



# THE DISPATCHER

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Local 142 President Chris West accepted the AOTOS Special Recognition Award on behalf of the Local 142 membership. "We're here to recognize the grit of the 2,800 ILWU members that were victims of the fire in Lahaina just over a year ago," he said.

# Local 142, Hawaii Longshore Division receive special recognition at annual AOTOS awards

**L**ocal 142 and the Hawaii Longshore Division received a special recognition award at the 55th annual Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) Awards in New York on October 25 for their exceptional response to the catastrophic wildfire in Lahaina, Maui, in August 2023.

The AOTOS awards are presented annually to maritime industry figures for exceptional careers and achievements. The United Seamen's Service (USS) sponsors the event. Proceeds from the AOTOS event benefit USS community services abroad for the U.S. merchant marine, seafarers of all nations, and U.S. government and military members overseas.

Local 142 was one of the first organizations on the ground in West Maui after the fires. They began organizing relief efforts before federal and state agencies could respond.

The wildfires created unprecedented challenges for the island of Maui and the Lahaina community. Local 142 and the Hawaii Longshore Division established a response team that organized the shipment of containers from all over the world filled with essential items such as non-perishable goods, water, clothing, power generators, baby formula, and diapers. They held support meetings for members and the community, heard members' stories and connected them to services and pro-bono legal support, which helped members navigate the process of filing insurance and FEMA claims.

The leadership of Local 142 and the Hawaii Longshore Division worked collaboratively with shipping companies and ILWU employers to provide support to the people of Maui. On the island of Oahu, Local 142 members from Island Movers transported goods from around the island to the Port of Honolulu where Hawaii Longshore Division members loaded containers with relief supplies for delivery to Maui. When containers arrived in Maui, Local 142 members from Tri-Isle Inc. trucking ensured the safe delivery of essential items to the residents impacted by the fire.

The union worked with Kaiser Permanente and other healthcare partners to set up mobile, free, walk-

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## Willie Adam's farewell column

Let me start this farewell message by saying that this has been the hardest column I have ever written. The ILWU has been a blessed part of my life and my family for the last 46 years. I will be taking my leave on January 1, 2025, but I want all the members of this union, active and retired, to know that my life, with the good times and the bad, would have been nothing without you. Thank you.

I started my journey in 1978 as a Local 23 longshore casual in Tacoma, Washington. I was just a young man from Kansas City back then, who was mentored on the Tacoma waterfront by some ILWU stalwarts: Martin Butler, George Emery, Jr., Terrence Mason, Ike Morrow, and Jim Stevens, Sr. Their counsel was instrumental to my growth. In 2000, I was elected to the International Executive Board (IEB). I served 21 years as an International officer, including 15 years as Secretary-Treasurer and six as President. I worked under two International Presidents, first James Spinosa and then Robert McEllrath. For the last 13 years, I have served on the San Francisco Port Commission and before that on the San Francisco Film Commission. I started on the Port Commission while International Secretary-Treasurer and continued in that role as International President and now as International President, Emeritus. It has been a privilege and a high honor to follow

former ILWU International Presidents Harry Bridges, Jimmy Herman, and Brian McWilliams in this important post. I hope there will be other ILWU members appointed to commissions up and down the coast.

Now that our new Officers have been sworn in, I am proud to endorse them unconditionally. I have complete confidence in their abilities to handle the challenges of the coming years. There are many additional things to say in these parting words. But first, thank you all very much for the opportunity and the privilege I have enjoyed in serving this great union. Throughout my career in the ILWU, I have always tried to approach union office with gratitude and without taking anything for granted.

Over the past six years, the ILWU has had to deal with many vexing problems. When I took office as President in 2018, the Titled Officers inherited an existential threat stemming from our relationship to the International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI). That company had already secured a National Labor Relations Board decision against us for a secondary boycott infringement under the Taft-Hartley Act. In 2019, ICTSI won a multi-million-dollar jury award against us, a settlement so large that it threatened to undermine the entire union. Unfortunately, ILWU adherents had not previously recalled and learned from the Juneau Spruce lawsuit against the union of the late 1940s and early 1950s, which also involved a secondary boycott charge. In the ICTSI

case, our legal costs mounted to unsustainable levels. In 2023 we had to file for bankruptcy.

With the determination, fighting spirit, and leadership of our Officers and the strength and conviction of our rank and file, we resolved the bankruptcy and the ICTSI dispute through mediation in 2024. We incurred a large debt but settled it completely with greatly appreciated help from Local 142, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), and the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). We will never forget how so many people rose up to save this union from disaster. The lesson learned from all of this is that you cannot leave those who created the problem in charge of the solution.

Soon after the 2018 Officers came in, the union was hit with a Department of Labor lawsuit as well. This challenge resulted from a complaint against the union filed in the wake of the 2018 ILWU International elections. This long-lasting case has still not been resolved.

Our union also had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and the supply chain crisis that followed. ILWU members still went to work and heroically moved America's needed products. Many became sick. At least 50 died. The Officers met with President Joe Biden and other federal government officials to improve cargo flow. It was not easy, but ultimately supply chain conditions improved dramatically.

The pandemic forced the union to hold its 2021 International Convention in San Francisco virtually and despite the challenges posed by the pivot to this format, we made it work. In 2024, we returned to an in-person convention. This was important because we needed to be together to debate issues and address problems as a unified body with energy and passion.

Another big challenge we faced was the Coast Longshore Division negotiations with the employers' bargaining agent, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). Bargaining lasted for 13 months over 2022-2023, during which our committed negotiating team members performed their duties with grit and determination. Ultimately, they earned well-deserved success. We achieved an outstanding contract with substantial improvements in wages and



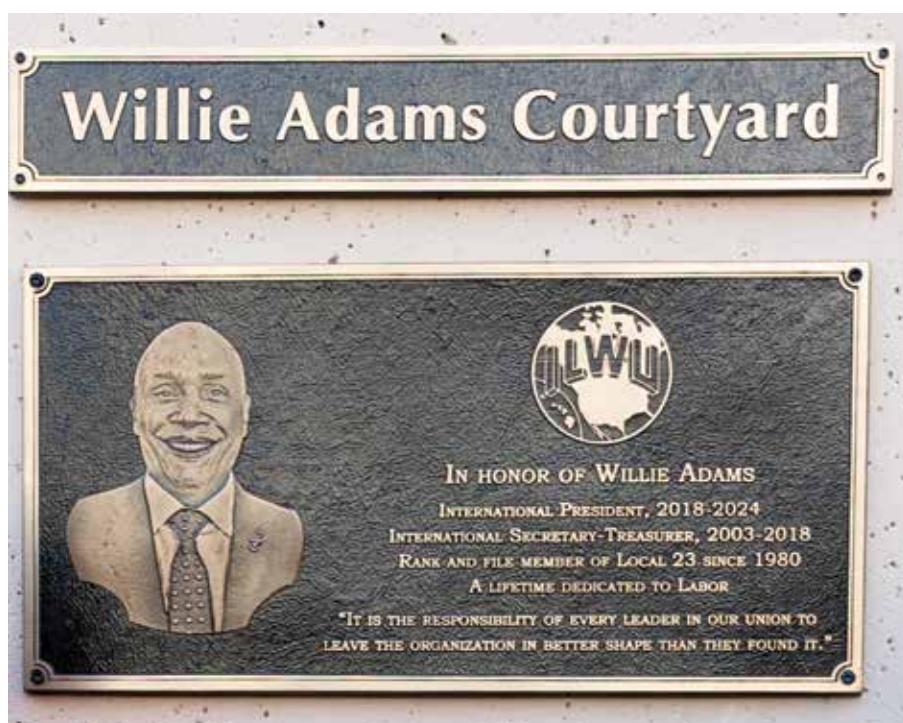
working conditions, maintenance of benefits, and upgrades for pensioners and widows. When it comes to negotiations and other endeavors in other Divisions and locals, including those in Hawaii, in warehouse, and elsewhere, I have always striven to be as directly helpful as possible.

The union was saddened in 2019 by the passing of Dave Arian, a legendary, fiery Local 13 stalwart and a former ILWU International President. The following year saw the death of International Vice-President for Hawaii Wesley Furtado, a well-respected, long-serving senior ILWU officer. Tragedy struck Hawaii itself in 2023 when a horrendous wildfire hit Maui. The historic town of Lahaina was destroyed. The fire killed seven Local 142 active members and seven retirees. Many other Local 142 members were injured and thousands lost their jobs or housing. ILWU locals and members on the mainland responded with donations of money and shipments of containers filled with life-saving supplies. In October 2024, at their annual meeting in New York, the United Seamen's Service honored Local 142 and the Hawaii Longshore Division with a special Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) plaque for their heroic actions during and after the Maui fires.

Despite our challenges, the union has seen many important positive developments over the last six years. We expanded our Organizing Department and, between 2021 and 2024, brought 700 new members into our union. Some of our organizing efforts were calculated to strengthen our ILWU Warehouse Division and our Marine Division affiliate, the Inland Boatmen's Union (IBU). As both Secretary-Treasurer and International President, I strongly supported and applauded their progress.

We recommitted ourselves to international solidarity in many ways,

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The courtyard at the ILWU offices in San Francisco was named in honor of Willie Adams for his lifetime of dedication to the ILWU and the labor movement.

## DISPATCHER

Roy San Filippo  
Communications Director

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# 2024 election and lessons learned

by Alexa Jurczak, ILWU Senior Policy Advisor

As the year comes to a close on one of the most turbulent elections in recent history, it's important for the ILWU and working people to reflect on the current state of politics and look to the future.

After President Biden stepped out of the race this summer, the International Executive Board called a special meeting and rallied behind Vice President Kamala Harris with an endorsement. The message was clear: the union would support the candidate with the best record of protecting unions and investing in workers.

Everyone knew the election would be close and ultimately Donald Trump won a significant Electoral College victory. He was elected to a second term, and the Republicans won control of the House and Senate. Trump also won the popular vote by a small margin,

although he fell short of winning 50 percent of the vote.

While Harris won union households 55-43 percent—only a 1 percent drop from Biden performance in 2020—millions of voters who turned out to vote in 2020 chose to sit out this election. According to national exit polls, the top issues for voters were inflation and the economy. Where did the Harris/Walz campaign miss the mark with voters?

Political analysts began debating this question even before all the votes were counted and those debates will continue through the start of the next election cycle. Did Harris fail to effectively communicate her agenda and how it would benefit workers? Or did voters simply have a policy preference for the across-the-board import taxes and mass deportations that were at the center of Trump's economic plan? Did voters simply see Harris as the "status quo candidate" who would not bring

needed change while believing that Donald Trump and his billionaire allies will shake-up the established order to the benefit of the working class?

During a time when many families are struggling to make ends meet, voters need to see results not just the promise of lower prices and a strong economy. With Republican control of all three branches of government, the Trump Administration will have free reign to enact his agenda. We will soon see if Donald Trump delivers for workers or for Wall Street.

As for the ILWU's participation in the 2024 elections, the ILWU Political Action Fund (PAF) contributed to labor friendly candidates who support our issues and prioritize our jurisdiction. Additionally, ILWU members from the Puget Sound went to campaign for Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez in Vancouver, Washington and were part of her success in winning a second term in

Congress. ILWU Headquarters sent Harris/Walz yard signs and bumper stickers to locals while encouraging members to get out and vote.

Out of the 26 races the ILWU PAF contributed to, only 3 candidates lost their elections. The ILWU Titled Officers, the union's Legislative Committees, and the District Councils will continue to engage in the political arena. Further, the union will lean on friends in Congress who support our issues and who will unapologetically go to the mat to ensure that unions will always be key to a thriving economy.

The ILWU will tackle the challenges that come with a new administration and continue to work towards a path forward that defends the interests of workers and improves the lives of working people.

## Japanese Transport Workers Federation, ILWU delegations meet

On November 18, a delegation from the Japanese Transport Workers Federation met with representatives from ILWU locals 13, 63, and 94 at the Local 13 office. The Japanese Transport Workers Federation comprises over 400 unions, representing more than 119,000 workers, with Yamato being the largest union, with approximately 47,000 members.

During the meeting representatives exchanged insights on the challenges and triumphs faced by transport workers in Japan.

The 16-person delegation included former truck drivers, company representatives, and lobbyists seeking to understand the ILWU's successes and the strength derived from solidarity and

how the ILWU maintains unity among the membership.

ILWU representatives conveyed the significance of the coastwise contract, emphasizing that "An Injury to One is an Injury to All," a principle that solidifies collective bargaining power and supports fair wages and working conditions and health benefits.

The Japanese representatives articulated their struggles, particularly the division among the 400 unions and the increased governmental restrictions imposed in the 1990s.

They expressed interest in the ILWU's political engagement. The ILWU delegation explained that some members have ascended to political roles, such as retired ILWU member Max Vekich's who was appointed to a position on the Federal Maritime Commission by President Joe Biden.



After the meeting the delegations toured YTI terminal in the Port of Los Angeles, showcasing new human-operated clean energy technologies in port operations.

"It was an honor to host such a distinguished delegation and to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on workers' rights and solidarity across the globe," said Local 13 President Gary Herrera.

## SCDC mobilizes for key congressional races

Approximately 30 volunteers organized by the Southern California District Council (SCDC) and the Southern California Pensioners participated in phone banking and precinct walking to help propel pro-union candidates to victory in tight congressional races in Orange County.

While they came up short in California's 40th Congressional District where Joe Kerr lost to incumbent Young Kim, SCDC-supported candidates Dave Min (CA-47), and Derek Tran (CA-45) both won important races and will be voices for labor in Washington. The Derek Tran win in particular was a major victory for the maritime workers. Tran narrowly defeated incumbent Michelle Steel who has repeatedly

introduced legislation to place maritime workers under the Railway Labor Act which would infringe on the collective bargaining rights of longshore and other maritime workers by limiting their right to strike.

"These congressional races were decided by the narrowest of margins, including Derek Tran who won by only a few hundred votes," said SCDC Pres-

ident Mickey Chavez. "I do not doubt that the many hours volunteered by ILWU members and pensioners played an important role in this election. Being active in politics is crucial for protecting ILWU jobs and jurisdiction."

# Employer lockout of Local 514 ends after government imposes arbitration

**ILWU Canada decries government undermining collective bargaining rights**



On November 4, The British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) locked out the 730 members of Local 514 over an ongoing contract dispute with ILWU Canada's foremen's local. The employer lockout shut down the ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert, impacting 7,500 ILWU Canada longshore workers.

Government-mediated talks between the ILWU and the employers' association ended after the BCMEA walked away from the negotiations in less than an hour. Local 514 President Frank Morena said in a November 9 press release that the BCMEA's actions showed flagrant disregard for the seriousness of the lockout by refusing to bargain.

Morena also criticized the employers' threat to impose concessions on workers after the BCMEA said they would lower wage increases and retract a signing bonus if workers rejected its final offer.

Dubai Ports World, one of the largest employers in the BCMEA, tried to unilaterally change "manning agreements" in a partially automated port

terminal where the employer wants to use remote-controlled cranes.

On November 11, the Maritime Employer's Association locked out 1,200 longshore workers represented by the CUPE in the Port of Montreal after workers overwhelmingly voted to reject a contract offer. Montreal is the second largest port in Canada by volume, after Vancouver.

On November 12, the Canadian government forced the unions and employers into binding arbitration at both the West Coast ports and the Port of Montreal. The move was criticized by ILWU Canada, the CUPE, and the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) who said it undermines workers' right to collectively bargain and strike.

"The government is sending a dangerous message: employers can bypass meaningful negotiations, lock out their workers, and wait for political intervention to secure a more favorable deal," said the CLC in a statement on the government's intervention into the port disputes.

ILWU Canada vowed to fight the order in court.

## Local 142, Hawaii Longshore Division receive special recognition at annual AOTOS awards

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in clinics and first aid stations in West Maui so people could access healthcare and fill prescriptions. They also set up a Maui Fire Relief Fund through the ILWU Credit Union, which continues to assist members today.

While the story of the wildfires has dropped from the headlines, Local 142

and the Hawaii Longshore Division have continued to play a major role in relief and recovery efforts, securing permanent housing for ILWU members, and fighting for a just and equitable rebuilding of Lahaina.

Local 142 President Chris West received the award. He said he was accepting the award on behalf of

the Local 142 members impacted by the fires.

"We're here to recognize the grit of the 2,800 ILWU members that were victims of the fire in Lahaina just over a year ago," West said. "Much was lost during the fire, but much was gained as well, and the members of Local 142

displayed resilience and fortitude. We are very proud to be here tonight to accept this award—not for us, because doing what we did, taking care of the members, that's what we're elected to do, and that's what we do every single day—but to accept this award on behalf of the Local 142 membership."

## Willie Adams' farewell column

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including updating our contract with the ITF and continuing to support the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ), and other worker maritime organizations overseas. We doubled down on our dedication to labor education by holding successful Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD) and Secretary-Treasurers' Conferences. We encouraged the advancement of women and young members in sponsoring women's and young workers' conferences. When a horribly abusive police officer murdered George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020, we shut down West Coast ports in protest and marched together to demand social justice. The union was also instrumental in getting former Local 52 stalwart Max Vekich appointed to the Federal Maritime Commission. The United States Senate con-

firmed his nomination in 2022. This was a first-of-its-kind appointment for the ILWU.

Two long-term San Francisco projects are dear to my heart. The ILWU was very much involved in both. The first is the Pier 27 Project, in which the Port of San Francisco named their new cruise terminal after Jimmy Herman, our second International President. The ILWU fought hard to get the impressive new terminal named for him. This is the only terminal in the world named after a labor leader. Second, this year saw the completion and opening of the San Francisco Port's Islais Creek Interpretive History Park on the city's south waterfront. Twenty-six years in the making, this project honors the ILWU and its members in several of its state-of-the-art display signs. ILWU activists Harvey Schwartz, Bill Ward, Don Watson, and Cleophas Williams worked energeti-

cally on this project over a long period. Members of the Port Commission were happy to help move the project along.

In parting, I would like to reemphasize that I have the fullest confidence in our new International Officers and Coast Committeemen, whom I have known and worked with for years. There is no doubt about their honesty, integrity, and devotion to the membership. Given what they experienced and faced so fearlessly over the last six years, it is clear that they will succeed. I also have absolute confidence that our rank-and-file members will determine a true course for the union. They will remain strong and unified in the face of whatever adversity might challenge them.

Beyond this, we can strengthen our union by establishing closer ties with select groups outside the ILWU. A good example of this would be the develop-

ment of partnerships with Indigenous communities in Canada, Oregon, and Washington. Having allies is important. Above everything else, our rank-and-file members must commit to staying informed about union affairs, participating in the lives of their locals, and redoubling their efforts to vote in all ILWU elections.

Whenever called upon by the Officers to lend a hand, I intend to do so happily and enthusiastically. I hope to be around for a long time and look forward to seeing many of you at ILWU gatherings and conferences. Finally, to everyone in the ILWU family—active members, retirees, federated auxiliary participants, and our loyal, hard-working staff—goodbye and good luck, and thank you for your support over these many years.

# PCPA convention meets in Vancouver



The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) held their 55th Annual Convention from September 18-20 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

A total of 147 delegates and guests attended this year's meeting. The topics tackled at the convention included the importance of political action, the ongoing conflict in Gaza, and the benefits of a single-payer/Medicare for All health-care system. The convention was dedicated to the memory of pensioners who have passed since the last convention.

Guests in attendance included ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, ILWU Canada First Vice President Tom Doran, ILWU Canada Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal, Local 13 Secretary-Treasurer Jesse Lopez, Local 10 President Trent Willis, Local 10 Vice President Vanetta Hamlin, Local 10 Business Agent Ed Henderson, Bay Area Longshoremen's Association (BALMA)



Vice President Trevor McCoy, Alaska Longshore Division (AKLD) President Dennis Young, AKLD Financial Treasurer Darryl Tseu, ILWU Area Welfare Directors and ADRP representatives, and representatives from the Benefits Plan Office.

## Guest speakers

Minister of Labor for the Province of British Columbia Harry Bains was the first speaker at the convention. Minister Bains spoke about his history as a trade unionist in a sawmill where he started as a rank-and-file activist and was eventually elected to the leadership of his local.

He spoke about the success British Columbia has had in raising the minimum wage, establishing paid sick days for all workers, and providing protections for gig workers like Uber, Lyft, and food delivery drivers.

"Regardless of what sector of the economy you work in, we believe you are entitled to the same basic protections as all workers," Bains said. He added that establishing those protections for workers demonstrates the importance of electing the right people to office and that "politics matters."

## Rob Ashton

ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton spoke on the importance of political action, the gains won for labor with the New Democratic Party (NDP), and the need to defend the right to strike. "Which party will protect the rights of workers and which party will protect the almighty dollar?" Ashton asked.

Ashton also thanked the pensioners for building a strong union with a reputation for standing up for all workers. "Our union leads the way at every turn," Ashton said, "We go to picket lines to support other unions and you can see the smiles on their faces because the ILWU is there. That is because of this union that pensioners created for my generation and generations to come. I want to thank all of you pensioners for giving us the ILWU. We promise to take care of it and allow it to grow," Ashton said.

## Single Payer Healthcare

Kay Tillow, Coordinator for the All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care, which builds union support for national single-payer healthcare, gave a detailed presentation on the shortcomings of the United States' current healthcare system and the benefits of a national not-for-profit single-payer healthcare system.

"We want to remove the profit-taking middleman from our healthcare system, which would free up about 30 percent of healthcare costs that can then be used to expand healthcare," Tillow said. Compared to every other industrial nation, the United States spends more money per capita on health care but provides less care and has worse health care outcomes, Tillow said.

## Benefits plan office

John Barton, Executive Director of the ILWU-PMA Benefits Plan took to the floor to answer questions from pensioners. The Area Welfare Directors

and ADRP Representatives were also on hand to answer questions.

## Vancouver Port Authority

Parm Hari from the Vancouver Port Authority spoke at the convention. She thanked ILWU members and pensioners for driving the success of the Port of Vancouver and explained the critical role the Port of Vancouver plays in the local and regional economy.

## PCPA Officers' reports

PCPA President Mike Jagielski reported that PCPA is doing well in 2024 thanks to the dedication, perseverance, and solidarity of the Longshore Division's Negotiating Committee members and the leadership of ILWU International President Willie Adams. Jagielski also thanked Southern California Pensioner President Greg Mitre for serving as the pensioner representative on the Longshore Negotiating Committee. Jagielski recounted his activities over the past year since being elected PCPA President including attending ILWU Convention and his travels visiting different pensioner club meetings.

He also spoke about the importance of voting in the upcoming U.S. presidential election which he described as a "turning point" for the country. He referenced the "Project 2025" plan for a second Trump administration which seeks to undermine Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and labor unions. He said that he donated to the ILWU's political action fund and he encouraged others to do the same.

PCPA Vice President Lawrence Thi-beaux gave his report which focused on key debates and discussions that occurred at the ILWU Convention.

## Oral history committee

Connor Casey Labor Archivist at the Labor Archives of the University of Washington and ILWU historian Harvey Schwartz gave a brief Oral History Committee Report updating the delegates on recent oral histories conducted during the convention with Norm Tuck, Greg Mitre, and William Proctor.

## See you next year

The 56th annual PCPA convention will be hosted next year in San Francisco.

# Local 10 honored by local chapter of the NAACP

The Hayward South Alameda County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth & College Unit held an awards event on Saturday, November 2, at the Mission Paradise Banquet Hall in Hayward, CA.

Their event recognized and honored the ILWU local 10 for their decades-long fight against discrimination, inequality and racism, while promoting solidarity, fairness and equality for all.

The NAACP Youth & College Unit selected members of Local 10 based upon their dedication to creating unity within the labor movement as well as with working class families. Honorees

at the event included Local 10 President Trent Willis, Mattie Lawson, the first Black woman longshore member of Local 10, and Hunny Powell, Northern California ILWU-PMA Alcohol & Drug Recovery Program Representative.

The NAACP Youth & College Unit also recognized and honored Cleophus Williams posthumously, first Black president of Local 10, as well as his wife Sadie Williams, who turned 100 years old earlier this year. Finally, ILWU pensioner Louis Guillory was recognized as one of the oldest living retirees from Local 10 to still be receiving retiree benefits.

The event included speakers, a dinner, refreshments and music. Proceeds will be donated to underprivileged



youth in South Alameda County. Also, the NAACP Youth & College Unit will expand academic options for high school and college students to include scholarships, internships, mentoring and access to trade and technical programs. They also acknowledged and thanked the

ILWU Credit Union as a generous sponsor of the event, with Oakland Branch Manager Megan Enriquez and Business Development Representative Geannet Khuu in attendance. A great time was had by all!

— John Castanho

# ILWU golf tournaments raise money for local community



Local 142 Secretary-Treasurer Michael Victorino Jr. Teeing off at the Wesley Furtado Golf Tournament.

Two recent annual ILWU golf tournaments—the Tri-Party Golf Tournament in Southern California and the Wesley Furtado Golf Tournament in Hawaii—provided participants with a fun day of golfing while doing the important work of raising money for local communities.

## Wesley Furtado Golf Tournament

The Second Annual Wesley Furtado Golf Tournament was held on August 9 in memory of longtime ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii). Wes passed away on March 15, 2020, at 64. He was a second-generation longshore worker from a working-class family. He became a widely respected leader within the ILWU and the labor movement for his fierce commitment to unions, devotion to social justice, and considerable organizing and negotiating skills.

The Wesley Furtado Golf Tournament raises money for a scholarship created in Furtado's name that benefits students from the Hawaii longshore community with preference given to Native Hawaiians and qualifying students based on financial need and academic merit.

## Tri-Party Golf Tournament

The 19th Annual Tri-Party Golf Tournament was held on September 14 and 15 at the Indian Wells Golf Resort in Indian Wells California. 275 golfers from Canada, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, Alaska, and California enjoyed two days of golf, a reception, and a banquet with a prize drawing and live auction of art created by the children undergoing treatment at Miller Women's and Children's Hospital. The tournament raised over \$100,000 this year with the funds going to the Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Institute, the Pediatric Recovery Center, and the Childlife Art Program.

The annual tournament is organized by a committee led by Local 63 member Mark Grgas who took over organizing the event after his father retired. Mark reached out to his longshore brothers and sisters and formed a solid team committed to making the Tri-Party Golf Tournament a success. The committee began working on a tournament that focused on providing the participants with an exceptional experience and maximizing the donation to the hospital each year. The results speak for themselves, with over \$1 million raised for Miller Women's and Children's Hospital since the first tournament 19 years ago.

"This tournament brings everyone together to support a worthy cause," Grgas said. "Without generous donations from the Local 142 Longshore Division, The Coast Longshore Division, ILWU Credit Union, and ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94, 63 OCU, and the

support of the shipping companies and local businesses, we would not be able to hold the tournament."

Grgas thanked his wife, Ronnie, for her support and the members of the Tri-Party Golf Committee for their hard work: Nick and Lori Rugnetta (Local 63 OCU), Greg and Jeana Viramontes (Local 13), Mike and Tina Carranza (Local 63), Denise and Shasta Paris (Local 63 and 94), Gil and Shannon Garcia (Local 94), Sebastian and Alyce Terzoli (Local 94), and Robert York from the ILWU Credit Union.

"The Tri-Party Golf committee is already planning a bigger tournament in 2025 to celebrate 20 years of golf, coastwide unity, and giving back to our community," Grgas said. "I hope all the ILWU Locals on the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska, and Canada will help Tri-Party Golf celebrate its 20th Anniversary next year."



The auction at the Tri-Party Golf Tournament helped raise money for the Miller Women's and Children's Hospital.

# Local 56 Shipscalers ratify new agreement with Ocean Blue Environmental



From left to right: Maria Lee, Justin Lee (Ocean Blue Environmental), Local 56 President Albert Ramirez, LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and ILWU Local 13 Vice President, Mario Medina.

Local 56 members ratified a new agreement with Ocean Blue Environmental Services. This victory was achieved with the assistance of ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94, the International Organizing Department, SCDC, and the support of many local and state elected officials, according to Local 56 President Albert Ramirez. The agreement was signed on October 15.

Ocean Blue contracts with local governments and other public agencies for environmental clean-up. They work in the Ports of LA and Long Beach and also provide environmental services for public agencies inland such as homeless encampment clean-ups, removal of hazardous waste, and biohazards, and emergency response clean-up.

Ramirez said the four-year contract includes wage increases, the addition of Juneteenth holiday pay, an increase in meal per diems, and

an increase in the employer's financial support for the Local 56 dispatch hall and the dispatcher.

"The agreement is a good foundation to build on for future contracts," Ramirez said. He added that the agreement could not have been reached without the assistance of the ILWU family.

"We're a small, local with a small budget. We are grateful for the assistance from the International and the ILWU locals here in the Harbor Area," Ramirez said. "We demonstrated to the employers that the ILWU is serious. Local 56 members are not going to take the bare minimum on our contracts; we are going to be bold, and we're going to be ambitious. We will also need to be vigilant because now that the contract is signed, we need to enforce it and ensure the employer doesn't play any games."

Ramirez added that strengthening Local 56's contracts, expanding work opportunities for members, and growing the local is vital to the lives of the members and the community.

"In the end, these are workers' lives. If they don't go to work, they don't eat, they can't pay their rent. They have families and children to support. There's a social, and emotional component as well, with having dignity at the workplace as well as the dignity of a paycheck."

Ramirez said that Local 56 has three more contracts in the pipeline—ANCON Environmental, NRC-Republic, and Patriot Environmental Services which will standardize contract language and increase the involvement of elected officials who authorize public funds to emergency response hazmat companies. The long-term fight over the next three years includes organizing new companies based on Local 56's existing standards and ensuring Local 56 captures the work guaranteed under their contract language.

# Seafarers abandoned in the Puget Sound: Crew left without pay after tugboat re-flags

## Four seafarers abandoned in Washington State after vessel quits U.S. flag to evade regulations

Four seafarers from Colombia, Panama, and Peru were abandoned without pay on a 60-year-old tugboat in an alarming case of maritime exploitation in the Puget Sound.

The tugboat, *Wycliffe*, changed its flag to Vanuatu, enabling it to evade U.S. labor and safety regulations. The crew was subsequently left stranded in the Puget Sound.

The crew members faced dire conditions, including inadequate food, limited access to medical care, and insufficient water supplies while they awaited repatriation said Cyrus Donato, Puget Sound Inspector for the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).

The situation reflects a troubling pattern of labor rights abuses within the global maritime industry.

“The exploitation of seafarers undermines the integrity of the entire Puget Sound Marine Transportation system. The region prides itself on its maritime heritage and depends on seafarers as a vital part of its cultural identity,” Donato said.

“The vessel’s owners strategically re-flagged the tugboat from the United States to Vanuatu to escape more rigorous U.S. labor and safety standards. This cynical maneuver exemplifies how unscrupulous ship owners use ‘flags of

convenience’ to minimize regulatory oversight and enhance profits at the expense of seafarers.

“Worse still, in this case, legal restrictions that trap foreign seafarers onboard have effectively turned their vessel into a prison.”

The seafarers were abandoned in late August and were scheduled for deportation by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. However, intervention by the ITF delayed their departure until their full wages were paid.

“The crew was in a vulnerable position and they lacked the protections typically afforded to U.S.-based workers,” said Donato. “We were committed to ensuring that they receive their complete compensation. Forcibly removing them without settling their salaries is effectively a form of labor trafficking.”

The *Wycliffe* has a troubling history, with previous crews reported to have left the vessel due to safety concerns in October 2023 and May 2024.

As fallout from the *Wycliffe* incident, Washington State Ferries (WSF) canceled an agreement to sell two decommissioned ferries to *Wycliffe* owner Nelson Armas after the *Wycliffe* failed to tow the boats out of Puget Sound.

“It’s in the best interest of Washington state, the public, and WSF to sever



ties due to multiple failures to meet contractual obligations and deadlines,” said WSF Assistant Secretary Steve Nevey.

WSF said they were not aware of the poor living conditions and fear of intimidation the crew faced until the media reported on it according to a *Seattle Times* article on the incident.

“As a career mariner who spent the early part of my career working on internationally flagged ships, seafarer welfare is deeply personal to me,”

said Nevey. “Though Mr. Armas denies these claims, it’s important to reaffirm that WSF’s values prioritize the fair treatment and safety of all crew members. We take these matters seriously and are committed to incorporating these considerations into our plans for decommissioned ferries in the future.”

## New mural at Local 500 hall showcases Indigenous art, culture



In late December of 2023 ILWU Local 500 received a letter from the BCMEA Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative to commission a mural by an Indigenous artist from a local Nation. The ILWU appointed me to represent the Union on the Panel. This Indigenous mural project truly embodies the spirit of collaboration and respect between the Nations, Musqueam, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh. The initiative Commissioned Darryl Blyth, a Musqueam artist, who designed and painted the mural with the help of Michael Elias.

The creation “Oceans Together” not only highlights the cultural richness of Indigenous communities but also reflects the deep connection between the maritime industry and the natural world. Darryl’s mother is Susie Blyth of the Musqueam Nation, and a member of the Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU) 20964, and his father is Doug Blyth a maritime technician with the United Steelworkers Local USW 2009. Darryl Blyth is a member of Local 1 Marine Workers Union and former painter in the shipbuilding sector.

The mural’s imagery of orca whales, swimming alongside a marine vessel, serves as a powerful symbol of harmony between nature and industry. It’s particularly poignant that the orcas represent familial bonds and respect for the environment, echoing the longshore community’s commitment to safety and stewardship of the waters. The orca whales, traveling with their family, represent our respect for nature, while the marine vessel behind them symbolizes the maritime industry that connects B.C. to the world.

The involvement of various stakeholders, including representatives from longshore, the BCMEA and an Indigenous artist Alano Edzerza, (a Tahl-tan and an established entrepreneur & multimedia artist based in West Vancouver.) The work emphasizes the importance of inclusive dialogue in the reconciliation process. By showcasing Indigenous art on the dispatch hall, a central hub for longshore workers and visitors alike, helps foster greater awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture on the West Coast.

Overall, this mural beautifies the space and surrounding area. The artwork also serves as a reminder of the shared responsibility we all have to protect our environment and supporting one another, both within the maritime industry and beyond.

Building relationships grounded in recognition and respect is crucial for moving forward together.

– Joulene Parent



From left to right: Local 13 member Efrain Morales, Local 13 President Gary Herrera, Local 13 member Modesto Morales, Local 13 Port Liason Sal DiCostanzo, and Local 13 member Vivian Malauulu.

## Local 13 member Modesto Morales receives prestigious *Orgullo Mexicano del Mes* award

Local 13 member Modesto Morales was recognized by *Consulado General de México en Los Angeles* Carlos Gonzalez Gutierrez as the October 2024 honoree of the prestigious *Orgullo Mexicano del Mes* award which honors the contributions of Mexican immigrants in Southern California.

The honor was jointly bestowed upon Brother Morales by the Port of Long Beach and Local 13 in recognition of his service to the community as a hard-working immigrant who has achieved the American Dream to provide for his family through dignified work as a longshoreman and his volunteerism as a mentor.

Morales is married and the proud father of seven daughters and one son, Efrain Morales, who is also a Local 13 member. His eldest daughter, Nancy Morales, was recently elected as a County Commissioner in the state of Michigan.

The award was presented to Morales during a moving ceremony at the Port of Long Beach headquarters on October 31. The highlight of the event was Brother Morales' acceptance speech which included details about how he got his interest card for the ILWU hiring lottery in 2003 and the unknown, never-seen-since "angel" who helped him on his first day on the job.

— Vivian Malauulu

## SEND US YOUR TOY DRIVE PHOTOS

Please send photos and details of your local's holiday toy drives to Roy@ILWU.org for publication in the *Dispatcher* by January 10.

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Jesus C. Arango; Bruce A. Holte; **Local 10:** Alfredo Lira, Jr.; **Local 13:** Greg C. Costigan; Jose L. Escalante; Lenko Gracin; Vassilios M. Korakis; Eric C. Little; Danny R. Meliota; Bert K. Muramoto; David K. Nichols; Michael R. Perry; Jean Ann Ramirez; Gregory L. Riley; **Local 19:** Donald R. Adler; Jeffrey S. Nelson; Robert A. Telshow; Stephani R. Williams; **Local 23:** Dale K Hacker; Darin W. Moody; Darrel A. Rohar; Keith H. Stamper; **Local 26:** Edgar E. Deleon; **Local 29:** Patricia Hernandez; **Local 40:** Rick A. Cox; **Local 63:** Nick R. Castaneda; Christopher A. Harrison; William D. Ledoux; Gabriela Maduro; Penny McConnachie; Christina Torres; **Local 75:** Jill R. Fernandez; **Local 94:** Lisa K. Raines; **Local 98:** Rick M. Chinn; Jon W. Sidor;

### DECEASED PENSIONERS:

**Local 4:** Richard W. Vail; **Local 10:** Jose B. Abreu; Samuel Belen; John P. Harris; Howard Keylor; Sylvester Mc Daniel;

Salvador A. Prieto; Robert Sharp; **Local 12:** Wayne Henderson; **Local 13:** Carl E. Brown; Elijah Hall; Richard Hernandez; **Local 19:** Pete W. Givogre; **Local 21:** Gary L. Moon; **Local 23:** Herbert E. Grabowsky; **Local 29:** Charles M. Sorcek; **Local 63:** Robert Alexander; Earl Bryan; Richard Heston; Thomas A. Samz, Sr.; Thomas H. Warren; **Local 75:** William J. Jones; **Local 91:** Horst D. Blase; Anthony A Machado; **Local 92:** James E. Bond; Erwin E. Owen; **Local 94:** John Radine; Esequiel Ruelas;

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 8:** Evelyn J. Burns; Susan Hill; Margaret King; **Local 10:** Mary L. Washington; Wrenetta Webb; **Local 13:** Elisha Carter; Helen B. Chambers; Dolores Figueroa; Kathleen A. Horan-Keenan; Eleanor Uglesich; **Local 34:** Rose M. Rodrigues; **Local 46:** Mary Solano; **Local 63:** Rosa Ponce; **Local 92:** Joanne Brown; **Local 98:** Alannah Calvert Lamo;

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San Francisco, CA 94133  
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