and was later encouraged by members to run for president of the local. It was a big jump because that’s a big responsibility. I see the potential and the fight that the members have.

Looking through the records here at the hall I found the minutes of my grandfather’s swearing-in to be a scaler. He was “Comrade Roberto.” That was pretty powerful seeing the history of my family. It’s an honor to be the president. I think right now, that’s a big motivating factor—to honor the family and to honor our members and to honor the sisters or brothers whose grandparents were scalers, whose parents or their tio, or what have you were scalers.

I never thought I would be the president of the scalers union, and I’m very honored and proud and all the hard work of the membership, just like any organization, there are challenges, and there are opportunities to grow. Today we have 23 members who have come out for stewards training and grievance training put on by the International. The International is investing in us, but we also have to invest in ourselves. We have to get back to it and organize and build the local back up to its heyday. I’ve heard stories of buses picking up scalers to go to work. We want to get to that point with so many non-signature companies out there that we want to organize.

I come across some cynical people, straight up telling me like it’s “pie in the sky” that it’s visionary, and that I am kind of nuts. Well, I am but we’re still going to fight—Aim for the stars, hit the moon. You have to stay positive—Si se puede—and be mindful that—No se puede—that negative talk, it’s contagious too.



Antonio Andrade Local 56 Dispatcher

I started as a casual. I was introduced here by my brother, who is a Local 13 member. I started here in 2015. I worked a really nice job for one day, 16 hours, and I got hooked. It took me two years to become a union member. I put in my 1,200 hours and in 2017, I was asked to become a member. Two years later, I ran for Dispatcher. I won. I’m still the Local 56 Dispatcher and I am currently serving my third term. It’s been a journey. For me, coming here and not knowing anything about the union, it’s been a blessing for myself and my family. Because the jobs that we’re doing—environmental cleaning—provide for my family’s needs.

We’re trying to build up this local and grow the membership. When I first started here, we were at 40 members and it was trending down. We are currently at 69 members and shooting for 100. We are bringing in a lot of young members. We are holding a HAZWOPER class at the end of the month that is going to bring in 25 new certified HAZWOPER students so we will have a pool in case we need to bring in new registered members into the local.

I encourage any high school graduates to come in and check out Local 56 because the work we do is going to be around for the rest of our lives. There are federal and state dollars going into environmental clean-up programs and we need to be involved and capture that work and make sure those are good union jobs. If we aren’t going after that work, the non-union companies certainly are and they will try to capture those contracts and tax dollars.

Christian Carrillo Local 56 Business Agent

We do a lot of different work at Local 56. You get to do something different almost every day. One day you'll be inside a tank, another day it could be a clean-up at a homeless encampment. We do a lot of the jobs that people normally wouldn't want to do; we do all the dirty work.

I've been with this local since 2015—going on nine years. Most of my family has been part of this local. They joined Local 56 in the 90s. I have about seven family members in the union. In 2015, I got my 40-hour hazmat certification and I started as a casual worker. It took me two years to become a full member; I've been working here ever since. In 2017 I was sworn in. During that time, we hadn't hired for a very long time, so I was very grateful and appreciative that the members brought me in during that time.

It means a lot to me to be in the ILWU, because I'm part of a union that's slowly growing. Right now we are transforming more into an environmental union—environmental hazmat. Being a union worker means we have a voice, it means solidarity, stability, and better working conditions. I was just elected as Business Agent. It's a new position in this local. Before, I would volunteer a lot of my free time to go out and patrol to make sure non-union companies were not scabbing out our work. I started going to different classes and representing workers who maybe didn't feel like they had a voice and speaking up if employers weren't following the contract.



everyone together every morning at the hall drinking our coffee and waiting for work.

Local 56 has been underground for a long time. We've been the underdogs, but I feel like with our potential to build and grow, recognition should be coming toward us in the future. We're looking for new and better times. I think it's going to be a great 2024 for us.

Elizabeth Albarral Local 56 SCDC Delegate

I've been here for three years. I got involved because of my grandmother, Lidia Amezcua. She got me into the hall when they had openings. I am currently a delegate on the Southern California District Council. I am very proud to be a member of this union. I like this industry a lot. It's very physical and hands-on. You can't replace us with robots. What made me want to get involved with the District Council is the importance of politics for us here and all over the ILWU. Two of the key issues we are talking about now are automation—no more robots—and the offshore wind project. We also just finished the process of doing our endorsements, which includes meeting with politicians and making sure they understand our jobs are important and that we don't want any more robots and automation coming to take away jobs from our community.



Jonathan Gutierrez Angel Local 56 Trustee

I started around 2019. I would come here and pick up some hours. In 2021, I became a member. We do a lot of oil clean-up work, a lot of hazardous waste—very dangerous type of jobs. We do have a history. We were once one of the biggest unions in Southern California.

I was always a big fan of hands-on work. I love getting my hands dirty. I think it's just a great job. Because we do learn a lot. There is room to grow

I became a trustee this year. It was my first time running. I love being a trustee, giving information out to the members, overlooking everything that's happening in the union, and making sure everything's running correctly, and how it should be.

There are a lot of big changes going on. I wanted to be part of that change. I think it was great to bring in new blood and younger people to help us to improve this union. Local 56 used to be one of the greatest unions in Southern California. Being a brother of Local 56 is great—having



Miguel Guerra Local 56

I've been at Local 56 for 14 months. I am also a casual at Local 13. Work has been slow there so Local 56 offered an opportunity to get some work here. It's different from long-shore work but it is a port job. I have a friend who has been working here for about eight years. They allowed me to come in and learn about hazmat, and environmental cleaning. I like that it is still a port job. I am very familiar with the port. I am still new to this and I have a lot to learn but I like it.

Being a part of the ILWU means a lot. I was born and raised in San Pedro. Many of my friends and family are members of Local 13 so I know a lot about the ILWU family, being a part of something bigger than yourself, having someone's back, and knowing that someone has your back no matter what. I am still new to this so I know I have a lot to learn about what it means to be a part of a union. Because we are all part of the union, it feels like we are a part of the family. I am grateful for the opportunity and hope it is the beginning of more good things to come.



Stewards training: Twenty-three members of the Local 56 came out for a day-long stewards training held at the Local 56 hall on January 19 in San Pedro. The training was organized by the ILWU International Education Department, led by the ILWU's Education Director Robin Walker with assistance from Southern California Lead Organizer Carlos Cordon. Local 26 President Luisa Gratz and Local 26 Secretary-Treasurer Hector Aguilar also participated and share their knowledge and experience.

Local 142 continues to lead in the fight to support, assist those impacted by Maui wildfires

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following the fires. The first two meetings were held before the Red Cross or FEMA had even made contact in the hotels. Local 142 secured a police escort so Local 142 Officers and representatives could reach members before the roads opened in West Maui.

Effects Bargaining

On August 15, Local 142 sent a letter to all ILWU employers on Maui reminding them that unilateral decisions affecting employment, hours, working conditions, or anything else that touches the collective bargaining agreement are prohibited. Changes of this nature must be made at the bargaining table in what is referred to as “effects bargaining.”

Since then, several Maui Division Business Agents have secured MOAs with employers that address hours, benefits, and wages. More are currently in negotiations.

Food and Supplies

The moment the news hit regarding the fires, the ILWU responded. Local 142 launched the Harbor-to-Harbor Donation Drive, led by the Local 142 Longshore Division, with support from Jeff Muller from Local 100. Forty-four containers were filled in Hawai'i and shipped to Maui.

Dozens of longshore locals from up and down the West Coast held donation drives, shipping an additional 55 containers of food and goods to Maui. Our ILWU siblings who filled the containers wrote messages of love and solidarity on the doors, which have since reached Maui.

ILWU International Vice President (Hawai'i) Sam Kreutz, thanked ILWU members on the mainland for their donations and support. “There are no words that can express my sincere gratitude and aloha to all of the ILWU members who came together, put their hands to the plow, donated, and gave of their time and energy. They made an everlasting impact on all victims of Maui wildfires,” said Vice President Kreutz. “Mahalo and God bless the ILWU and all who help in times of need.”

Housing

Local 142 is working closely with Hawai'i Governor Josh Green's team to support transitioning members who wish to move from hotel rooms to long-

term temporary housing that is more accommodating to their life needs. Thirty-six officers and staff, including all three Local 142 Titled Officers, called over 1,500 members from September 18-22.

Legal Support

Local 142's general counsel (legal team) is at the service of Local 142 members impacted by the fire free of charge. This is a critical service for members who have to file insurance

claims, have questions about their mortgage, or need help filing FEMA applications.

Local 142's ILWU legal team is there to help members sort through information and misinformation regarding their property, government services, and programs, and to provide support and advocacy as members engage with insurance companies and other organizations.

Medical

Local 142 worked with Kaiser Permanente and other healthcare partners to set up a mobile, free, walk-in clinic in Lahaina. The mobile clinics and first-aid stations were established throughout West Maui. Prescriptions can be filled at these locations as well.

Transitioning to Action

In late September, Local 142 expanded their efforts from direct services for members to supporting member involvement in community outreach. ILWU members, many of whom lost their homes in the fires, expressed interest in volunteering at community hubs and resource centers that ILWU members access.

Because of member involvement like this, the union's capacity to make sure members get up-to-date and accurate information and the support they deserve has increased significantly. This is the best of unionism - by members, for members.

In addition to volunteer outreach, members have also begun building ILWU Lahaina Strong Worker Committees. These committees utilize the union structure to involve West Maui members in the discussions and issues they are facing pertaining to the fires and the rebuilding efforts. The Lahaina Strong Worker Committees build the voice of the members. They will help mobilize members when it's vital to engage with decision-makers.

issues related to the fire. They recently staged a “Fishing for Housing” action on Ka'anapali Beach in front of the Westin Maui. They have occupied the beach since early November, calling on the county and state to provide “dignified housing” to fire survivors and educating hundreds of tourists who have visited the encampment on the issue.

When the ILWU and UNITE-HERE! Local 5 decided to address the problem of housing for fire survivors

“To ensure that the people's interests are put over corporate interests, that Lahaina is rebuilt the right way, and that you and your families can remain in Lahaina for generations to come, we must reach across units, across worksites, and across differences, and stand together as one.”

– Local 142 President Chris West

ILWU & UNITE-HERE! Unify for Housing in Lahaina

Hundreds of West Maui hotel workers and community members marched and rallied for dignified housing in Lahaina on December 20.

The action called upon the County of Maui and the State of Hawai'i to implement short-term housing solutions for fire survivors that support long-term solutions for Hawai'i's housing crisis. Converting short-term rentals into long-term housing for Maui families was the focal point. Participants also called for extending eviction protections and capping what landlords can charge in rent for fire survivors.

The action began with a joint union press conference where Local 142 President Chris West and UNITE-HERE! Local 5 Financial Treasurer-Secretary Cade Watanabe called on the government to get fire survivors into temporary long-term housing as soon as possible. They were followed by rank-and-file members from both unions who were directly impacted by the fires.

Following the press conference, UNITE-HERE! hotel workers at the Sheraton Maui, the northernmost hotel on the block, marched up Ka'anapali Parkway. Local 142 members from the Ritz-Carlton, the Royal Lahaina, the Westin Maui, the Hyatt Regency, and other ILWU West Maui hotels joined at different points along the way.

“Hey, hey! Ho ho! Vacation rentals have got to go!” were among the many spirited chants the hotel workers and community members called out for the duration of the march and rally. Rally signs read “Maui People First,” “Reduce Rising Rent,” and “Stop Evictions Now.”

At the Westin Maui, 250 community members, including parents, children, local teachers, and others brought together by the grassroots organization Lahaina Strong, joined the march behind the hotel workers. They also lent their voices to the boisterous chants up the parkway.

Lahaina Strong is led by a group of young Lahaina residents who have organized and mobilized around various

with a focus on vacation rentals, they took up the mantra of “dignified housing” started by Lahaina Strong. The unions contacted Lahaina Strong to collaborate, and Lahaina Strong agreed.

Other community organizations that participated in the action were The Hawai'i Workers Center, Maui Housing Hui, and the Maui Tenants and Housing Association. Hawai'i State Senator Angus McKelvy and Maui County Council Members Tamara Paltin and Gabe Johnson also joined the rally and march. The wife of former Mayor Mike Victorino and ILWU pensioner Joycelyn Victorino marched and rallied in support as well.

The action also marked a significant warming between Hawai'i's two hotel unions, ILWU Local 142 and UNITE HERE! Local 5.

“It doesn't make any sense for the two hotel unions in Hawai'i, representing workers in the state's most important industry, to be divided. In the end, that weakens our power. And the stakes are too high in Maui, and in all of Hawai'i, for us to let that happen.” Local 142 President Chris West commented.

I am so proud of everyone who, despite the hardship, trauma, and ongoing struggles resulting from the fires, is getting active to take hold of their future in Lahaina. The people's involvement is the strongest way to ensure that the people's needs are met.

Unity is Key

“The trauma from the fires, the everyday stresses of not knowing what the future holds, misinformation, and other factors can drive wedges between families and communities. But we can't let that happen,” said Local 142 President Chris West. “To ensure that the people's interests are put over corporate interests, that Lahaina is rebuilt the right way, and that you and your families can remain in Lahaina for generations to come, we must reach across units, across worksites, and across differences, and stand together as one. This is the union way. This is the ILWU way.”

This article is based on reporting done by Local 142's newspaper *The Voice* editor Ilima Long and Local 142 President Chris West's report previously published in *The Voice*.



ILWU International Vice President (Hawai'i) Sam Kreutz (second from left) at a rally in support of housing for Maui residents impacted by the wildfires.

'Walk the Coast' Poker Tournament raises nearly \$12,000 to fight children's cancer

Did you know that our ILWU shuffles a deck of playing cards to save children's lives and support families? Hearts, spades, clubs and diamonds were the suits that our ILWU called for children.

In order to raise the pot for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's fight against childhood cancer and unite the union, ILWU Walk the Coast dealt their annual call to every local in every division to participate in either of two ways, online at www.ilwuwalkthecoast.org or in person for a fun night at the 9th Annual ILWU Walk the Coast Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament. There's no bluffing that the stakes are high for children and that the members of the ILWU are all-in to help. A full house of Locals 13, 29, 46, 63, 63OCU, 94, Southern California Pensioners, family and friends placed their bets on December 6th at the Lucky Lady Casino in Gardena, California.

Showing good hearts, 100 players each bought in for \$130. They pushed their ante in and hoped that the next flop would deliver a pair, trips, the inside straight, or the flush needed to call or raise the player who went all in. Some folded too early and lost against a higher pocket pair. Those that busted had fun gambling for a good cause. There were no jokers in the crowd, only caring people willing to have a good time. Three players scooped enough chips from the kitty to take home a trophy. They checked at the right time, raised when they should have and folded when needed. The best players made the final table. There's a kicker. ILWU Walk the Coast tries very hard to get every member in every local involved in our union's unique fundraiser. Poker tournaments are often male-dominated competitions. Something different happened in this tournament, a very good break. For the first time ILWU Walk the Coast

had a woman, in fact two women, place in the top three. Congratulations went to first place tournament champion Monique Ralph, a class B member. Monique took home \$2,795. The second-place winner of \$2,000 was Local 13's Robert Flores. Diana Lopez, wife of Local 13 member John Lopez, claimed the \$1,200 third place pot.

After all the chips were counted and the tournament winners declared, ILWU Walk the Coast was proud that the ILWU hit a final jackpot of \$11,995 for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. More locals are participating. The 2023 fundraiser is still open and nearing \$100,000. ILWU Walk the Coast is growing. To make a donation for you or your local, go to www.ilwuwalkthecoast.org.

— Dan Imbagliazzo



ILWU Tri-Party Golf Tournament raises \$105,000 for Long Beach's Miller's Women's and Children's Hospital

On December 12, the ILWU Tri-Party Golf Committee presented a \$105,000 check to the Miller's Women's and Children's Hospital as our donation to from the 2023 tournament.

The Committee also invited Local 63 clerk Vince Marinkovich and his family to take a tour of the infant gym named after their late son, Vinnie, who was always at the tournament and always had a positive impact at the banquet. "This shows how our donations have impacted the families of the Long Beach and surrounding areas," said Local 94's Gil Garcia. "It was very hum-

bling to see a portion of the Children's Hospital named after someone from the ILWU family."

Pictured in the photo are Committee members include Mark Grgas and Denise Paris from Local 63, Gil Garcia from Local 94 presenting the donation to Rob Gunsalus, President of Memorial Care Long Beach Foundations, Blair Kent, CEO Memorial Care Long Brach Hospital, Cathleen Wieder, Executive Director of Development, Miller's Women's and Children's Hospital, the Marinkovich family: Vince, wife LeAnn, and sons AJ and John.



Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves visits Port of Tacoma, Local 23 hall

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workers, and other workers in the supply chain. These are good-paying jobs and they're going to be even better as we organize these groups of workers."

The honor of introducing Deputy Secretary Graves went to ILWU International President Willie Adams.

President Adams began by thanking Local 23, his home local, for hosting the event and reflected on the new generation entering the workforce and the importance of passing the torch as he approaches retirement at the end of his current term.

"Before the event, I had an opportunity to shake the hands of a group of casuals. They are the future of this organization. Change is good. At the end of this year, I will be leaving, as it will be time for me to go after 46 years. A time comes when an organization

needs a new face and a new voice. And the younger generation continues to soar like an eagle."

Adams also spoke about the ILWU's strong relationship with the Biden Administration and noted the number of Administration officials that have visited Local 23 and the Port of Tacoma over the past three years including former Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and Port and Supply Chain Envoy General Stephen R. Lyons

Adams described Dept. Sec. Graves as an icon and a man of principle. "He has been the leader in the Department's efforts to make sure our supply chain is the best in the world," Adams said.

Graves spoke about the Biden Administration's commitment to providing good jobs and investing in infra-
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Honoring Auxiliary 35: President Adams presents plaque to Auxiliary 35 for their work, dedication, and contributions to Local 23.

Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves visits Port of Tacoma, Local 23 hall

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structure. He said that the Department of Commerce operated under what he called “Good Jobs Principles”

“These are principles that we believe would be a foundation and framework around a shared vision about what constitutes good jobs. It’s how we make sure that our employers know the standards and the best practices for employing American workers. It’s what we expect, when we’re investing all across the country, what we expect those dollars to be used for. It’s creating good jobs, quality jobs, family-sustaining jobs, and sending a clear message that we stand with workers and we expect our partners to do the same,” Graves said.

Graves also spoke about the Biden Administration’s Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness which includes Local 63 Vice President Joe Gasperov

“Joe’s role on that committee is to help make sure that we know what you’re seeing at your ports, and what you’re seeing in the supply chains. We have to make sure that you will have what you need to be successful,” Graves said. “If one thing is clear, it’s that President Biden and Vice Presi-

dent Harris are taking supply chains and our economy and putting it at the top of our priority list. We have to continue to devote our attention to supply chain issues, especially as we plan for long-term success. We continue to make investments, to reduce dangerous dependencies to prevent disruptions, and to ensure the protection of the rights of workers that are vital to our supply chain.”

After Graves spoke, President Adams presented him with a plaque on behalf of the ILWU and Local 23 for his leadership and commitment to a better world. Pres. Adams also presented a plaque honoring Tacoma’s Federated Auxiliary 35.

“I wanted to publicly thank the Auxiliary for their contributions to the ILWU,” President Adams said. “In the words of Muhammad Ali, ‘Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.’”

Victoria Sowers who serves as President of Auxiliary 35 and as President of the Federated Auxiliaries accepted the award. “It’s an honor to support the members of Local 23 and to give back to them because of what they do for us,” Sowers said.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Curtis R. Aborn; Shellie Ann Ashoff; Kyle E. Lehto; **Local 8:** Brian E. Ferryman; Bryan T. Marchek; **Local 10:** Scott P. Anders; Charles A. Boyakins Sr.; Dennis Davison; Jose A. Irizarry; Danny R. Johnson; Gilbert Bernard Martinez; Michael E. Piazza; Jack S. Poon; **Local 13:** Ernesto Alba; Stacy M. Babe; Jimmy G. Biehle; Larry W. Bland; Joan V. Cirillo; Antonio Connelly; George Contrades; Bob Dillon; Dale Allen Earl; Michael Galea; Susan Garcia; Eugene D. Gonzalez; Gregory J. Guzman; Isaac P. Hietala; Charlene R. Howard; Joel Huerta; Debra D. Huett; John F. Kenny; Hue C. Lo; Angelo M. Margain; Edgar C. Nagtalon; Robert G. Nichols; Dolores H. Olivas; Aletta C. Owen; Kenneth M. Pearson; John Joseph Rivello; Reginald Roberts; Victoria Sanchez; Pedro J. Santos; Felipe Serrano; Andrew Silvas; William B. Stecker; George E. Trejo; William J. Weatherford; Linda J. White; Crystal D. Wright; Gregory A. Wyatt; John V. Young; **Local 19:** Todd C. Bergman; Brian K. Lambert; Robert L. Williams; **Local 23:** Calvin Barnett; Gerry N. Beck; Daniel D. Bridges; Craig R. Castaneda; Savorn Him; **Local 26:** Emmett Hall Jr.; **Local 29:** Mario Verduzco; Robert Vinole; **Local 40:** Michell I. Milton; **Local 54:** Maurice Applegate; **Local 63:** Eugene R. Anselmo; Joseph J. Argento; Valerie E. Bland; Diana G. Brown; Kenneth C. Cook; Francisco Curiel; Cathy L. Gardner; Mary A. Gioiello; Ginger Jones; Maria J. Kanlilar; Scott R. Lacey; Robert F. Missetich; George M. Raljevich; Jillian E. Reid; Christopher J. Sestich; Kathy

Sterling-Myles; Frank L. Taliercio; **Local 91:** Edward L. Capizano, Jr.; **Local 94:** Lawrence E. Brown; Melvin E. Gravett; Charles C. Reeves; **Local 98:** Nichols J. Engels; **DECEASED PENSIONERS:** **Local 8:** Dan L. Curtis; Thomas M. Walker; **Local 10:** Robert W. Donahue; Sheldon A. Dulberg; Robert L. Ford; Tate Guice Jr.; Raul D. Longoria; **Local 13:** Maria E. Duarte; Anton J. Felando; Stan N. Klausner; Francisco R. Magana; Trinidad S. Martinez; Anthony S. Orlando; **Local 19:** Henry L. Appel; Ken D. Gomes; Frank P. Holberg; Gary D. Smith; **Local 21:** Jerry J. Rogers; Donald W. Van Brunt; **Local 34:** Dwain L. McCloud; **Local 40:** Richard R. Campbell; Kenneth C. Nelson; **Local 46:** Alex A. Mendez; **Local 63:** Joseph Aguila; Riste V. Tuupo; Elizabeth B. Williams; **Local 92:** James E. Healy; **DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:** **Local 13:** Ruben Esqueda; Dominic M. Russo; **Local 47:** Shawn L. Lanning; **DECEASED SURVIVORS:** **Local 10:** Bernice Clemons; Dolores Granada; Amparo Longoria; **Local 12:** Mary J. Gravelle; **Local 13:** Mary Jane Bloomingdale; Carol J. Dykes; Betty J. Thorson; **Local 19:** Jeanette A. Steward; **Local 21:** Stella Brusco; Jewell A. Higgins; Patricia Weber; **Local 23:** Joanne Castaneda; **Local 26:** Yoshie Rigby; **Local 34:** Vera Ward; Thelma Whitright; **Local 40:** Velma J. Dodge; **Local 54:** Tony L. Machado; **Local 63:** Raquel Suarez;

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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Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves visits Port of Tacoma, Local 23 hall



From left to right: ILWU Legislative Consultant Kyle Mulhall, Dan McKisson (Local 19); Brock Graber (Local 23), Local 23 President Jared Faker, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves; ILWU International President Willie Adams, Coast Committeeman Cam Williams, Dane Jones (Local 40) at the Local 23 hall.

The Biden Administration's Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves visited Local 23 and the Port of Tacoma on January 16. He was the keynote speaker for the Tacoma Propeller Club's Annual Spaghetti Feed event hosted each year at Local 23.

The Propeller Club's mission is to promote the maritime industry in the Puget Sound through education and civic engagement.

Before speaking at the event, Deputy Secretary Graves toured the Port of Tacoma with a delegation led by ILWU International President Willie Adams, Coast Committeeman

Cam Williams, Local 23 President Jared Faker, and Longshore Division Legislative Committee Chair Dan McKisson and discussed issues related to the West Coast ports.

Faker served as the master of ceremony for the event. He started with a brief welcome and thanked

the volunteers for setting up the tables and preparing the meal for all of the guests. Volunteers from Local 23 and the Federated Auxiliary spent the day preparing a pasta dinner for the attendees.

"Here we have employers and labor, industry and government, all sitting in the same room together, breaking bread, looking for common sense solutions to move our industry forward," Faker said. Adding that the partnership with the Port of Tacoma and terminal operators has been a recipe for success for Local 23, noting robust container volumes, record-setting breakbulk cargo, and an increase in auto imports and U.S. military work.

"I am happy to tell you that the work hours in the Port of Tacoma in quarter four of 2023 were our highest quarter in 20 years," said Faker. "These numbers not only mean gainful employment for our 1,500 members, but it also means that we'll soon be doing additional hiring of new workers, new training, and advancement for our incumbent workforce. This means opportunities not just for longshore workers, but also truck drivers, warehouse

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ILWU's bankruptcy filing and ICTSI litigation settled

The ILWU and the Coast Longshore Division (CLD) and ICTSI Oregon, Inc. have reached a settlement of all legal claims and disputes.

The settlement finally resolves the decade-long litigation pending in the Oregon district court and the ILWU's bankruptcy filing. The settlement was reached after several days of mediation and provides for, among other things, a mutual broad release of all claims and disputes among the parties, including the claims in the ICTSI lawsuit, and payment of \$20.5 million to ICTSI. The ILWU has filed motions asking the bankruptcy court to approve the settlement and dismiss the bankruptcy case.

The ILWU filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code on September 30, 2023, due to mounting legal expenses and potential liability exposure that the ILWU was facing from the decade-long litigation with ICTSI. The bankruptcy case was filed in order to allow the ILWU to address and resolve the litigation with ICTSI so that the ILWU could move forward and focus on the future. This settlement will allow both the ILWU and CLD to move on from any further litigation with ICTSI.

DISPATCHER

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Communications Director

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CELEBRATION
OF BLACK
HISTORY &
LABOR

HOSTED BY I.L.W.U. LOCAL 23

We invite you to join us for a jubilant evening celebrating the many accomplishments and history of Black longshore workers in the Port of Tacoma. Featured speakers:
April Sims, President of the WSLC and Willie Adams, ILWU International President.

DATE: February 18th 2024

TIME: 5-8pm (Southern style food will be served)

LOCATION:
Foss Waterway Seaport
705 Dock St.
Tacoma, WA 98402

Register on
Eventbrite with link
below or with QR
code. Attendance is
free.

bit.ly/black-labor-history

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