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Club MEETING DATES:

All meetings are cancelled until further notice due to the COVID-19 outbreak

www.rustyhook.org

Important information concerning Benefit Plan services and COVID-19

Due to a shelter in place directive, the San Francisco ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office closed Monday, March 16th and will remain closed until Monday, May 4th. Opening day is tentative and will depend on public health advisories. The San Francisco ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office is still working remotely. Approximately half of the ILWU-PMA Benefit plans staff are equipped with laptops that allow them to work remotely and securely.

In addition, the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office in San Francisco will be suspending mail delivery from the US Postal Service directly to the office. Instead, they are picking up mail every 4-5 business days at the US Postal office. Faxes will also be picked up every 4-5 business days from the ILUW-PMA

Benefit Plans San Francisco office. If you need to transmit documents to the ILWU-PMA Benefit plans please do so electronically. I can help with that, please see your options below.

What this means for WA Area Welfare Director, Andrea Stevenson, the Washington AREA ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office and documents:

- The WA Area ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans physical office will be closed. Andrea Stevenson will be working full time remotely with access to everything she would normally have.
The preferred method of sending documents to her is electronically. Her email address is: astevenson@benefitplans.org
You may still fax to her office; the fax number has been forwarded so she will get your documents. (206) 938-6726 fax.
You may still mail documents to her office. She will check the mail when possible. (Mail is not preferred) 21907 64th Ave W. #130 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Please continue to reach out to her office phone number. She is still actively working full time on behalf of the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office. (206) 938-6720 office.

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From Optum RX

Use the website for the fastest service:

<https://optumrx.com>

We are continuing to monitor developments around COVID-19 (coronavirus). Your and your family's overall health and well-being is our top priority and we are committed to meeting your acute and ongoing prescription needs.

We are working hard to ensure the highest quality customer service and minimal service disruption. For the quickest service, please use the website above (<https://optumrx.com>) to help you:

- Place home delivery orders
- Transfer prescriptions to home delivery
- Request refills
- Check order status
- Change your delivery address

From the Coastwise Indemnity Plan

From March 13, 2020 to April 12, 2020, the ILWU-PMA Welfare Trustees approved paying all charges related to the screening and treatment of COVID-19. The Trustees will re-evaluate this topic on April 12th to potentially extend the date. There has been no approval, from the joint Trustees, for participants to fill prescriptions early due to COVID-19.

From Kaiser Permanente

If you or a family member has traveled recently to an area of risk, or if you think you may have been exposed to the virus and have symptoms of respiratory illness, you should call the advice number on your Kaiser Permanente membership card for further instructions. It's important to call us ahead of time rather than coming directly in to one of our facilities or making an appointment online. Calling ahead helps us direct you to the most appropriate care, and take precautions to protect other members, patients, and employees.

ILWU International and ILWU Coast Longshore Division Remote Office Contingency Plan for Coronavirus

The ILWU International and ILWU Coast Longshore Division remote work policy has been extended to Monday, May 4th, 2020 per the San Francisco "shelter in place" directive. At that time, we will re-assess whether the remote work policy needs to remain in place or be modified.

From Medicare & Medicare coverage related needs

Medicare covers the lab tests for COVID-19. You pay no out-of-pocket costs.

Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 and might otherwise have been discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay, but instead you need to stay in the hospital under quarantine.

At this time, there's no vaccine for COVID-19. However, if one becomes available, it will be covered by all Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D).

If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have access to these same benefits. Medicare allows these plans to waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 lab tests. Many plans offer additional telehealth benefits beyond the ones described below. Check with your plan about your coverage and costs.

Telehealth & related services

Medicare covers "virtual check-ins" so you can connect with your doctor by phone or video, or even an online patient portal, to see whether you need to come in for a visit. If you're concerned about illness and are potentially contagious, this offers you an easy way to remain at home and avoid exposure to others.

- You may be able to communicate with your doctors or certain other practitioners without necessarily going to the doctor's office in person for a full visit. Medicare pays for "virtual check-ins"—brief, virtual services with your established physician or certain practitioners where the communication isn't

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Trump Stirring up Anti-Iran Frenzy

By Dave Chaddock

Iran, currently hit hard by the coronavirus, has called upon the U.S. to lift its sanctions on humanitarian grounds. This plea has been supported by the UN Secretary-General, the European Union, Japan, and nearly three dozen members of Congress. The global reach of American banks is a very powerful tool which has made it nearly impossible for Iran to buy items like ventilators. But Secretary of State Pompeo rejects the plea (NYT, 4-2). He has a better idea. "While Iran's leaders were battling the coronavirus ravaging the country," wouldn't this be an excellent opportunity to hit them hard? (NYT, 3-22). The Pentagon has ordered military commanders to plan for an escalation of combat, specifically to "destroy" Khataib Hezbollah (which I'll refer to as KH from now on) But the top U.S. military commander in Iraq Lt. Gen. Robert P. White warns that the plan threatens to be "bloody and counterproductive" (NYT, 3-28). Hopefully General White will be heeded.

On December 27th there was a rocket attack on Base K-1 in the Kirkuk district. An Iraqi-born American interpreter was killed. The U.S. blamed the attack on KH, a militia group with support from Iran but which makes its own decisions and is considered by Iraq to be Iraqi in nature. But Trump declared on Twitter: "Iran killed an American contractor" (NYT, 1-1). Iraqis were startled when told that the U.S. had "solid" evidence that KH was responsible for the 12-27 attack

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related to a medical visit within the previous 7 days and doesn't lead to a medical visit within the next 24 hours (or soonest appointment available).

- You need to consent verbally to using virtual check-ins and your doctor must document that consent in your medical record before you use this service. You pay your usual Medicare coinsurance and deductible for these services.
- Medicare also pays for you to communicate with your doctors using online patient portals without going to the doctor's office. Like the virtual check-ins, you must initiate these individual communications.
- If you live in a rural area, you may use communication technology to have full visits with your doctors. The law requires that these visits take place at specified sites of service, known as telehealth originating sites, and get services using a real-time audio and video communication system at the site to communicate with a remotely located doctor or certain other types of practitioners. Medicare pays for many medical visits through this telehealth benefit.

Medicare Covid-19 scam

Scammers may use COVID-19 as an opportunity to steal your identity and commit Medicare fraud. In some cases, they might tell you they'll send you a Coronavirus test, masks, or other items in exchange for your Medicare number or personal information. Be wary of unsolicited requests for your Medicare number or other personal information.

It's important to always guard your Medicare card like a credit card and check your Medicare claims summary forms for errors. Only give your Medicare number to participating Medicare pharmacists, primary and specialty care doctors or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf. Remember, Medicare will never call you to ask for or check your Medicare number.

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Updates from the Hall

By John Persak

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things about how we do our work, and yet, so much of what is important to us remains the same. How do we dispatch while maintaining social distancing? How do we ensure that we are safe on the job from infection, and safe in our equipment from the virus? How are we making decisions, as the business of the union continues onward, while our employers are unrelenting in ways to take advantage of our hard work and dedication to our industry?

At dispatch, we arrive earlier than usual for our regular starts and flex dispatch. Rather than pegging in, we do not enter the building initially, most of us waiting in our trucks and cars, or in the parking lot, at a safe distance, many with face masks. As the interim procedure got started, a sign went up in the window, and the announcement was made out the window: CRANE BOARD. All present on the crane board would proceed up the stairs, and the dispatchers would handle all the pegs, making sure everyone was pegged in, before the dispatch started. This process would repeat for the other boards, and the Bull Board would be called into the warehouse, to then be called into the ID hall ONE ROW at a time, to pick their assignment.

As this is new territory for our union—1918 being long before the creation of our hall, adjustments to our procedures have been made to further ensure our safety. For example, the big Crane Board and the Sling Board now call the hall the day or shift prior to their desired dispatch, and are then dispatched over the phone. Many of our members on these boards are older and are at a higher risk of

complications from infection, and making this accommodation was the right thing to do. Having crane operators go directly to the job also addressed another problem not COVID related—the shut down of the upper West Seattle Bridge.

Completed in 1984, with the vigorous support from our then Local 19 District Council, after a not so sober barge operator rammed the old drawbridge, the upper bridge has been a lifeline for a fast growing West Seattle. Keeping commuters away from our working terminals has been a key factor in making sure that we still have marine cargo growth, especially with the expansion of Pier 5 in the 1990s, and the new two-phase expansion for the coming years. Last month, Seattle's Department of Transportation shut the upper bridge completely, and limited the lower bridge to "emergency vehicles, transit, and cargo", putting pressure on our work for Matson.

Missing from the announcement was an exemption for the people needed to move that freight on a moments notice at Terminal 5. Imagine having to go from the hall, all the way to South Park via the 1st Avenue bridge (which has a habit of opening for the right of way of marine traffic on the Duwamish), and then back again on West Marginal, only to wait in line to cross the 5-way intersection into Terminal 5—and have the gates running or the ship operation starting on time. Since this was not an issue of collective bargaining, we needed to pursue it as an issue of economic necessity in the public interest, which is why when we were granted exemptions—it being only for people needing to go to and from the Local 19 hall to Terminal 5 (not T18, T30, or the grocery store), for linesmen, and for our business agents who need to enforce safety at our terminals.

Having this additional contingency is ensuring that our key people can get to the operation, and

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cargo can move where it needs to go. If the lower bridge breaks, it will need to be left in the “open” position per Coast Guard rules, and having ample time for our crane operators get to the terminal will keep our work at T5, and show the public that we're up to the challenge of keeping essential cargo flowing. We are only able to do this from cooperation from SDOT and the Seattle Police Department, and is another example of why building relationships in our city is important.

Our main terminal operator, SSAT, has been extremely reluctant to ensure the safety of our members, and of course collectively as a union, we have had to step in and make our demands known. Ensuring that we are safe on the job from infection of COVID-19 has been no exception.

Faced with the prospect of having to drive yard equipment that was not being disinfected in spite of a Coast Arbitration requiring the employers do so, we chose to stand by on health and safety. To make a long story short, the arbitrator ruled and upheld our right to sanitized equipment again, paying everyone for down time.

Even still, it took SSAT a full three days before beginning to implement the ruling, and there can be no doubt that problems will persist. And yet, the ILWU continues its role as the protector of our members in the most adverse circumstances. We should consider ourselves blessed that we can step into the breach and take on the employer, especially when the rank and file has chosen that path to take matters into their hands.

One of the most important elements of our continuity are the people that staff our office. We have asked our members to limit and distance interactions in the hall, and to conduct business over the phone or e-mail. The hours of being open at the window have been reduced, so that they

may focus on their work and minimize potential exposure.

The requirement that we all stay six feet apart has prevented us from having our usual stop work meetings, and this has raised some concern about our ability to function as a democratic organization. Knowledge is power, and information to membership informs our ability to not only make decisions once a month, but also in our everyday dealings on the job and with one another. One way we have been able to mitigate the loss of face to face decision making is through the use of communication platforms which are quite common in other lines of work—the virtual phone-in video meeting.

Convened under a “good and welfare” format, as to avoid getting too far ahead of everyone, the first meeting of the executive board and the rest of the officers took place on April 7th. We heard reports from the president and conducted a robust discussion, gathering information about conditions on the job and how we were to function in this new unfamiliar environment. The software app (we use “Zoom” but there are others) is usable from a smart phone or a desktop computer, and can be adapted for a group of up to 100 people. We are currently looking into how this would look for full on membership participation as a good and welfare stop work, but there are some challenges to work through to ensure full and fair participation when facilitating such a large group.

Everyday there is a new challenge in our industry, but in these times they seem to come every hour, or all at once. Our resiliency now is possible because of the work done prior to us by those enjoying retirement, and by those that have passed on from this world. It is easy to take for granted how blessed we are for this, and in these times, it appears that many are taking a second look, and appreciating each other and what we have, when we are seeing so many struggle.

KEEP ON LABORING

Why do they call it a Labor of Love?

*Because Labor is a gift from God above. Everyone
labors in one way or another.*

Ask any working sister or brother.

My mother labored to bring a child into the world.

*Husbands and wives labor to bring shelter to
families, Treasured like pearls.*

Adam labored in the Garden of Eden.

Mankind labors in the vineyards and fields.

*Longshoremen labor on docks loaded with cargo
and steel.*

*So why is labor so despised in some
peoples' eyes?*

When all of us must labor to win life's prize.

Labor is a Labor of Love.

It is a gift from Almighty God above.

—James Barnett, Retired, ILWU 19

Recent Retirees

Tommy Brown #57617	Local 19
Regan Keo #56963	Local 19
Darren Ofsthun #57109	Local 19
Daryl Smith #57709	Local 19
Gerald Collen #60724	Local 98
Rosemarie Wiegman #60953	Local 98

*Congratulations, Brothers and Sisters,
you earned it!*

Pensioner's Correspondence

Rusty Hook Correspondence

Note: As there was no Rusty Hook published in late 2019, the amount of correspondence received during that period was too voluminous to publish in the subsequent Winter/Spring issue, as well as this current one. I apologize for the confusion and concern this may have caused. —J.P. 57598

March, 2020: From **AL WITZLER**, \$50.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you **BIG AL**. From **FREDDY KAGAYAMA**, R30.00 for 2020 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks **FREDDY**. From **JOHN RIDER**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you **JOHN**. From **PETE KOLLOEN**, \$50.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much **PETE**. From **FRANK ANSLEY**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you **FRANK**. From **MARY FULLER**, \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of my brother-in-law **BROTHER JACK FAIRBANKS**. I will miss your smile. Love you **JACK**. And \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of the best dispatcher ever, **BROTHER STEVE KENDALL**. Will miss you too **STEVE**. And also \$30.00 for 2020 dues. Thank you **MARY**. From **JOE THOMPSON**, \$50.00 for lifetime dues through 2024 and \$200.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks **JOE**. From **AL MEEDS**, \$60.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much **AL**. From **SAM MATULIC**, \$30.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks **SAM**. From **MICHAEL WAGENER**, \$30.00 FOR 2020 DUES AND \$20.00 DONATION TO THE Rusty Hook. Thank you **MICHAEL**. From **CHRIS LINCOLN**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you **CHRIS**. From **BOB BURDEN**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks **BOB**. From **CARL CHRISTENSON**, \$60.00 FOR 2020 & 2021 dues
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An Injury to one is an injury to all!

Correspondence from Page 6

and \$40.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks CARL. From **EMMETT WALSH**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you EMMETT. From **BOB PERIN**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you BOB. From **NICK KENNEY**, \$120.00 for dues paid from 2020 to 2023. Thanks NICK. From **EARL ALEXANDER**, \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much EARL. From **DI FAIRBANKS**, \$200.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of her husband **BROTHER JACK FAIRBANKS**. JACK was one of the best. His legacy lives on. He will be missed. Thank you DIANNE, APRIL, & HANNAH. April, 2020: From **TONY FOWLER**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks TONY. From **AL WITZLER**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks AL. From **AL MEEDS**, \$60.00 for 2019 & 2020 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you AL. From **BILL ROMISCHER**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you BILL. From **RON SCHUH**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks a lot RON. From **JOHN FERN**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you JOHN. From **PEPE & CONNIE McDONALD**, \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of **BROTHER JACK FAIRBANKS** and **BROTHER RICHARD HOPPER**. JACK & DICK, two of the best people I have ever known. Rest in Peace BROTHERS. Thank you PEPE & CONNIE. From **BONNIE McHENRY**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks BONNIE. From **ARCHIE SMITH**, \$200.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much ARCHIE and love to see you are still with us. Starting on the waterfront in 1946, WOW. We love to hear from our Brothers and Sisters from other ports. From

JACK SPIERING, \$60.00 for 2019 and 2020 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you JACK. From **SVEN LERBREK**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks SVEN. From **DON FRANZ**, \$75.00 donation to the Rusty Hook and \$25.00 for the Seattle Pensioner's Luncheon. The luncheon has been cancelled in May so you will get a refund as soon as things go back to normal. Hope to have the luncheon in the fall. Thank you so much DON. From **BRUCE ROBERTS**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks a lot BRUCE. From **WALTER VINING**, \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks WALTER. From **TOM SONNENBORG**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you TOM. From **JOANNE HOPPER**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much JOANNE. From **DIANNE FAIRBANKS**, \$200.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of her husband, **BROTHER JACK FAIRBANKS**. JACK was a one of a kind. He will be missed. Thank you so much DIANNE. From **JOHN BEE**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you JOHN. From **RICHARD ULRICH**, \$15.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks RICHARD. From **ROBERT GILMORE**, \$60.00 for 2019 & 2020 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you ROBERT.

Paid Dues only

A big thank you to the following members for paying 2020 dues:

From **LEITH JASINOWSKI-KAHL**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues. Thanks LEITH. From **ROBERT DESARIO**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues. Thanks ROBERT. From **JIM SWEENEY**, \$30.00 for 2020 dues. Thanks JIM. Also: **Jack Block, Sr., Fred Walker, James Bussanich, Roger Olson, Ken Carlton, Ron Ware, Brice Lenz, Robbie Desario.**

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Conversations with Harry

Commentary by Ian Kennedy

My plane landed early, that is if you call 10:00 pm early. As this was a last minute decision, I hadn't made any hotel reservations, so I had the taxi take me straight to The Bar. I walked in, looked around, the place was empty. I saw Sue sitting at our usual table. No bartender, no wait staff. Sue hardly even looked up. I approached the table and she looked up with a lost look on her face.

As I sat down, a young couple walked in and sat down across the room. Sue jumped up, "Sit, don't leave, I'll get you a beer." After getting the order from the couple, she returned carrying a pitcher and two glasses of red wine. Dropping the beer off at our table, "I'll be right back." The couple looked like they were disappointed with the lack of attendance. Sue dropped off the wine and returned to our table, sitting down, she pulled three glasses out of her apron and sat down, poured two glasses, then smiled. I'm sure glad to see you."

Just as I was going to respond, I saw Harry enter. He had a big smile on his face, "I didn't expect to find you here." he stated. As Sue poured the third glass I responded, "After more than two weeks of self quarantine, I found a very cheap flight, and figured why not! So, here I am."

"God, it's good to have a little company." Sue announced. I asked, "What about all your staff, have you sent them home?" Sue replied, "I couldn't afford to keep them on, not knowing how long this 'Lock Down' is going to last. I don't know how long I can even keep the bar." She sits back and finishes her beer. As I refill it for her I ask, "How bad is it?" She looks up at me, "How bad, look around, this is a good night. I pay quarterly on my Loan and I've got two weeks before my payment is due." She finishes her beer, "And this is a good night. Even if I make this next payment, how am I going to make the next one?" She sits back with a lost look on her face. "I've put everything I had into this place. If I didn't have living quarters upstairs, I wouldn't have lasted this long." She gets up, "Hell, you guys have your talk, I've got work to do." And she walks off.

Harry has been sitting quietly, listening to

her problem. "We can't let that happen, we need to help her, she's got to remain with this place. She makes us happen. " I'm looking at him, trying to figure how we could help. "Do you have any ideas?" I asked. Harry looks at me, shakes his head, "No, this is not something I've ever encountered. Do you have any thoughts?"

I'm nodding, "No. The state has put in a 'Stay at Home' law preventing people from gathering and even being out without good cause. But let's stew for a time while we solve the other world problems." Our pitcher was empty, I look around to see if I could catch Sue's eye. Sure enough, she was on her way with a fresh one. "Mind if I join you?" she asked as she sat and filled all of our glasses.

"Yes," Harry put in, "What's been going on with the Union, the work and what ever the hell is going on." I smile while Sue is looking at me, expecting me to brighten her day. "Well," I respond, "I think I told you last time I was down that ICTSI was awarded 98 Million Dollars by the jury. But the Judge felt that was too large an amount, and decided to hold it over for a couple of months while he reviews it. Well, a couple of weeks ago, he came back with a revised figure in the 19 Million range. I don't remember the exact number, but that's close. The last I heard, ICTSI was going to ask for a new trial." I drained my glass and refilled it, "I don't expect it will be resolved any time soon. I do know that at the Caucus that was held after the trial ended, the delegates voted to give the Officers permission to take the Union into bankruptcy if they felt they had to. Our pensioners voted to send a letter to the Coast, telling them that we oppose going into bankruptcy." Harry interrupts me, "No way should they put the Union into such a position. That would probably work out to just under \$1400.00 per member and that shouldn't be much of a strain on them. Remember, our motto is "AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL' and even if the Lawyers wanted a clause excluding the Pension fund, it doesn't mean the Feds wouldn't go after it." Harry sits back in his chair as he finishes off his beer. He then gives Sue a big smile "I think this calls for something a little stiffer than beer, and don't forget the milk, the kid here surely can afford it." He winks at her as she gets up and heads for the bar. In the mean time, Harry has poured the

last of our beer and slowly sips it. “Just remember, the Feds will do anything once they make up their minds.” And Harry shakes his head, “Look at how they went after me, for over twenty years. I was just lucky we had such good lawyers then.”

“Yes,” I respond, “and the right wing, and Trump people, would love to get us by the throat and rape our pension plan. Too many people have worked hard to get us what we have for us to give it all back.” Harry interjected, “As you say, it’s not going to end any day soon. And what other news do you have for me?”

“I think I told you about the challenge to the International elections,” Here nods his head, “I’ve not heard if the NRLB has ordered any action on it, but the Panamanians have sent a letter to the Union withdrawing from the affiliation. I don’t know what has happened with it, although I believe our officers are working on it.” As I take the last of my whiskey, Sue refills our glasses. Harry gives her a serious look, “Don’t forget the milk.” Sue looks up, jumps up and heads to the bar to refill his milk glass. Harry smiles, “She’s really is a great gal.” Sue returns with the milk. Harry thanks her, turning back to me, he asks, “What else is going on?”

I don’t remember if I told you that David Arian passed away. He had a rare throat cancer. Before he died, he asked Diane Middleton to reorganize the ‘Harry Bridges Institute’ by reducing the Board of Directors to seven and restricting it’s direction to aide the Pensioners. And, according to Diane, he named a few people whom he thought would be beneficial on the Board. Following David’s death, Diane called for an emergency Board meeting to update the constitution and vote on the changes David suggested. David had kept adding people to the Board whenever he met someone that had a good idea for the Institute to work on, and this caused it to become too large and made it difficult to get a majority at meetings.” We looked over to Sue, hinting that our glasses were empty, she took the hint. “Who are the new directors?” Harry asked. “I can’t remember some of the names, Diane as chair, PCPA President, Greg Mitre, Myself, an active that transferred up to local 52, two pensioners from Southern Cal. and a film maker. To date, they held one meeting. That’s about all I know.”

Harry looks at the clock, “Hell, it’s late and I have to go.” He gets up and smiles while he puts on his coat, “I know you will take care of the tab, and I’m sure it’s \$200.00. And you get busy and find a way to make sure Sue can keep this place.” He winks at Sue and waves goodbye. Sue turns to me and asks, “When do you fly out, do you need a place to stay the night? I have room if you want .” Thanks,” I respond as I hand her \$200.00 , “I have a very early flight out, so I’ll call a cab and nap at the Airport. Once I’m back I’ll start to set up a ‘GO FUND ME’ account to keep you afloat.” Sue walked me to the door and gave me a big hug as I left.

Ian Kennedy

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Final Dispatch

Sam Black, Local 52

Tommie Morrison, Local 19

Robert Everitt, Local 52

Thurman Kendrick, Local 19

Carl Burke, Local 19

Harry Getz, Local 19

Roger Olson, Local 52

William Spell, Local 98

John Mackner, Local 52

Anti-Iran Frenzy, from page 3

and they were going to retaliate. The fact is that KH had no presence in Kirkuk since 2014.

On November 6 Iraq had warned that ISIS was attempting to target K-1 and in the ten days prior to the attack the Islamic State had launched three attacks close to K-1 (NYT, 2-7). It was obvious that the U.S. base was attacked by ISIS and not KH. But without consulting Iraq Trump conducted bombing raids on five KH bases and killed at least 24 of its fighters. Angry Iraqis stormed the outer buildings of the U.S. Embassy and called for the U.S. to be kicked out of the country. This is when Trump decided to launch a pinpoint drone attack on two automobiles whose occupants included the much beloved Maj-Gen Suleimani as well as a military leader named al-Muhandis who had organized about 30 different militias (including KH) into The Popular Mobilization Forces or PMF, which played a central role in defeating the ISIS Caliphate in Iraq. On guard against U.S. attack Iraq accidentally shot down a passenger jet. It was a tragedy which would not have occurred if the U.S. had not heated up the situation by bombing the KH bases and assassinating Suleimani and al-Muhandis. Trump called Suleimani a very bad person with U.S. blood on his hands who had been on the verge of launching nefarious attacks. But it seems that in recent years he had been fighting on the same side as the United States in opposition to ISIS. However he was blamed for attacking Americans in 2003 when Bush invaded Iraq. What was his "evil" intent when he got obliterated? Iraqi Prime Minister Mahdi explained that he was supposed to meet with Suleimani on the morning he was killed in order to hear an update on efforts to alleviate the hostile relationship with Saudi Arabia! (NYT, 1-7) Trump's attitude toward Iran is a replica of the stance taken by the right-wing Israeli leader Netanyahu. Iran is seen as the greatest

terrorist threat to the peace of the world. It is not an objective view. When Trump at one point threatened 52 airstrikes, one for each of the hostages once seized by Iran from the U.S. Embassy, an Iranian spokesman retorted that the U.S. deserved 290 attacks for the lives lost when it shot down an Iranian airliner in July of 1988. In a recent op-ed, Geraldine Brooks, who was reporting for the Wall St. Journal when the plane was shot down, quoted the commander of a nearby American frigate who described the incident as the "horrifying climax" of the "reckless aggression" by the captain of the Navy warship Vincennes, who first "provoked Iranian gunboats and then followed them into Iran's territorial waters." The true story of what Brooks calls the "prevarications" put forth by the American side in the aftermath of the incident, exposed as such in subsequent investigations, included the following (quoting Brooks): "The plane wasn't in the civilian air corridor. (It was.) It didn't have its transponder turned on. (It did.) It was descending toward the Vincennes. (It wasn't.)" (NYT, 1-9) And one very critical portion of Iranian history should not be overlooked. That was when the CIA overthrew the popular government of Mossadegh in 1953 and saddled Iran with 25 years of a brutal torturing regime. You can read all about it in Stephen Kinzer's book *All the Shah's Men*.

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Note on changed & new addresses:

If you have moved or changed addressed, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we may get you on the list. You may do so by e-mailing Marry at mlfullfair@gmail.com, or contacting us at the information on the front page. Thank you for your patience!



An Injury to one is an injury to all!

NOTICE:

***The Seattle ILWU Pensioner's Club Annual Luncheon,
for May 21st, has been cancelled.***

The Luncheon may be scheduled sometime in the future.
We'll see how things go. If you have sent in any money for the Luncheon, tickets
you have purchased will be refunded. Thank you.

Old Spokane Street Drawbridge, February 27th, 1918



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