



THE DISPATCHER

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Local 142 statewide convention page 2



Passing the gavel: ILWU President Emeritus Willie Adams passes the gavel to newly elected International President Bobby Olvera, Jr. and the rest of the new leadership team: Vice President Mainland Ryan Whitman, Vice President Hawaii Brandon Wolff, and Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris.

ILWU members elect new leadership team: Olvera, Whitman, Wolff, and Ferris

Coast Committeemen Williams & Ponce De Leon sworn in with new International Executive Board members, Titled Officers

A new leadership team—led by International President Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President (Mainland) Ryan Whitman, Vice President (Hawaii) Brandon Wolff, and returning Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris—was sworn in by outgoing International President Willie Adams at the ILWU's International Executive Board meeting in San Francisco on October 29. Bobby Olvera, Jr. becomes the ILWU's 8th International President. Ed Ferris was elected to his third term as Secretary-Treasurer.

Pres. Olvera thanked Adams for his steady leadership, for steer-

ing the union through a difficult six years, and for "clearing the deck" so the incoming administration would have the opportunity to grow and strengthen the union in the next three years.

Election results

Detailed voting results appear on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

Executive Board certifies results

The International Balloting Committee met in San Francisco on October 4 to examine and count the ballots. On October 29 the International Executive Board met in San Francisco where they reviewed both the Balloting and Election Procedures Committee reports and following a brief discussion, voted unanimously to accept both reports and

certify the election results. Following the certification, the Titled Officers, Coast Committeemen, and Executive Board members were sworn in.

Recognition for Adams

After taking their oath of office, the new officers were joined by guests in the courtyard of the International Offices where a bronze plaque was unveiled naming the courtyard in honor of President Emeritus Willie Adams.

Adams thanked the new officers for the recognition. "Twenty-one years went by so fast. I never would have thought I would receive an honor like this and it means a lot to me," he said.

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Together We Rise: Local 142's 30th statewide convention convenes in Honolulu

ILWU Local 142 held its 30th statewide convention in Honolulu from September 9 to 13. It is the largest local in the ILWU and Hawaii's largest private-sector union, representing approximately 16,000 workers. Its membership touches the daily lives of everyone in the state through its work in diverse industries, including longshore, hotels/tourism, agriculture, health-care, and supermarkets.

The statewide convention is the highest policy-making body in Local 142 and meets every three years in September. The membership of each unit elects rank-and-file delegates to the convention. A unit consists of the members at each company under an ILWU contract.

During the Local 142 Convention:

- Policies and programs are adopted that guide the work of the local;
- The operating budget is reviewed and adopted;
- Changes can be made to the Constitution; and
- The three highest local officers are nominated: President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Speakers at the convention included Local 142 members and officers, ILWU International Officers, state and local elected officials, and representatives from international and local unions. The speeches tied together the convention's theme: "Together We Rise." They discussed the importance of working-class solidarity, internationalism, building



Local 142 President Chris West

unity within the ILWU and across unions, and lifting one another up in hard times.

Local 142 President's Address

ILWU Local 142 President Chris West opened the event with an address to the delegates and guests on the first morning of the convention. "Together We Rise" was a constant refrain throughout his speech and he emphasized Local 142's rank-and-file democracy.

He spoke about the far-reaching and daily impact that ILWU members have on people in Hawaii: "The importance of ILWU members to Hawaii was never more evident than during COVID," West said, noting that many members were essential workers who came into work throughout the pandemic despite the risks. Local 142 members kept cargo flowing through the ports and kept the groceries stocked at Foodland, Hawaii's largest grocery store chain.

West also noted that Hawaii's economy is largely dependent on tourism, that the 8,000 members who work in tourism make up the largest industrial grouping in Local 142, and that the ILWU is the largest hotel workers union on the island of Maui.

Last year's tragic wildfires on Maui were on the minds and in the hearts of every delegate.

"The effects of the Maui wildfires rocked this union to its core," West said noting that the fires were one of the greatest natural disasters in the state's history, destroying the city of Lahaina including the residences of 1,500 Local 142 members.

"The ILWU was one of the first organizations to take action," said West. He outlined the quick response by Local 142 to the crisis. The local arranged a police escort to West Maui so a response team could meet with people after the fires, assess their needs, and organize relief efforts before federal or state agencies responded. Local 142's crisis response team organized donations of relief supplies, set up a supply chain to collect and deliver goods to those in need, and provided free legal assistance to members to navigate insurance and FEMA paperwork.

"When we work together with the community as we did in the aftermath of the fires, together we rise," West said.



Solidarity march: Hundreds Local 142 members participated in a massive march and rally in solidarity with Unite Here Local 5 hotel workers who are fighting for a fair contract at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

West concluded by tying the convention's theme to the importance of building labor solidarity within the labor movement and within Local 142 and highlighting the union's political work in helping to pass legislation that benefited working-class families throughout the state.

Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke

West was followed by Hawaii's Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke. She spoke about her long relationship with the ILWU, how Local 142 was one of only two unions that supported her first political campaign, and how that support carried her to a narrow victory.

She also thanked Local 142 for their work assisting the people of Maui. "What is better than having local folks take care of our local community?" asked Lt. Gov. Luke. "But there is still a lot to do. There has to be a discussion about permanent housing, mental health, and food insecurity. It is our responsibility to uplift a community that has gone through so much."

Willie Adams

ILWU International President Willie Adams delivered the day's final speech. He spoke about the culture shift he has seen at Local 142 over the past three years and the strong ties that have been built between Local 142 and the International. He noted how welcome he felt coming to Hawaii and spoke about the way Chris West encouraged the development of new union leaders.

"Leadership is not about having power over others, but it is about

inspiring and empowering the membership," Adams said. He encouraged the delegates to remain active in the union and to stay engaged because the convention delegates are part of a new generation of leaders that will continue the tradition of rank-and-file democracy that keeps the ILWU strong.

Following the morning plenary session, delegates broke into their committee assignments to do the work of the convention.

Lahaina strong

Day two began by honoring Local 142 members impacted by the Lahaina fires. Owen Kahahane, Unit Chair at the Hyatt Maui, was one of three members who recounted their experience during and after the wildfires. Kahahane also spoke about the ongoing organizing efforts for a just rebuilding of Lahaina and the need to protect Lahaina residents from being displaced by land developers and unaffordable rents caused by short-term rental properties.

Kahahane introduced a motion that passed unanimously to honor all Local 142 members impacted by the Lahaina fires. The convention also passed three additional resolutions remembering Local 142 members and retirees who were victims of the Lahaina wildfires, recognizing the work of the Hawaii Longshore Division for organizing relief and support efforts, and recognizing the support and assistance from ILWU locals, members, and pensioners from the mainland.

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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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ILWU sends solidarity delegation to support striking ILA members on East, Gulf Coasts

Dozens of ILWU members from all along the West Coast, Hawaii, and Alaska traveled across the country to support members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) who went on strike on October 1 after their contract with the employer group, United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), expired.

The solidarity delegation included ILWU International President Willie Adams and ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr. ILWU members stood shoulder to shoulder with ILA members on their picket lines on the East and Gulf coasts during their strike over working conditions, automation, and wages.

An end to the strike was announced on October 3 in a joint release by the ILA and USMX stating that a tentative agreement on wages was reached along with an agreement to extend the contract until January 15, 2025, and their "return to the bargaining table to negotiate all other outstanding issues."

White House backs workers

The Biden-Harris Administration expressed support for the ILA throughout the three-day strike.

Business groups wanted the administration to invoke the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act to force an end to the strike through a federal injunction. Pres. Biden rejected that option, saying he "doesn't believe in Taft-Hartley." He also released a statement on the first day of the strike urging the employers to reach a fair contract with the ILA, citing the ocean carriers' enormous profits and the heroic work of longshore workers during COVID.

"I have urged USMX, which represents a group of foreign-owned carriers, to come to the table and present a fair offer to the workers of the International Longshoremen's Association that ensures they are paid appropriately in line with their invaluable contributions. Ocean carriers have made record profits since the pandemic and in some cases, profits grew in excess of 800 percent compared to their profits prior to the pandemic. Executive compensation has grown in line with those profits and profits have been returned to shareholders at record rates. It's only fair that workers, who put themselves at risk during the pandemic to keep ports open, see a meaningful increase in their wages as well," Biden's statement said.

The Biden-Harris Administration, including Acting Secretary of Labor

Julie Su and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, worked behind the scenes to get a deal and pushed the employers to raise their offer on wages.

"The administration played a key role here in bringing the parties together and defending American workers and the union workers against foreign giants," said ILA Vice President Ken Riley in an article in the Washington Post.

In contrast to the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to supporting the collective bargaining process, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis planned to mobilize the National Guard to four ports in the state to "maintain order" and perform scab labor during the strike but a deal was reached before troops could be deployed.



Left to right: John Seixas (Local 13), Mark Bass, ILA Local 1410 President (Mobile, AL) Victor Zuniga (Local 13), and Brandi Good (Local 13).



Scores of ILWU members from the West Coast, Hawaii, and Alaska travelled to East Coast ports as part of a solidarity delegation during their three-day strike.

Unity from Coast to Coast

Solidarity delegations from Locals 13 and 23 were just two of many ILWU locals from the West Coast, Hawaii, and Alaska that sent members to support the ILA during their strike. Some members from their delegations shared their thoughts and reflections about their experience with the *Dispatcher*.

Local 23 sent a three-person delegation to the Ports of New York and New Jersey: Business Agent Wyatt Ellis, Area LRC John Stagg, and Young Worker Committee member Tyler Rasmussen. They were met by ILA representatives, toured the port complex, and stopped at each site to give a few words of encouragement and solidarity to striking ILA members.

"I was honored and privileged to stand on the picket line with my sisters and brothers of the ILA during their struggle. Our unions are divided geographically, but we share the bond of solidarity."

— Wyatt Ellis, Local 23

"It was an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with our ILA brothers and sisters on the East Coast. The unity of dockworkers standing together from all over the world is a powerful statement. It shows our strength and dedication to fight for fair contracts with safe working conditions. An Injury to One is an Injury to All."

— John Stagg, Local 23

"Sending a delegation to stand in solidarity with the ILA is the union putting our words into action. Proud to stand with the ILA in their struggle."

— Tyler Rasmussen, Local 23

Local 13 members John Seixas, Brandi Good, and Victor Zuniga visited picket lines in Mobile, Alabama, and Charleston, South Carolina.

"This was an eye-opening experience seeing the effects of past segregation and current right-to-work laws hurting union workers says nothing more loudly than elections have consequences! We have to educate ourselves and vote for leaders who are willing to stand with civil rights and labor or we won't be able to fight for ourselves against those who wish to do unionism harm."

— John Seixas, Local 13

"Standing in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the ILA during their strike was not just a duty, but a heartfelt commitment to the values we share as union members. Together, we rise for fair treatment and respect in the workplace. Our strength lies in our unity, and I was proud to support our fellow workers in their fight for justice."

— Brandi Good, Local 13

"Our visit to Mobile, AL, and Charleston, SC during the recent ILA strike was about longshore solidarity between the coasts, the ILWU, and the ILA. Solidarity isn't just about unity for unity's sake. It's about building the power to fight by building a bigger "us", one that's big enough to stand up to the ocean carriers and terminal operators who will do anything to thwart that power. We need to continue working toward a future of standing together in solidarity, arms locked, and urge others to join this movement because we are stronger together."

— Victor Zuniga, Local 13

Local 13's "Give Pack Program" supports local youth program

On August 3, ILWU Local 13 teamed up with the Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro, CA to hand out backpacks and school supplies to children who need them. This is the second year that Local 13 has teamed up with the Toberman Neighborhood Center. Toberman has been serving San Pedro and the Los Angeles Harbor Area since 1937. Today, they focus on gang prevention/intervention, food distribution, counseling, and other support for the area's youth.

The "Give Pack Program" was started by Local 13 member Jacob Connelly last year as a way for Local 13 to serve the community and advocate for those who live around the Port of Los Angeles. "Our job is moving cargo; our business is advocacy," Connelly said.

Toberman was a good fit for the local to partner with because of their deep roots and history in the community and the range of support they provide including eye exams, health check-ups, and haircuts for kids returning to school.

Local 13 supplied the backpacks and school supplies from donations from members, pensioners, the ILWU Credit Union, and Locals 63 and 94. Last year, Local 13 was able to pack over 400 backpacks with school supplies with the help of union volunteers. This year, they supplied more than 600 backpacks for the giveaway. Class A and Class B longshore workers, casuals, and family members volunteered to do the work of organizing and stuffing the hundreds of backpacks at the Local 13 office.

On the day of the event, dozens of volunteers from Local 13 came out to help children pick backpacks that

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ILWU volunteers with Los Angeles City Council member Tim McOsker.

Region, Local	INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS									
	PRESIDENT		MAINLAND V. PRESIDENT			HAWAII V. PRESIDENT		SECRETARY-TREASURER		
	Olvera	Write-in	Whitman	Fageaux	Write-in	Wolff	Write-in	Ferris	Write-in	
Southern California										
13-San Pedro	1440	75	494	1007	13	1333	28	1336	23	
20-Wilmington	9	0	4	5	0	7	0	9	0	
26-Los Angeles	38	0	11	25	0	35	0	36	0	
29-San Diego	24	0	15	12	0	21	0	22	0	
46-Port Hueneme	11	0	4	6	1	10	0	10	0	
56-San Pedro	10	0	3	6	0	9	0	9	0	
63-San Pedro	546	28	260	363	4	512	12	487	14	
65-San Pedro	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
68-San Pedro	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
94-San Pedro	212	14	78	168	6	210	10	206	4	
subtotals	2292	117	869	1594	24	2139	50	2117	41	
Office Clerical Unit										
63 OCU-Long Beach	313	2	40	374	1	291	10	295	1	
So. Calif Desert Area										
30-Boron	21	0	10	12	0	21	1	22	0	
Northern California										
6-Oakland	20	0	8	10	0	15	1	19	0	
10-San Francisco	190	3	123	52	3	167	10	229	3	
14-Eureka	3	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	
18-West Sacramento	9	0	7	1	0	8	0	9	0	
34-San Francisco	66	3	41	27	1	65	1	73	3	
54-Stockton	25	0	20	7	0	27	0	27	0	
75-Oakland	6	1	1	6	0	7	0	6	1	
91-San Francisco	30	1	20	8	0	25	0	30	0	
Am. Radio Assoc.	4	0	2	2	0	4	0	4	0	
subtotals	353	8	222	116	4	321	12	399	7	
Oregon & Columbia River										
4-Vancouver	39	0	36	4	0	38	1	37	1	
5-Portland	33	0	21	8	0	29	0	32	0	
8-Portland	90	4	95	7	1	87	4	85	4	
12-North Bend	7	0	7	0	0	5	2	7	0	
21-Longview	76	2	77	4	0	74	0	75	0	
28-Portland	24	1	18	7	1	23	1	24	1	
40-Portland	39	2	36	7	0	37	0	38	1	
50-Astoria	8	0	7	2	0	8	0	8	0	
53-Newport	4	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	
92-Portland	17	0	15	3	0	17	0	17	0	
subtotals	337	9	316	42	2	322	8	327	7	
Puget Sound										
7-Bellingham	10	0	11	0	0	8	0	6	1	
9-Seattle	6	0	6	0	0	5	0	6	0	
19-Seattle	118	5	118	24	2	113	4	110	5	
22-Tacoma	25	0	25	2	0	25	0	25	0	
23-Tacoma	256	7	271	31	0	243	6	253	1	
24-Aberdeen	11	0	11	1	0	10	0	10	0	
25-Anacortes	4	0	4	1	0	4	0	3	0	
27-Port Angeles	4	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	
32-Everett	12	0	9	4	0	12	0	12	0	
47-Olympia	6	1	6	1	0	7	0	5	2	
51-Port Gamble	6	0	6	0	0	6	0	6	0	
52-Seattle	62	4	57	15	0	59	2	62	2	
98-Seattle	51	0	41	13	0	48	1	51	0	
subtotals	571	17	569	92	2	544	13	553	11	
Alaska										
200-Juneau	12	0	8	2	0	11	0	12	0	
Alaska Longshore Division	47	0	35	13	0	44	3	47	0	
subtotals	59	0	43	15	0	55	3	59	0	
Canada										
333-Vancouver	27	0	21	8	0	29	0	28	0	
400-Vancouver	21	0	17	4	0	21	0	21	0	
500-Vancouver	178	2	131	44	3	172	6	172	2	
502-Surrey	89	0	75	24	0	88	0	90	0	
505-Prince Rupert	25	0	21	5	0	22	2	25	0	
508-Chemainus	8	0	6	2	0	8	0	8	0	
514-Burnaby	199	1	151	50	1	196	0	193	0	
517-Vancouver	46	0	38	8	0	43	0	44	0	
519-Stewart	5	0	4	0	0	5	0	5	0	
520-Vancouver	3	0	2	1	0	4	0	4	0	
522-Vancouver	5	0	4	0	0	5	0	5	0	
523-Prince Rupert	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	
subtotals	608	3	472	146	4	595	8	597	2	
IBU-Marine Division										
IBU	154	0	105	49	1	141	6	154	3	
Hawaii										
100-Honolulu	34	0	21	9	0	36	1	33	0	
142-Honolulu	771	2	526	228	0	761	42	744	1	
160-Honolulu	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	
1000	17	0	3	30	0	7	32	17	0	
1222	5	0	4	18	0	3	22	5	0	
subtotals	829	2	556	285	0	809	97	801	1	
GRAND TOTALS:	5537	158	3202	2725	38	5238	208	5324	73	

COAST COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

NORTHWEST		CALIFORNIA							
<u>Williams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>PonceDeLeon</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Gratz</u>	<u>Aguirre</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Podue</u>	<u>Mendoza</u>	<u>Write-In</u>
1302	5	1486	30	350	854	1053	858	1024	25
0	0	0	0	4	4	8	7	1	0
0	0	0	0	40	18	15	9	19	1
21	0	25	0	17	11	11	16	16	3
9	0	10	1	6	3	4	8	10	0
0	0	0	0	8	8	9	2	3	0
489	5	566	15	170	488	204	553	285	18
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
0	0	0	0	49	135	122	184	222	3
1821	10	2087	46	645	1521	1427	1637	1582	50
<u>Williams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>PonceDeLeon</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Feikema</u>	<u>Write-in</u>				
				378	7				
<u>Williams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>PonceDeLeon</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Martz</u>	<u>Write-in</u>				
				24	1				
<u>Williams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>PonceDeLeon</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Willis</u>	<u>Gonzales</u>	<u>Nunez</u>	<u>Write-In</u>		
0	0	0	0	7	8	24	0		
179	1	171	4	153	124	67	70		
3	0	3	0	2	3	2	0		
8	0	9	0	8	4	5	2		
60	1	57	2	45	68	37	20		
27	0	26	0	17	20	19	2		
0	0	0	0	2	7	4	4		
0	0	0	0	13	20	12	11		
0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0		
277	2	266	6	250	256	171	109		
<u>Williams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>PonceDeLeon</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Dubay</u>	<u>Norton</u>	<u>Findley</u>	<u>Harrison</u>	<u>Write-In</u>	
39	0	39	0	14	31	28	24	1	
0	0	0	0	36	6	11	18	0	
87	5	87	3	18	51	99	76	6	
6	0	6	0	2	6	5	2	1	
75	2	70	3	17	84	27	14	0	
0	0	0	0	11	15	19	11	3	
39	0	37	0	18	20	31	34	1	
8	0	8	0	2	9	5	5	0	
4	0	3	0	1	3	3	1	0	
0	0	0	0	8	16	10	11	0	
258	7	250	6	127	241	238	196	12	
<u>Williams</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>PonceDeLeon</u>	<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Koho</u>	<u>Faker</u>	<u>McKisson</u>	<u>Write-in</u>		
8	0	8	0	5	6	10	0		
0	0	0	0	6	2	5	0		
134	6	107	3	42	56	145	4		
0	0	0	0	18	19	11	0		
257	1	237	2	88	253	107	6		
11	0	10	0	5	8	8	0		
4	0	4	0	3	4	4	0		
4	0	4	0	2	4	2	0		
12	0	12	0	4	7	12	0		
6	1	5	0	3	4	6	2		
6	0	6	0	0	4	4	0		
63	3	57	4	29	31	72	0		
0	0	0	0	24	36	37	1		
505	11	450	9	229	434	423	13		
				<u>Groom</u>	<u>Write-in</u>				
				12	0				
				47	2				
				59	2				
				<u>Ashton</u>	<u>Write-in</u>				
				30	0				
				23	0				
				164	17				
				72	20				
				29	0				
				10	0				
				187	15				
				49	0				
				3	0				
				4	0				
				6	0				
				2	0				
				579	52				
				<u>Estrada</u>	<u>Write-In</u>				
				164	0				
				<u>PINEAPPLE</u>	<u>TOURISM 1</u>	<u>TOURISM 2</u>	<u>GEN TRADES</u>	<u>LONGSHORE</u>	<u>Write-In</u>
				<u>Barreras</u>	<u>Broekstra</u>	<u>Silva</u>	<u>Gorospe Jr.</u>	<u>Dawson</u>	
				33	33	33	33	37	0
				729	722	733	748	787	2
				2	2	2	2	2	0
				17	8	9	14	10	1
				5	5	5	5	5	0
				786	770	782	802	841	3
2861	30	3053	67						

Together We Rise: Local 142's 30th statewide convention convenes in Honolulu



Together we rise: The Local 142 statewide convention celebrated unity within the local, the ILWU, and across the labor movement.

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Bobby Olvera, Jr.

ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr. spoke about the role that Wesley Furtado and members of the Hawaii Longshore Division played in encouraging him to run for International Vice President in 2018. "You've got work to do," he recalled Furtado saying to him, adding that those words stuck with him when he decided to run for International President this year.

Olvera touched on the work of the International's Organizing Department over the past six years and how he was inspired by the stories of workers who persevered in their fight to organize a union and how moved he was seeing workers shed tears when they finally joined the ILWU.

"'Together We Rise' is when I'm 85 years old, sitting somewhere in a convention like this, and there is an entirely new generation of ILWU workers still shooting for the stars, and still propelling the union forward," Olvera said.

Other speakers that day included Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi who touched on a range of issues that have been facing Honolulu post-COVID including public safety, affordable housing, and homelessness.

Solidarity in action

Delegates paused the work of the convention Tuesday afternoon for a solidarity action at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki in support of Unite Here Local 5 members who are fighting for a fair contract. The Hilton Hawaiian Village is the world's largest Hilton resort and the most profitable Hilton hotel property.

Hundreds of convention delegates and guests gathered at the Honolulu Convention Center and marched to the Hilton Hawaiian Village where they were met by hundreds of Unite Here members and community supporters for a march around the property followed by a rally.

Chris West spoke at the rally about the importance of working-class unity and strengthening the alliance between the ILWU and Unite Here Local 5. "This is the start of us joining together. Not as [Unite Here] Local 5, not as the ILWU, but as working-class people here in the state of Hawaii. We started building relationships and talking with each other three years ago. It's something that should have happened a long time ago; it's something that needs to happen with all unions moving forward," West said.

Unite Here hotel workers across the United States have been taking strike actions throughout the summer including a three-day strike by more than 10,000 hotel workers over Labor Day weekend—their largest strike in over 30 years.

After the convention, on September 24, 1,800 UNITE HERE! Local 5 members at the Hilton Hawaiian Village went on strike as they fight for a fair contract. They were still on strike as the Dispatcher was going to press.

Ed Ferris

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris spoke Wednesday morning about the significant challenges the ILWU faced over the past six years and the lessons he learned from them.

"I've learned a lot over these past six years. This job is not about ego. It's about service. It's about the membership. It's about looking after this seat until the next person takes over. This organization is comprised of imperfect people. But somehow, we've created this perfect union if we just follow the values and guiding principles the architects provided us with all those years ago," Ferris said.

International solidarity

Christy Cain, recently retired National Secretary of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) which represents approximately 127,000 Australian workers across industries gave a spirited speech that brought home the importance of international solidarity.

Cain updated delegates on the recent actions taken by the Australian government that fired 272 elected union officials and staff, placed the union's construction section under government-controlled administration, and seized their assets without due process, denying the right of the union, its officers, or staff to defend themselves. Cain said the actions were taken under the pretense of ridding the union of "bikies"—members of criminal biker gangs—after the government passed a law in just two days allowing the government to take this drastic and unprecedented action that undermines the democratic rights of CFMEU members.

Following Cain's speech, delegates unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Local 142 President Chris West strongly condemning the Australian government's "unjust and politically motivated decision to place the CFMEU under administration," recognizing the critical role that the CFMEU has played in advancing the cause of workers' rights in Australia and around the world, affirms that the prosecution of the CFMEU is an attack on all workers and that Local 142 commits to standing in full solidarity with the CFMEU as they resist the governments overreach.

Cain's speech was followed by an invitation from the Sydney Branch of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) to establish a sister port relationship with Local 142. Delegates unanimously passed a motion to become a sister port with the MUA's Sydney branch

Stronger together

Unite-Here Local 5 Financial Secretary-Treasurer Cade Watanabe was one of the final speakers of the week. He spoke about the important bonds of solidarity the two unions have formed in the past three years and how the increased unity benefits workers from the ILWU and Unite Here.

"As working people if we don't stick together then what do we have? If hotel workers in Local 5 don't stand with hotel workers in the ILWU then what does the future of tourism look like?" asked Watanabe. He said that hotel workers must work across unions to raise wages so that people can afford to remain in Hawaii instead of being displaced, separated from their families, and forced to move to the mainland.

"The work we do with our sisters, brothers, and union siblings is not just about making our union strong, it is about making our communities strong," he said. "I believe our future is bright. We, as working people are taking on some of the largest and most powerful corporations out there. If we don't figure out how to stick together, they are going to do what they do best, which is divide us and pit worker against worker."

Watanabe was followed by U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda. She is the great-granddaughter of plantation workers. She thanked the ILWU and the labor movement for uplifting and providing opportunities for workers and their families. Rep. Tokuda also spoke about the importance of the upcoming presidential elections for working people in Hawaii.

The final business of the convention was the nominations for the three highest officers of the local. Chris West was nominated for the position of Local 142 President; Corinna Salmo Nguyen was nominated for the position of Local 142 Vice President, and Michael Victorino, Jr. was nominated for the position of Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer.

Together We Rise

Hawaii Longshore Division delegate Rinda Josue-Young said the convention lived up to its theme. "The togetherness I saw at this convention and at the International Convention was something I have never seen before in this union. With that we're going to move mountains," Josue-Young said.

CORRECTIONS

In last issue of the *Dispatcher* on page 6 we misquoted Local 13 President Gary Herrera the quote should have read:

Herrera spoke about the important role ILWU locals working in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach play in moving cargo that impacts the entire U.S. economy. He also expressed support for Commissioner Diane Middleton who was not reappointed to the Los Angeles Harbor Commission. Middleton is an honorary member of Local 13, longtime ally of the ILWU, and has resided in San Pedro for 50 years.

"This is where our community lives and where our workers live," Herrera said. "When politicians come here, you better have our backs. Labor's voice should not be removed from commission seats. If you say you are for labor, then be about labor. Give us our voice back because we know our jobs better than anybody. When you remove our voice, I promise this workforce will vote against you."

On page 4, we misidentified Local 20 President Mike Gonzalo, Millwright.

We apologize for the errors.

Local 6 members reach agreement with Georgia-Pacific



Labor Community Services from Southern California delivered groceries to help workers on strike at Georgia-Pacific in Antioch.

LWU Local 6 members reached a tentative agreement with Georgia Pacific ending a three-week strike over wages at the gypsum plant in Antioch, CA. The four-year agreement includes a six percent increase in the first year (a three percent increase plus, a three percent profit share) followed by a three percent increase in each of the following three years.

"We are asking for pennies compared to what the company is making," said Local 6 member Darnell Webb in an interview with the Dispatcher during the first week of the strike.

"There are a lot of loyal workers here," added Local 6 member Jacob San Miguel. "We are just trying to get paid better so we can afford to live in California."

Koch Industries owns Georgia Pacific and is Antioch's largest manufacturing plant; it produces industrial drywall products.

Community support

Workers received community support during their strike. Local 6 organized a GoFundMe to provide financial support to workers and a local podcast "East County Voices" visited the picket line and interviewed workers.

In addition, Labor Community Services, a Los Angeles County Federation of Labor partner, donated food to help

striking families during the labor action.

Antioch Mayor Lamar Hernandez-Thorp visited the picket line in support of workers. He said workers deserved to be paid decent and fair wages adding that good-paying jobs are the "best crime-fighting prevention" a city can have.

Health and safety concerns

In addition to wage demands, workers also expressed concerns over health and safety issues and working conditions at the plant.

Local 6's Christian Ortega said workers are exposed to fiberglass particles and pigeon feces. Ortega said there needs to be proper ventilation or showers on-site for workers dealing with fiberglass materials.

"They offer us masks to wear but it's getting on our skin, fingertips and hair. We are bringing home this stuff," he said. "There is a vacuum system, like a blower on-site, but that's all they have provided."

Local 6 member Raymond Domingue explained workers' long hours at the plant. "We work four days on, four days off, but we rarely get those four days off, he said. We have 12-hour shifts and 16 hours if someone is sick."

The agreement was reached shortly after a ship refused to dock at the plant after hearing of the strike.



Local 6 member Jacob San Miguel said workers went on strike for better pay to be able to sustain themselves and their families.

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Ah Quon McElrath: The Struggle Never Ends



PBS Hawai'i released a new documentary on legendary ILWU leader Ah Quon McElrath. The film tells the story of Ah Quon McElrath who became one of the islands' most influential leaders, giving voice to Hawai'i's working class. The documentary recounts how she helped shape Local 142 into a force for political change.

You can watch the film online here
<https://bit.ly/3NR6wrn>
or scan the QR code



Local 13's "Give Pack Program" supports local youth program

continued from page 3

were supplied for their grade level. The event was supported by many class B members of Local 13, including Anitra Cross. "It was truly amazing to be a part of this event. Whether it was the reactions of the children picking out backpacks, the smiles on the faces of the many ILWU volunteers, or how truly informational all of the other participating vendors were, this will be an event I will continue to support. It's my second year volunteering and every year I bring someone with me. Last year it was a coworker; this year it was my daughter. Both years we walked away

thankful and beyond grateful to be able to participate," Cross said.

The Give Pack Program is the newest addition to the events Local 13 does for community outreach and advocacy. California State Assembly-member Mike Gibson and Los Angeles City Councilman Tim McOsker came out to support the back-to-school event. Local 13 volunteers are now looking forward to the next event in November, the annual Feed the Community Day which provides families from the surrounding communities with Thanksgiving dinners.

— Peter Dever

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Frank Elliott; Troy M. James;
Local 10: Robert M. Taylor; Roberto N. Torres; **Local 13:** Allen G. Bond; Dominick A. Calise; Edward L. Deringer; Carol C. Hedges; Patrick S. Hill; Jose L. Lopez; John T. Mayo; Jose L. Navarro; Farnaz H. Perl; James R. Rocha; Benito R. Shoats; Angel T. Trujillo Maciel; Tranquilino M. Valdez; Laura A. Wright; **Local 19:** Michael G. Garcia; **Local 23:** Raymond C. Butterfield; **Local 24:** Peter J. Manenica; **Local 29:** Roberto Perez; Thomas I. Shapiro; **Local 34:** Marvin V. Ford; Pablo Gonzalez; **Local 63:** Thirdegree Burns; Nancy N. Cabatic; Albert N. Carbajal; Patrick S. Coleman; Mary D. Esquera-Sanchez; Ramon S. Flores; James Hermenegildo; Richard Hernandez; Tracy A. Jeffries; Vivian Ortega; Steve G. Stavros; **Local 91:** Robert Mitchell;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 10: Marcus O. Tyner; **Local 13:** Christopher Fuentes; **Local 26:** Dennis K. Williams; **Local 40:** David Dirksen; **Local 63:** Donald Kolar;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 10: William J. Dominge; Shelba Jasper; James F. Rice; George Smith; Roney Vanley Jr; **Local 13:** Cynthia Carofano; Beatrice G. Leaks; Larry E. Wade; **Local 14:** Isidro Cadena; **Local 19:** Cary F. Boden; Bennie Jeffries IV; John E. Kilcup; Marla M. Knigge; Harry E. Muirhead III; Arni Scheving; **Local 21:** Kenneth L. Raappana; **Local 23:** Joseph R. Udovich; **Local 24:** Roy Stephens; **Local 29:** Alfred Garcia; **Local 34:** Robert W. Johnson; Chester B. Lee; Ben F. Woon; **Local 63:** Abigail N. Lloyd; Rene X. Perez; **Local 92:** Robert L. Davis; **Local 94:** Gregory P. Connors; Frank A. Mannino;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Nora Jones; **Local 10:** Consuelo Alatorre; Willie Mae Allen; **Local 13:** Lorraine James; Sonja T. Kuha; **Local 19:** Melodese Sorentino; **Local 21:** Rebecca Miranda; Suzan L. Salisbury; **Local 32:** Trudy Brooks; **Local 34:** Judith Yamamoto; **Local 40:** Eve Klug; **Local 63:** Priscilla A. Pavlov; **Local 94:** Ethel Hopkins;

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