



THE DISPATCHER

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"No Labor" Day action: More than 300 Powell's Books workers struck the employer on Labor Day in an unfair labor practices action.

Powell's Bookstore workers send message with "No Labor" Day strike

On Labor Day, September 4, more than 300 workers at Powell's Books represented by Local 5 in Portland, OR went on a one-day "unfair labor practices" strike (ULP) at all Powell's locations. Picketing at stores for the "No Labor" Day strike began at 9:30 a.m.; workers later converged on Powell's City of Books, the flagship Powell's location on Burnside Ave, for a massive rally at 1:00 p.m.

Prior to the strike, Local 5 filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Workers were joined on the picket line in solidarity by ILWU members from all along the West Coast and Canada, as well as other union members and community supporters from the Portland area.

"The solidarity of all unions is to make a simple demand," said Local 5 union representative and bargaining team member Myka Dubay in a statement. "Powell's should return to the table; participate in the process by negotiating with the union; and do so in good faith as required by federal labor law."

Local 5 represents the majority of workers at Powell's, whose operations include three Portland bookstores, a local warehouse, a call center, and a small group of work-from-home employees. Local 5 has represented Powell's workers since 1999 when workers first organized. Negotiations for the first contract between Powell's and Local 5 were lengthy and contentious, with workers staging several strikes and walkouts before finally reaching an agreement in August 2000. Powell's workers last went on strike in 2003, during negotiations for their second

contract. Local 5 and Powell's are currently negotiating their eighth agreement. Powell's workers have been working without a contract, which expired on June 7, following a series of contract extensions.

Engaging the public

Throughout the negotiations workers have engaged customers and the community by distributing flyers outside the stores, circulating a petition online, wearing buttons during their shifts, and other actions to call attention to the inadequacy of the company's proposals.

In the weeks leading up to the strike, Local 5 engaged in a robust social media campaign promoting the action to mobilize public support and put the employer on notice. It worked. The post announcing the strike received nearly 4,000 likes in a single day and Powell's Books

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President's message

This is a very painful message to write: On September 30, ILWU filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The Titled Officers and the International Executive Board unanimously made this difficult decision to resolve ongoing litigation with ICTSI Oregon, Inc. We believe this is the best course of action to protect our union and safeguard our future.

Operating as usual

The ILWU will continue to operate as usual throughout this process. While the word "bankruptcy" may sound alarming, the bankruptcy filing is not a liquidation and the union is not being dissolved. Chapter 11 was established to enable organizations like the ILWU to continue operating uninterrupted as they work to resolve challenges like the one we are currently facing. The ILWU will continue to function normally. We will continue to provide support to our locals and affiliates; we will continue to offer education and training; we will continue our organizing programs; we will continue our traditional outreach and communication; we will continue to fight for the membership; we will continue our strong and unwavering support for the labor movement. The collective bargaining agreements that govern the rank and file's wages, benefits, and working conditions will not be affected. Our union will grow

and thrive; we will remain a militant voice defending the rights of ILWU members at home and for workers throughout the world.

How we got here

For more than a decade the ILWU has been defending itself in litigation brought by ICTSI Oregon, Inc. The litigation started with a labor dispute at the Port of Portland, which led to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ultimately finding that the ILWU and ILWU Local 8 had committed unfair labor practices. In 2012 ICTSI sued the ILWU and Local 8 in federal court in Oregon for money damages. In late 2019, there was a two-week trial. The jury returned a verdict finding that the ILWU and Local 8 had violated the law and that ICTSI was entitled to almost \$93.6 million in damages; 55% of the damages were allocated to the ILWU and 45% to Local 8.

"This was a difficult decision, but the Titled Officers and our International Executive Board know that it was the right decision and sets our union on the best possible path forward."

The ILWU and Local 8 challenged the jury's determination. On March 5, 2020, the judge found that the maximum damages arguably supported by the evidence presented at trial was \$19,061,248.00. The ILWU was prepared to accept that and find a way to pay the amount

at that time. But, ICTSI rejected the reduced damages, and a new trial was scheduled. The lawsuit has been ongoing since then, and ICTSI is seeking up to \$142 million in damages in the second trial.

We have attempted numerous times to resolve the decade-long litigation with ICTSI Oregon, Inc., but at this point, we can no longer afford to defend against ICTSI's scorched-earth litigation tactic. The costs associated with this ongoing litigation and the potential damages are unsustainable.

It is the responsibility of every leader in our union to leave the organization in better shape than they found it. When the Titled Officers chose to serve the membership and run for office, we inherited this ongoing disastrous situation. We are now being proactive to bring it to a conclusion because it has hung over this union for far too long. We all

need to look to the future and make decisions that are in the best interest of union and its membership as a whole.

I noted in my column published *Dispatcher* in 2019 shortly after the verdict in the damages trial that filing bankruptcy was a possibility. That moment is now upon us. We have consulted with legal and financial advisors and experts to assess our options. We have spent much time and energy and have had many difficult conversations to figure out how to move forward. The Titled Officers and the Executive Board carefully considered the facts and circumstances and unanimously decided that filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection is the best option for the ILWU and the membership. It will allow us to implement a plan to address and resolve the litigation and anything that might be owed to ICTSI so that we can move forward and focus on the future.



ILWU forever

This is not the first time our union has experienced hard times or challenges like these. For nearly 90 years, the ILWU has been a militant voice for the working class and a model of social unionism fighting to uplift workers in and outside our union. The ILWU is an international treasure. Our reputation is our stock-in-trade.

Our success in building a strong, democratic, and effective industrial union has also made us targets. Since the 1930s employers have used the courts and anti-labor legislation like the Taft-Hartley Act to try to limit the collective rights of labor and undermine unions – especially powerful unions like the ILWU. The government tried to deport Harry Bridges for more than two decades, and employers have come after the ILWU, locals and affiliates, and members time and again. We have always persevered.

We will overcome this and emerge stronger and more united because of the grit, determination, tenacity, and working-class spirit of our membership. The more we are attacked, the more united we become.

This was a difficult decision, but the Titled Officers and our International Executive Board know that it was the right decision and sets our union on the best possible path forward. This group of Officers and our membership can handle this kind of trouble.

Stay vigilant, stay strong, stay calm. See you at work.



DISPATCHER

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Mensaje del presidente

Me duele mucho escribirles este mensaje hoy. El día 30 de septiembre, el ILWU pidió la protección de entrar en bancarrota bajo el Capítulo 11. Los funcionarios titulares y la Mesa Ejecutiva Internacional hicimos esta difícil decisión unánimemente para resolver el litigio en curso con ICTSI Oregon, Inc. Creemos que ésta es la mejor línea de acción para proteger nuestro sindicato y salvaguardar nuestro futuro.

Funcionamiento normal

El ILWU continuará en función normal durante todo este proceso. Mientras que puede parecer alarmante la palabra “bancarrota”, entrar en bancarrota no es la liquidación y no se está disolviendo el sindicato. El Capítulo 11 se estableció para permitir que organizaciones tales como el ILWU puedan continuar en operación sin interrupción mientras trabajan para resolver desafíos tales como los que actualmente enfrentamos. El ILWU seguirá en función normal. Continuaremos en proveer apoyo a nuestros locales y afiliados; continuaremos en ofrecer actividades de formación y capacitación; continuaremos nuestros programas de organización; continuaremos nuestra comunicación y participación tradicionales; seguiremos en la lucha por la membresía; continuaremos nuestro apoyo, fuerte e inquebrantable, al movimiento laboral. Los acuerdos de la negociación colectiva que gobiernan los sueldos, las prestaciones, y las condiciones del trabajo de los miembros bases, no serán afectados. Nuestro sindicato crecerá y prosperará; seguiremos como voz militante en defensa de los derechos de los miembros del ILWU en este país y a través del mundo.

Cómo llegamos a esto

Por más de una década el ILWU se ha defendido en litigios entablados por ICTSI Oregon, Inc. El litigio comenzó con una disputa laboral en el Puerto de Portland, la cual llevó, a fin de cuentas, a que la Junta Nacional de

Relaciones Laborales (National Labor Relations Board, o NLRB) determinó que el ILWU e ILWU Local 8 habían cometido prácticas laborales injustas. En 2012 ICTSI demandó a ILWU y Local 8 en el tribunal federal de Oregon por daños monetarios. A fines de 2019, hubo un juicio que duró dos semanas. El jurado determinó en el veredicto que el ILWU y Local 8 habían quebrantado la ley y que a ICTSI le correspondía un monto de casi \$93.6 millones en daños; 55% de los daños se asignaron al ILWU y 45% al Local 8.

El ILWU y Local 8 impugnaron la determinación del jurado. El día 5 de marzo del 2020, el juez determinó que los daños máximos discutiblemente respaldados por las pruebas presentadas en el juicio eran de \$19,061,248.00. El ILWU estaba preparado para aceptarlo y buscar la manera de pagar el monto en aquel tiempo. Pero el ICTSI rechazó la reducción y se programó un nuevo juicio. La demanda ha ido en curso desde aquel tiempo, e ICTSI está pidiendo hasta \$142 millones en daños en el segundo juicio.

Repetidas veces hemos intentado resolver el litigio con ICTSI Oregon, Inc., el cual ha corrido una década entera, pero a esta altura ya no nos alcanza para defender contra la demanda de táctica tierra quemada de ICTSI. Los costos asociados con este litigio persistente y los daños potenciales no son sostenibles. Es la responsabilidad de todo líder de nuestro sindicato dejar la organización en mejores condiciones que la encontramos al llegar. Cuando los funcionarios titulares optamos por servir a la membresía al postularnos a un cargo, heredamos esta persistente situación desastrosa. Ahora estamos tomando pasos proactivos para llevarla a su conclusión porque ha pesado sobre este sindicato por un tiempo mucho más largo de lo debido. A todos nos hace falta dirigir la mirada hacia el futuro y hacer decisiones que apoyan los mejores intereses del sindicato y sus miembros como un total.

Hice notar en mi columna publicada *Dispatcher* en 2019 poco después del veredicto en el juicio por daños, que entrar en bancarrota era una posibilidad. Ya se nos ha llegado la hora. Hemos consultado con asesores legales y financieros y con expertos para analizar nuestras opciones. Hemos invertido mucho tiempo y energía y nos hemos ocupado en muchas conversaciones difíciles para determinar la mejor manera de seguir adelante. Los funcionarios titulares y la Mesa Directiva consideramos cuidadosa-

Nuestro éxito en desarrollar un sindicato industrial fuerte, democrático y eficaz también nos ha convertido en blanco. Desde los 1930 los empleadores han utilizado los tribunales y la legislación anti-laboral tal como la Ley Taft-Hartley para intentar limitar los derechos colectivos de los trabajadores y socavar a los sindicatos – especialmente a los sindicatos poderosos como el ILWU. El gobierno intentó deportar a Harry Bridges por más de dos décadas, y los empleadores han perseguido al ILWU, los locales y

“Esta fue una decisión difícil, pero los funcionarios titulares y nuestra Mesa Ejecutiva Internacional sabemos que fue la decisión correcta y que ubica a nuestro sindicato en el mejor camino posible para echarnos adelante.”

mente los hechos y circunstancias, y unánimemente decidimos que pedir la protección por bancarrota bajo el Capítulo 11 es la mejor opción para el ILWU y la membresía. Nos permitirá implementar un plan para responder a y resolver el litigio y cualquier monto que pueda quedarse debiendo a ICTSI, para echarnos adelante y enfocarnos en el futuro.

ILWU para siempre

Ésta no es la primera vez que nuestro sindicato ha experimentado ratos duros o desafíos tales como estos. Por casi 90 años, el ILWU ha sido una voz militante en pro de la clase trabajadora y un modelo del sindicalismo en lucha para levantar a los trabajadores tanto dentro como fuera de nuestro sindicato. El ILWU es un tesoro internacional. Nuestra reputación refleja nuestra competencia y fortaleza.

afiliados, y a los miembros una y otra vez. Siempre hemos persistido.

Esto lo superaremos y saldremos más fuertes y unidos por el coraje, la determinación, la tenacidad y el espíritu de la clase trabajadora de nuestra membresía. Por más que nos ataquen, más unidos nos volvemos.

Esta fue una decisión difícil, pero los funcionarios titulares y nuestra Mesa Ejecutiva Internacional sabemos que fue la decisión correcta y que ubica a nuestro sindicato en el mejor camino posible para echarnos adelante. Este grupo de funcionarios junto a nuestra membresía podemos lidiar con esta clase de dificultad.

Manténganse vigilantes, manténganse fuertes, manténganse calmados. Nos vemos en el trabajo.

Stronger Together



Longshore members overwhelmingly ratify new contract by 75%

Longshore workers voted to ratify the tentative contract agreement that was reached in June with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). Coast Longshore Division members voted 75% in favor of approving the new 6-year agreement that will expire on July 1, 2028. The ratification totals were: 8,854 “YES” and 2,997 “NO.” A breakdown of the vote by local can be found in the chart below.

Voting results were certified on August 31 by the Coast Balloting Committee, which was chosen by Coast Longshore Division Caucus delegates elected from each of the 29 West Coast ports.

“The negotiations for this contract were protracted and challenging,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams. “I am grateful to our rank and file for their strength, to our Negotiating Committee for their vision and tenacity, and to those that supported giving the ILWU and PMA the space that we needed to get to this result.”

The new agreement protects approximately 22,000 good-paying jobs for workers living in 29 West Coast port communities. The contract maintains health benefits, and improves wages, pensions and safety protections.

The ratification totals were 8,854 “YES” and 2,997 “NO.”

Ratification vote by local

LOCAL	PORT	YES	NO	PERCENTAGE YES
04	Vancouver	148	17	90%
07	Bellingham	18	0	100%
08	Portland	288	41	88%
10	San Francisco/Oakland	661	437	60%
12	Coos Bay	19	3	86%
13	Los Angeles/Long Beach	4,505	1,838	71%
14	Eureka	9	1	90%
18	West Sacramento	45	0	100%
19	Seattle	572	93	86%
TOTALS:				
		8,854	2,997	75%

LOCAL	PORT	YES	NO	PERCENTAGE YES
21	Longview	193	32	86%
23	Tacoma	700	130	84%
24	Aberdeen	39	0	100%
25	Anacortes	10	0	100%
27	Port Angeles	18	0	100%
29	San Diego	133	13	91%
32	Everett	56	3	95%
34	San Francisco/Oakland	114	59	66%
40	Portland	81	3	96%
46	Port Hueneme	172	20	90%
47	Olympia	30	0	100%

LOCAL	PORT	YES	NO	PERCENTAGE YES
50	Astoria	18	0	100%
51	Port Gamble	8	2	80%
52	Seattle/Puget Sound	102	14	88%
53	Newport	8	1	89%
54	Stockton	78	51	61%
63	Los Angeles/Long Beach	829	239	78%

ILWU joins maritime and docker unions for global day of action in solidarity with the ILA



ILWU and IBU members from Portland, OR and Longview, WA came out to an action at the Danish Consulate in Portland in support of the jurisdiction in New London, CT.

ILWU members along the West Coast of the United States and Canada participated in a global day of action in solidarity with the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) which represents longshore workers on the East and Gulf Coasts on the U.S. The ILA and ILA Local 1411, in New London, CT, spearheaded this Global Day of Action against Ørsted US to protect ILA jobs.

ILA Local 1411 members have worked at the Port of New London for almost a century. Their Connecticut State Pier was closed down several years ago to retrofit the waterfront facility to handle offshore wind components.

When the pier reopened, the ILA discovered that their historic and traditional work jurisdiction of loading and unloading vessels and barges had been assigned to building trades unions. Ørsted US claimed that the ILA had no members trained to operate the higher technology cranes and cargo

transporting equipment that were needed to handle the offshore wind components.

Ørsted conveniently overlooked the fact that some two years earlier during the reconstruction phase, ILA President Harold Daggett had written to Ørsted’s CEO on several occasions requesting that Ørsted provide training for ILA members.

All these letters were ignored and Ørsted instead referred members of the International Union of Operating Engineers for training even though the work for which they were being trained was longshore work. To this day, there is no contractual commitment from Ørsted recognizing ILA work jurisdiction and no training timeline.

“Ørsted’s failure to respect the core work jurisdiction of longshore workers in its wind turbine operations, if allowed to continue, will erode that work jurisdiction,” said ILA President Harold Daggett, who encouraged dockers to participate in the global action in support of the ILA to send a message to Ørsted that dock worker jurisdiction must be respected.



So Cal Labor Day parade: Thousands of union members participated in the 44th annual Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition Labor Day Parade & Picnic Rally. The Southern California Pensioners sponsored a breakfast at the Memorial Hall before the march, feeding hundreds of people. This year’s theme was “Union Labor Built the American Dream.” The annual Labor Day Parade was started in 1979 by the Harbor Labor Coalition as a demonstration of solidarity and labor unity. Local 26 President Luisa Gratz was one of the coalition’s co-founders. What started as a small parade and has grown to become the largest Labor Day event west of the Mississippi River.

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ILWU Statement in Solidarity with the United Auto Workers

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 15, 2023) –The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) issued the following statement in solidarity with the United Auto Workers (UAW):

The ILWU stands in solidarity with the United Auto Workers who are fighting for fair wages that reflect the value of their hard work, skill, and the enormous profits they generate for the Big Three automakers and for a work-life balance that allows workers to spend time with their families.

“For too long, the working class has been denied a fair share of the wealth that their labor produces,” said ILWU International President Willie Adams. “Workers are fed up watching the profits they produce go directly into the pockets of CEOs while their own piece of the pie gets smaller. The UAW membership is standing up against corporate greed and fighting for a fair and equitable contract and the ILWU stands with the UAW. An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Powell's Bookstore workers send message with "No Labor" Day strike

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announced before the strike that they would be closing all of their stores on September 4 "due to the lack of staffing."

Worker frustrations

Workers are frustrated with the employer's continued unwillingness to negotiate in good faith and come to an agreement on a contract that includes livable wages and accessible health benefits for all staff.

On June 20, the company's first "final offer" was rejected by the union membership meeting. Members attending that meeting instead recommended a strike authorization vote by all Powell's workers represented by the union — 307 booksellers and buyers, warehouse workers, marketing workers, technicians, truck drivers, and more.

Fighting for a livable income

Powell's has failed to provide wages that keep up with inflation in recent years, with entry-level booksellers now starting at the minimum wage. On top of that, over 85% of Powell's union workers currently make below the area's living wage, with many workers remaining "capped" below a living wage — including those who've worked for the company for decades.

Dubay said the minimum livable income in Multnomah County is \$21.85 per hour or just over \$45,000 annually according to data from MIT's living wage calculator. The most generous base wage offered by Powell's management in contract negotiations was over \$5 per hour below that figure. "Your maximum earning potential shouldn't be the bare minimum required to live in your city," they said.

ILWU solidarity

Speakers at the rally included ILWU International President Willie Adams, ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, Local 40 President Dawn DesBrisay, and past Local 5 President Mary Winzig. ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris also attended the action.

ILWU's speakers expressed the steadfast commitment and solidarity of the entire union to Local 5 and Powell's workers for a fair contract that reflects the value and profits they create for Powell's Books. Workers from several other local unions and organizing campaigns also spoke at the event.

"There is no other place that I would rather be than here with you today," said Pres. Adams. "You are

going into battle with the full strength of the 42,000 workers of the ILWU behind you. We stand with you in solidarity today, tomorrow, and until you bring the victory home."

Adams added. "Employers are the same. I don't care whether it's Powell's, longshore, or Starbucks. What workers have is the power to withhold our labor. This is our time right now and we're not going to beg the employers for anything. We've got to go take what we deserve and we will do so without apology."

Rob Ashton spoke about the 13-day strike waged by more than 7,000 ILWU Canada longshore workers earlier this year and noted that both Powell's workers and ILWU Canada's longshore workers were fighting for dignity.

"Without worker power, there are no profits for these corporations to be earned. The profits Powell's earns have been off the backs of you all. You are demanding your fair share of those profits so you can live a life of dignity and respect," Ashton said. "By striking you are showing your employer that you're unified, that you're getting tired of being treated like garbage. I'm so very proud to stand here with you all today and march in your line to show the love and respect that ILWU Canada has for Local 5.

"You all deserve a wage that is dignified. We're here for you, your union is here for you. The greater labor movement is here for you. And we'll always be here for you. Stand fast, hold the line together, and we shall be victorious."

DesBrisay highlighted the many contributions that Local 5 members bring to Powell's Books and have made the bookstore such a success.



ILWU International President Willie Adams fires up the crowd. "We stand with you in solidarity today, tomorrow, and until you bring the victory home," he said.

"Powell's looks a little sad today," DesBrisay said. "It's nothing more than a structure and a bunch of books because the store doesn't come alive until Local 5 enters the door, brings their passion, and knowledge of books, their outstanding work ethic, and then they sprinkle a little whimsy. That's when the City of Books comes to life. They deserve a livable wage where they can pay their rent and buy food. My promise to Local 5 is that Local 40 will always stand with you."

Since the strike, the Local 5 bargaining committee has met with the employer but Powell's is still refusing to meet the workers' demand for a livable wage and a second strike action is possible, according to Dubay.



Workers from Local 23 in Tacoma were among the many ILWU members from along the West Coast and Canada that came to Portland to show solidarity with Local 5.

Pat Ruddiman, retired Local 53 member, sworn in as newest Port of Newport Commissioner

Retired Local 53 member Pat Ruddiman was sworn in as the newest Commissioner for the Port of Newport on July 24 after being elected earlier this summer. He ran for the position with one important goal: to return cargo to the port.

Ruddiman said that 1998 was the last time a log ship was worked in Newport; log barges were worked until 2002 when the cargo dock was condemned.

"Originally, the facility was made out of two World War II concrete ships bow to bow," Ruddiman explained. "They sank them and that was one of our docks."

Over time, Ruddiman said, the dock eroded and started breaking into two and was no longer capable of sustaining the weight of log stackers or forklifts.

The main issue now is not the infrastructure. When the cargo left port, commercial fishermen came in to fill the void, Ruddiman said. In 2006, the port financed a new dock with a bond measure. It was completed in 2010. "The dock has been replaced. It's all brand new. We've got almost 700 feet of dock. We have one berth, but the fishermen won't let us use it," said Ruddiman.

Ruddiman explained that the local fishermen are in favor of sharing the dock with cargo operations, but the large, industrial commercial fishing operators, represented by the Midwater Trawl Cooperative that split their time between Alaska and Oregon, have opposed the return of cargo operations to the port. Those fishermen had the support of the Port's President in past years, but Ruddiman defeated him in an election this past May. Now Ruddiman and the two other Port

Commissioners who support a return of cargo to Newport can elect a new Port President who can then direct the port manager to start doing more to return cargo operations.

Ruddiman, who has been retired for two years, said his quest to return cargo to Newport is because of his family roots and commitment to the ILWU.

"I'm big into history and tradition. The fishing industry got control of the docks and it's been bothering me ever since. My dad had 41 years in this port. He's gone but I just felt that I owed it to him and the ILWU for what they've given me, to give something back," Ruddiman said.

He added that the experience in Newport has illustrated the importance of staying active, attending local port commission meetings, developing relationships with commissioners, and monitoring the issues that come before them.



Retired Local 53 member Pat Ruddiman and newest Commissioner for the Port of Newport.

"My dad always told me: 'Politicians are no different than the employer. If you turn your back, they'll stab you,'" Ruddiman said. "I don't know about the large ports but take the small ports like Newport—there are only 10 ILWU members here. One port commission election and you could lose work. That's what happened here. They were so close to signing an agreement to export wood and ship lumber out of here and just because of one election, it's gone."

Port of Longview event celebrates, seeks to save 'Food for Peace' aid program



Food for Peace: Washington-grown white wheat is loaded onto the *Liberty Glory* at the Port of Longview. (Photo credit American Maritime Congress)

LWU dock workers joined with farmers, millers, mariners, and state and federal policymakers to commemorate the humanitarian shipment of 28,000 metric tons of American-grown wheat on the U.S.-flagged *Liberty Glory*—part of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Food for Peace program.

Those on hand were not just there to celebrate the grain shipment, but also to draw attention to the fact that future

deliveries are endangered because some members of Congress are seeking to reduce or eliminate funding for the 70-year-old humanitarian program.

Bi-partisan support

Democratic and Republican members of Washington State's congressional delegation and hundreds of organizations across the country are pushing back on the proposed cuts. A bipartisan bill, known as the *American Farmers Feed the World Act*, would preserve funding.

Fighting hunger for 70 years

In 1954, Republican President Dwight Eisenhower signed the *Food for Peace Act*, clearing the way for the creation of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Food for Peace program. Since its inception, food deliveries have reached more than 4 billion people.

Important partnership

Speakers at the event highlighted the program's importance in combating hunger around the world and the incredible partnership between longshore workers, farmers, and mariners.

"Food for Peace is one of the most successful humanitarian programs because of the enduring commitment of America's farmers, millers, port workers, longshoremen, and merchant mariners to feeding the world," said William P. Campbell, Vice President of Operations of Liberty Maritime Corporation. "However, there are some out there who want to eliminate the contribution of America's farmers and mariners to Food for Peace or end the program entirely. World hunger is at its peak as conflict persists and the traditional breadbasket of Ukraine

is disrupted. Against this backdrop, America must stand up and fight hunger and once again be the shining beacon of hope for those around the world. Food for Peace is that hope."

Local 19's Dan McKisson and President of the Washington Area District Council said, "American-grown commodities, like the soft, white wheat loaded on the U.S. flagged vessel *Liberty Glory* here today, have saved lives all over the world. This is a tangible symbol of our nation's generosity, loading these cargos and sending them to those in need overseas, also provides much-needed living wage jobs for our union members and for their families."

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal added, "The United States must continue to provide robust international aid to meet the scale of need in the fight against hunger. I am inspired by the partnership of the maritime labor, carriers, and agriculture sectors in Washington and across the country to make this momentous contribution to global food security."

IN MEMORIAM

Former ILWU Organizer Paul Bigman passes

Paul Bigman, former ILWU International Organizer for the Puget Sound and dedicated labor activist died of natural causes on June 29, 2023, at his home in Chicago. Paul's career spanned both the labor movement and the legal profession. Over the years, he worked for more than half a dozen labor unions and labor organizations as an organizer and union representative. Paul's integrity, commitment, passion, and dedication to the working class enabled him to connect with and gain the trust of workers across a wide range of industries and occupations.

He was known by his family, friends, and comrades as a gentle and compassionate steward of humanity with unquestioned integrity and a generous, loving heart, and for his determination to make the world a better place.

Paul was born in New York City to parents Stanley and Gertrude Bigman. In later years, he moved with his family to Washington, D.C. where he graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1967. Paul earned his BA at Reed College in Portland, OR, and went on to study law at the University of Chicago. From 1975-1983, he worked on staff in the Black Studies program at Portland University, then as director at the Chicago Chapter

of the National Lawyers Guild. Paul later served as a paralegal for the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation, and then as a law librarian at Stateville Correctional Center. After that, he was a research associate at the Chicago Law Enforcement Study Group and the John Howard Associates of Illinois.

In 1984, Paul answered his true calling and became a labor activist. From 1984 until 1993 Paul was an organizer for several unions in the Chicago area: the Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union, the Retail, Wholesale & Dept Store Union, and the United Electrical Workers Union. It was during this time that Paul met the love of his life, Beverly "Bobbi" Polzine. Then from 1994 to 1997, Paul worked as an organizer for the Communication Workers of America in Princeton Junction, NJ.

In 1997, Paul and Bobbi relocated to Seattle where he joined the ILWU's International Organizing Department as an organizer, a position he held for seven years where he played an instrumental role in organizing Powell's Books in Portland. Following his tenure with the ILWU, Paul went on to become the Western Regional Field Organizer for Jobs with Justice, then went on to work for the Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 8, and International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 18, and the American Federation of Musicians, Local 76-493, before retiring in 2017 to care for Bobbi until her passing later that year.

During retirement, Paul continued to stay active with volunteer work and political campaigning. In the months preceding his death, he was mentoring Amazon workers. Understanding that making a better future requires learning from the past and being eager to educate, Paul wrote a series of Facebook posts he called "In the History of Struggle," telling stories of the unsung heroes and rebels of the labor and social justice movement.

Memorials for Paul were held in both Chicago and Seattle so his family, friends, and community had to opportunity to come together to remember him and celebrate his life.

At the Seattle memorial, Mary Winzig, past President of Local 5 who worked with Paul during the organizing campaign for Powell's Books recalled important lessons Paul taught her, "One of the things that Paul told me early on is that the labor movement will break your heart at times and victories will be few and far between. 'Always remember,' he told me, 'what is most important is that the people you meet along the way.' What I learned from Paul Bigman is to cherish the people that you meet along the way."

"When Paul came to Seattle, he reminded me of an old-time organizer," said Terri Mast, Secretary-Treasurer of the Inlandboatmen's Union. "He always had his packet of papers in his hand and was always wearing cowboy boots and sporting a t-shirt of one union or another or a campaign that he happened to be working on. He had the



Former ILWU International Organizer Paul Bigman

ability to move us, often pushing me to do things that, I didn't think I could do. But he had a way of convincing us that anything was possible."

"Paul was a Renaissance Man," said ILWU International President Willie Adams. "He inspired people and played an important role in organizing Powell's Books more than two decades ago. The ILWU and the working class owe Paul Bigman a debt of gratitude and he will be missed."

Paul's contribution to Seattle and to the labor movement was commemorated by a City Council proclamation honoring his life and declaring September 30, 2023 to be "Paul Bigman Day."

Paul is preceded in death by his wife Bobbi, father Stanley, mother Gertrude, and sister Laura Bigman. He is survived by stepdaughter Rebecca Hansen of Tea, South Dakota; step-son John Polzine of Brewster, Minnesota; step-son James Polzine of Heron Lake, Minnesota; nine step-grandchildren, niece Cabral Bigman Galimore, cousin Andrea Frisch-Hara, and special friend Davida Perry.

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

In the April edition, *The Dispatcher* dedicated two pages to our "Thanks a Million" account of ILWU Walk the Coast achieving \$1million in donations to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. Members were able to see the logos and names of every donor that made this achievement possible. The support we get from *The Dispatcher* allows our committee the opportunity to credit and thank to everyone – the Coast Committee, International, ILWU locals, industry companies, pension groups auxiliaries and our friends – for participating in our union wide event. Print exposure is an essential way to inspire everyone listed above to want to see their name or logo printed next to their brothers and sisters who annually do something good for others, unite the ILWU and let the community see the goodness of organized labor. Not every Division participates, not yet. It is our hope that one day we will enjoy seeing the name of every local in every Division printed in our newspaper, *The Dispatcher*. Thank you and all those who make ILWU Walk the Coast's effort something we can all be very proud of.

Dan Imbagliazzo
Chairman ILWU Walk the Coast
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Dear Editor,

On July 29, Auxiliary 1 members attended the First Annual Harry Stamper Stomp, held at Mingus Park in Coos Bay, OR. The weather was sunny, cooled by a gentle breeze, and we clapped and shouted. We laughed and cried. What an inspirational tribute to a talented and multifaceted man.

Various folk musicians sang Harry's, as well as their own, compositions. We were also treated to a number of sea chanties performed with no instruments, other than items that would have been used by sailors on deck.

One of our favorite moments was when the performers invited the audience to join in as they sang Harry's famous song, which is in the Smithsonian, "We just came to work here; Wedon't come to die."

The audience turn-out was moderate, but plans are in the making for next year, although the date might change. Afterward, we chatted with Harry's daughter Nel, and met his 100 year-old mother.

It was a beautiful day in the park to go stomping with Harry Stamper.

Marilyn Richards
Secretary, Auxiliary 1
North Bend, OR

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*,

1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org



Local 4 members walk to end Alzheimer's: On Sunday September 24, Local 4 members participated in a 5k Walk to End Alzheimer's along Vancouver's waterfront and raised \$3,277. A mix of 25 members and their families participated in the walk. The Local 4 Young Worker's Committee organized the event and fund raising effort. In the photo (left to right) are Local 4 Vice President Josh Goodwin and Local 4 President Jamison Roberts.

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I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Local 23 marks 20 years of MS Walk



April 15 was a historic day for the Local 23 team celebrating their 20th year participating in the MS Walk at the Chambers Bay Properties in University Place, WA.

There was a great turnout, with more than 65 walkers on the longshore team – union members, family, and friends, all proudly wore union-printed ILWU team shirts. The local MS Society presented the longshore team with a sign celebrating the fact that they has raised more than \$158,000 over the previous 19 years to help fight MS. “The sign exemplifies Local 23’s dedication and commitment to help fight MS,” said long-time volunteer and co-captain Lisa Reed, “because, year after year, our Longshore community pulls together to support this worthy cause.”

But, as if that wasn’t enough, the longshore team raised more money than any year that they have participated in the walk and received an award from the MS Society for Top Fundraising. They came in at second place in the South Sound walk raising \$17,500.

The real winners are of those fighting Multiple Sclerosis—as these funds go to research and support to take on this terrible disease—friends like that of our new longshore volunteer and walker, Shelby Falk, who encouraged her close friend who is battling MS and her family to walk this year with us. “These hard-working brothers and sisters welcomed my friends and I with open arms. We were so honored to participate in the MS Walk this year and can’t wait until next year,” Shelby said. “I’m proud to be a part of such a generous group giving back to a very important cause.”

Washington Area Pension Workshop

Local 23 will be hosting a pension workshop for actives in the WA area:
November 7, 2023, 6 pm, at the Local 23 hall

Significant others are encouraged to attend.

This will be a Power Point presentation put on by Washington Area Welfare Director Andrea Stevenson and Southern California Area Welfare Director Sam Alvarado. All questions are encouraged.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Paul E. Williams Sr.;
Local 13: William B. Baldwin; Cynthia Ann Betz-Fizulich; Floyd Bryan; Ronald M. Charles Jr.; Jorge G. Garcia; Rick E. Gimenez; Terrill Jackson; Byron K. Kanemaru; Dennis W. Legaspi; Gregory A. Osborne; Hector F. Reyna; Brian Simmons; Martin L. Slavich; Marc L. Solorio; Gary D. Stain;
Local 19: Kenneth R. Baxter; Brad K. Buslach; Matthew F. Palmer;
Local 23: Wayne L. Coudriet; Wayne J. Shelman; Kevin A. Smith;
Local 29: Greg P. Bird;
Local 34: Michael K. Valinoti;
Local 40: Frank A. Twilleager;
Local 52: David A Black; **Local 54:** Lloyd Jones; **Local 63:** Teresa Areyan; Walter W. Chong; Reginald D. Haywood; John R. Risvold; Mary E. Tousseau; **Local 91:** Anthony M. Golden; **Local 94:** Vito A. Gioiello; Nick J. Grieco; John D. Iacono;
Local 98: James A. Manenica;

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Local 13: David D. Monteverde; Vincent Ramos; **Local 23:** David P. Bishop; **Local 46:** Maryellen Medina

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Fredrick F. Leistiko; Hoyt Mincher; Laurence Thibedeau;
Local 10: Lenoral Lamb; Todd Lloyd; Jacqueline Reed; **Local 12:** Jerry D. Grauman; **Local 13:** Robert L. Bailey; Silvester S. Cardona; Dick W. Gustafson; Eero A. Hoikso; Ray D. McGuire;
Local 19: Walter H. Connelly; Samuel N. White; **Local 21:** Lonnie Pellham; **Local 23:** Ralph L. Hopf; Dale W. McCarty; **Local 40:** Donald Steinmetz; **Local 54:** Catalina Magna; **Local 63:** Richard L. Coryell; Tim G. Fontes; **Local 91:** Ventura P. Espinoza; James A. Field;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Laverne G. Roemmich; **Local 8:** Patricia Julian; Yvonne Meier; **Local 10:** Mary L. Antonelli; Amy Frazee; **Local 13:** Leah Howe; Doris E. Phillips; Jeannine G. Poche; **Local 19:** Shirley E. Blevins; **Local 21:** June A. Dunivan; **Local 23:** Catherine T Kamel; **Local 24:** Betty L. Ludwig; **Local 32:** Sally L. Robinson; **Local 34:** Carolyn Koons; **Local 50:** Linda L. Helberg; Pauline Reiter; **Local 54:** Marilyn Bingham; **Local 94:** Jean M. Geich; Marina Monje;

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Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

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(415) 776-8363

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Donnie Schwendeman
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Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

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Teamsters Assistance Program
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Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR
(604) 254-7911



Local 19 Young Workers: The Second Annual Local 19 Young Workers event, “Union Night at the Seattle Mariners” game took place on August 25. Approximately 83 people came out—a mix of A, B, casuals and families and Local 23 young workers.

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