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CLUB MEETING DATES:

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

www.rustyhook.org

AMAZON NEEDS TO BE UNIONIZED

By Dave Chaddock

The so-called "Epoch Times" which can be purchased at my local Safeway, has a name that is suggestive of being unparalleled and epochal. But its anti-union stance shows that it is reactionary and petty. In its issue of December 22nd it argues that although unions claim "on the surface" to be "fighting for the interests of workers" actually they are "undermining industrial competitiveness." Industries that are

saddled with unions suffer from "strikes and protests" which "hinder business." Pensions and health insurance "constantly raise costs for enterprises." All in all, quoting Edwin Feulner of the Heritage Foundation, unions are "like an albatross around a company's neck", making it "less flexible, less able to react wisely to the demands of a changing marketplace."

Amazon is a bit more subtle than this. It claims to be a progressive force. It does offer health insurance to its employees. It brags about its fleets of electric trucks that don't pollute. And it supports the call of Bernie Sanders for a \$15 an hour minimum wage. But at the same time it is dead set against any effort of its workers to form a union.

In 2014, Bill Hough (pronounced "Huff") and five other employees at the Chester, Virginia Amazon plant approached the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in the interests of getting union recognition. Hough had worked for 24 years at

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**AMAZON** (From Page 1)

a Reynolds Aluminum Mill where, after witnessing a fellow worker lose four fingers to a steel roller, he learned an important lesson: Never approach equipment casually. When Reynolds closed the mill, Hough needed another job, and joined Amazon in 2013. Soon he “felt pressured to cut corners to keep the belts running.” When Jeff Bezos founded Amazon in 1994 he advertised that he wanted people who could get their work done in “one-third the time that most competent people think possible.” This all-out speedup is characteristic of Amazon. One worker at the Bessemer, Alabama plant, says he had to stop taking bathroom breaks in order to meet productivity targets and avoid getting his take-home pay docked (Sold Short, 3-26-21). At one point when Hough protested the restarting of a belt when he was still working on it, Hough was told by his manager “Quit your bitching!”

During the organizing drive at Chester, several recalled being told at a meeting: “You vote for a union, every one of you will be looking for a job tomorrow.” At another meeting, union supporters were called “a cancer” at the facility. When he declined to attend a meeting at which Amazon made the triumphant announcement that the union had cancelled the election because it was afraid it would lose (Hough said he had known in advance what was going to transpire at the meeting) his failure to attend was labeled “insubordination.”

The story of Bill Hough’s battle was detailed in the New York Times on March 21, which also reported that, as early as 1999, Amazon supervisors were warned that increased worker complaints might be an indication that subversive union activity might

(Continued on Page 6: AMAZON)

## CONVERSATIONS WITH HARRY

*By Ian Kennedy*

I’ve been exchanging phone calls off and on with Sue, trying to determine if I should take a chance and try to get down to San Francisco. After going back and forth for a month, we decided to have a Zoom meeting. Sue arranged a good time for Harry and we were set to go.

Sue had set up a couple of computers in the Bar so that both she and Harry can have some space. I sent out the link early on the day of the meeting. That evening, at the given time, I opened the meeting. Sue came on promptly and we waited for Harry. After a couple of minutes and Harry didn’t show up. His screen lit up but it was blank. Sue then thought she would help Harry. In the mean time Harry had shut everything down. Once Sue had reconnected to the link, her face appeared as clear as a bell, But no Harry. He then tried just talking to me. But again there was no sound. This put me/us in a bind.

As we talked it over, we couldn’t come up with any other options at that time. In the end we decided that Harry would give questions to Sue and she would send them to me for answers. Not that I had many as I’ve stayed isolated for the passed year, (Yes, the last year.) With the exceptions of the few trips I’d taken to see Harry. I didn’t want to try to go down again as I came down with symptoms after the last trip, and was sick for over a week.

With Harry’s permission. I have decided to share the questions with you as I have few if any answers, in case you do, and are willing to share them with Harry and I. You can send them to the Rusty Hook in care of Local 19, 3440 E Marginal Way So., Seattle, WA 98134.

Q) The International Constitution calls for a Convention this year, will it happen?

A) Yes. The 38th Convention will be held virtually June 14 thru 18.

Q) The annual Caucus is usually held the week following the Convention. Will it take place following the Convention this year?

A) Yes. The last word I have gotten is the Coast wants to hold two caucus's this year. One to be held sometime before the Convention and one following it. They hadn't decided if they will be in person or virtually.

Q) Have the NLRB charges against the Union over the prior elections been settled?

A) I don't know. The NLRB was talking about having the elections rerun, but I don't think anyone has come up with a way to rerun them and follow the Constitution. We will also be holding new elections this year for the following term.

Q) Is it true that the Panama Canal Pilots have withdrawn from the ILWU?

A) Yes

Q) Has the Grain Contract been settled?

A) I don't know

Q) I understand LA/LB Harbor has a massive Backup of Container Ships waiting to Unload?

A) Yes, I've heard around 300 ships, and they don't expect to have it cleared up before mid summer.

I have more questions from Harry but due to space I'm limited. If travel restrictions don't clear up I'll have more for you.

In Solidarity,  
Ian Kennedy



## **NOTES FROM ANDREA STEVENSON**

*ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Washington Area Welfare Director*

By order of the State of California, ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans San Francisco main office remains closed. Benefit Plans staff are working remotely. Pension checks will be deposited and mailed on time, weekly and accident claims will be honored, medical claims are being processed. Messages left on our main phone line voicemail will be returned. Multiple messages on the same topic will delay our response: Telephone: (888) 372-4598

Fax lines are being monitored, documents submitted via fax will be received by Benefit Plans staff: Fax: (415) 749-1400 or (415) 749-1321

If you must submit a document but are unable to access a fax machine, please contact Andrea Stevenson, WA area Welfare Director for the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans, @ (206) 938-6720 (office), (206) 938-6726 (Fax) or email [astevenson@benefitplans.org](mailto:astevenson@benefitplans.org).

### **COVID-19**

Services related to the screening, testing and treatment of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently covered per the Plan benefit at this time. This would include telehealth services. Currently there is no documented end date for these services. Participants are encouraged to call your medical Plan, prior to getting services, to ensure the Plan is still covering these services.

### **From Medicare.GOV 3.2.21**

Getting vaccinated is an important step to help protect you from getting COVID-19. Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there's no cost to you.

**(Continued on Page 4: WELFARE)**

**WELFARE** (From Page 3)

Bring your red, white, and blue Medicare card or Medicare Number to your vaccination appointment so your health care provider or pharmacy can bill Medicare. If you can't find it, you can also view your Medicare Number or print your Medicare card from your online Medicare account, or call us at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Each state has its own plan for how and when residents can get vaccines. Contact your local health department for more information about vaccines in your area. You can also visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for information on vaccine distribution in your state, and for answers to common vaccine questions.

While you wait for your vaccine — and even after you're vaccinated — it's still vital to wear a mask, wash hands, and maintain physical distance to protect yourself and others.

**From Medicare.Gov 3.10.21**

Older adults are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, so if you're 65 or older, it's especially important for you to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The current authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe illness from COVID-19.

**To get ready for your vaccination:**

- Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for tips on how to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Each state has its own plan for how and when residents can get vaccines.
- Bring your red, white, and blue Medicare card or Medicare Number when you go to get your vaccine, so your health care provider or pharmacy can bill Medicare. Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there's no cost to you.
- You might need a second shot 3 or 4

weeks after your first shot, depending on the kind of COVID-19 vaccine you get.

Remember, even after you're fully vaccinated, it's important to keep taking precautions in public places. The CDC has new information about how to protect yourself and others when you've been fully vaccinated.



**ONWARD FOR  
JUNETEENTH & THE FULL  
ABOLITION OF SLAVERY!**

*By The Committee To Stop Police Terror & End Systemic Racism*

Something historic took place on June 19th of 2020.

On that day, the ILWU became the first International Union to ever take a major industrial action in commemoration of Juneteenth, Emancipation Day, the day that the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached the state of Texas in June 1865, two and a half years after Lincoln had signed it. It was a history making moment that all members, casuals, pensioners and auxiliary members can forever remember with pride!

All of the US West Coast Ports, as well as several ports in Canada, were shut down that day in observance of the importance to labor of the abolition of chattel slavery, and in solidarity with the worldwide popular democratic uprising against the continuing lynching of African Americans by US police. The ILWU has always strongly opposed lynching, which is one of the reasons that its founding convention at Aberdeen, Washington in April 1938 was physically attacked by the Ku Klux Klan.

In any industrial civilization, the first thing that the labor movement must do, before it can even begin to talk about negotiating higher

*An Injury to one is an injury to all!*

wages, is to establish that ALL who labor (not just some) OWN their own labor to sell in the first place, that their own persons and bodies belong to themselves. In other words, we must first establish that the employer even IS our employer rather than our owner.

This is why many longshoremen have become active in the growing movement to finally complete the full outlawing of slavery in the United States, a job which the 13th Constitutional Amendment of December 6th, 1865 left only partially done.

**Amend The 13Th Amendment!**

The thirteenth amendment was ratified at the end of the Civil War in 1865 and is commonly thought of the amendment which enshrined the end of slavery in our constitution. But it didn't! The Thirteenth Amendment states:

This language makes it legal to “employ” coerced incarcerated people in prison labor (modern day slavery).

A growing movement, which now includes The Committee to Stop Police Terror and End Systemic Racism (founded by longshoremen in two cities in June of 2020) is proposing to change the 13th Amendment to redact the sentence “except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted”. We call upon all workers and members of the labor movement to support this change.

**Any division among the workers can help no one but the employer.**

The 13th Amendment is the only US labor law that applies—even in paper legal theory—to every workplace and every toiler laboring

**What To Do?**

**Amend The 13Th Amendment! THE TIME IS NOW!**

Sign our online petition at

[www.change.org/Amend\\_The\\_13th\\_Amendment](http://www.change.org/Amend_The_13th_Amendment).

Follow us @stopoliceterrorseattle on Instagram

If you are interested in helping organize our Juneteenth 2021 March and Rally, email [JuneteenthSeattle@gmail.com](mailto:JuneteenthSeattle@gmail.com).

*Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.*

*Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

within "the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction", whether private or public sector, agriculture or city, domestic service or heavy industry, documented or undocumented, "employee" or "contractor", railroad or non-railroad.

It's loophole of “except for punishment of a crime...” literally threatens ALL of us with involuntary servitude—if we do or say anything

(Continued on Page 7: ABOLITION)

**AMAZON** (From Page 2)

be afoot. An especially suspicious sign would be “small group huddles breaking up in silence at the approach of the supervisor.” Last month the New York attorney general filed a lawsuit against Amazon for retaliating against employees who tried to protest against the inadequacy of its Covid-19 safety measures. While in recent years there have been agitated outbursts against Amazon in Staten Island, Chicago, Sacramento and Minnesota, the most viable organizing threat to Amazon is the one in Bessemer, Alabama, where the votes for a union are currently being tallied and argued about.

It is inevitable that workers at a company will have opinions that deviate from the views of those who are running the enterprise to make a profit. There was a growing consensus at Bessemer that “its intense monitoring of workers infringes on their dignity” (NYT, 3-29). While Amazon was proud of its starting wage of \$15 an hour, twice the Alabama minimum wage, this pay level was below that earned at nearby unionized warehouses, and was lower than Alabama’s median wage (Tech Crunch, 3-26). And considering the speedup and the oversight that Amazon workers had to put up with, it would be easy to argue that \$15 was not enough.

Last fall, reports of poor working conditions at Bessemer were brought to the officers of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. On October 20th, two dozen poultry and warehouse workers showed up, including Mona Darby, who has spent the last 33 years processing chickens. Drivers waiting in their cars to leave work were interviewed and leafleted (NYT, 1-26). As organizing efforts grew, some NFL players gave support, as did Daniel Glover, Stacey Abrams and Bernie Sanders. Representative Andy Levin of

Michigan, a former union organizer, called it “the most important election for the working people of this country in my lifetime” (NYT,3-10).

Amazon soon launched counterattacks. A spokeswoman announced: “We will provide education, so workers can make informed decisions.” Signs were posted everywhere

## **ON THE DOCKS**

We see those old guys on the docks and we love them

They sustain eye contact - not to eyeball us but to check for safety

"Are you paying attention?"

They gruffly correct us when they see us doing something unsafe

then catch us by surprise when they relent into a gentle softness and generosity

They give us a pair of gloves

They utter a word of encouragement

They let off a joke and give us that sly smirk

Walking on their stout, swollen limbs their bodies are stiff and sore, but still strong.

Their bodies have weathered the cold wind and rain everyday, walked picket lines and handled apple boxes and hides

Before our time

Take a rest old timer.

You have put your body on the line for years, we'll take it from here

Thank you for all that you've done and still do,

We Honor You

*Alia Lighter - Local 19 Casual*

“explaining” what was wrong with unions (NYT, 3-3). Mandatory “union education” meetings were held (Insider,3-24). Amazon even got county officials to change the stoplights outside the parking lot to give much longer green signals in order to frustrate organizers trying to engage workers in their cars.

In an op-ed article Jamelle Bouie addressed the issue of whether this wasn't an odd place for such a struggle to take place, what with Alabama imaged in our minds by Wallace in the school door calling for “segregation forever,” the church bombing in Birmingham killing four young girls, and the dogs attacking marchers on the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma. Yes, he says, all this took place, but it was in reaction to a very bold black population that in the 1880s formed chapters of the Agricultural Wheel, a cooperative alliance calling for debt relief, nationalization of the railroads, and strict regulation of banks. This was also the land of the International Union of Mine and Smelter Workers, an offshoot of the Western Federation of Miners, which helped launch the IWW (The International Workers of the World) in 1905 (NYT, 3-1). And remember, our own Harry Bridges had been a member of the IWW (a “Wobblie”) before he became leader of the ILWU.

In Italy, Amazon drivers and warehouse workers have already held a nationwide strike against Amazon, demanding more humane working conditions (Wired, 3-29). Bessemer may be an opening wedge in the battle to tame Amazon in the United States.



## **ABOLITION**

(From Page 5)

that makes our bosses mad enough to accuse us of a crime and call the cops on us.

Incarceration also divides the working class by disproportionately affecting Black and Indigenous communities, reinforcing the economic disparities and racial division amongst us as workers. This division is then exploited when we attempt to come together and stand up for our rights. An example of this is that prison laborers are utilized as scabs when unionized workers are striking (as happened for the first six days of the 2020 New Orleans Garbage Hoppers Strike).

### **About Prison Labor**

Approximately 1 out of every 145 people in the US are incarcerated, a higher rate than any other country on Earth. Of this country's approximately 2.3 million prisoners, it is estimated that about 900,000 are performing labor while under incarceration.

Each US state has a different set of policies regarding inmate labor and convict leasing, but all 50 states use a significant number of prison laborers in both public and private industry. California, for example, uses prisoners as rural firefighters, paying them \$1 an hour over twelve- or twenty-four-hour shifts. Some die in this work.

Likely the largest single user of contract prison labor is Federal Prison Industries which goes by brand name UNICOR. UNICOR handles such arrangements for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and pays inmates roughly \$0.90 an hour to produce everything from mattresses, spectacles, road signs and body armor for other government agencies. Some prisoners are “hired out” to firms outside prisons as well.

(Continued on Page 10: **ABOLITION**)



## **RUSTY HOOK CORRESPONDENCE**

*By Mary Fuller, March 2021*

From ROBERT TAYLOR, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$50.00 donation for the Rusty Hook. Thanks BOB. From JOHN BARRETT, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks JOHN. From KENNETH CARLTON, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much COWBOY KEN. From CYNDI KENDALL, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks CYNDI. From JOE SULLIVAN, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you JOE. From URSULA ALEXANDER, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much URSULA. We all miss RUSS too. From JACK SPIERING, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you JACK. From RODNEY PEELER, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks ROD. From CHRISTOPHER MOORE, \$90.00 for 3 years of dues, 2021, 2022, 2023 and \$10.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you CHRIS. From TERRY OHNSAGER, \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much TERRY. From CARY BODEN, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks CARY. From AL POLLARD, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you AL. From JAMES BURNS, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you JAMES. From THOMAS SONNENBERG, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you THOMAS. From RON KENNEY, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$45.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks RON. From JOHN LEWICKI, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks JOHN. From BONNIE ECKERT-McHENRY, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you BONNIE. From ROBERT DUGGAN, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$90.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much ROBERT. From ROBERT DELAY, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks BOB. From JOE THOMPSON, \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. JOE, your dues are paid up until 2024. Thank you so much for the donation and enjoy the Arizona warmth. From DONN WALVATNE, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much DONN. From DONALD REIDEL, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$90.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much DON. From STEVE NOE, \$30.00 for 2023 dues. Yes, you are paid up through 2023, and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks STEVE. From ALEX BAROUMES, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$45.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks ALEX. From GARRY SCRIBNER, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks GARRY. From WAYNE ERICKSON, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks WAYNE. From JAMES BUSSANICH, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks JIMMY. From JAMES SWINNEY, \$10.00 for 2021 lifetime membership dues and \$40.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of BROTHER LOREN LENZ. Thank you so much JIM. From CHRIS LINCOLN, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you CHRIS. From BILL CRAWFORD, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks BILL. From NICK KENNEY, \$60.00 for 2025 and 2026 dues. You are now paid up through 2026. Thanks you NICK. From GARY TOLLELFSEN, \$60.00 for 2020 and 2021 dues and \$140.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. From



BUTCH PETERSON, \$60.00 for 2021 and 2022 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. From WARREN FAIRBANKS, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks WARREN. From ERNIE WILLIAMS, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks ERNIE. From PAT SULLIVAN, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you PAT. From LONZO FLICK, \$60.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. LONZO, you are all paid up through 2041. Thank you so very much. From RODNEY BAKKEN, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$170.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much RODNEY. From RICHARD MELTON, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks DICK. From SUE & ED HICKS, \$20.00 for lifetime membership for 2021 and \$130.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much ED & SUE. From JERRY ANDERSON, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$50.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thanks JERRY. From JOANNE HOPPER, \$30.00 for 2021 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of her husband BROTHER RICHARD HOPPER. Thank you so much JOANNE. We miss him too.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PAID THEIR 2021 DUES:

LEITH JASINOWSKI-KAHL  
AL BARNES  
RICHARD ULRICH  
BRICE LENZ  
BILL WOECK  
SHARON ARTHUR  
STEVE SNOW  
PEPE McDONALD  
DON FRANZ  
MEL SALLAS  
CHERYL MILLER  
KATHLEEN BROWN  
AL MEEDS  
JOHN BEE  
EARL FRITTS  
MARLAND SYBOUTS  
WILLARD MORRISON  
DAVE VIGIL  
LARRY SAMPLES  
JOHN FERN

\* **SEAN GODFREY**, please accept my apology for listing you in the Rusty Hook as Final Dispatch instead of Recent Retiree. Enjoy your retirement.

## HONOUR A SHIP'S BELL

The purpose of a ship's bell was to keep the ship safe, and the bell was believed to hold the soul of the ship.

When a boat was shipwrecked, often the bell was the only part of a doomed ship that was recovered, and for this reason they have a very important historical value.

It was also believed by some sailors that a ship's bell would even ring from the depths of its watery grave, and that if a bell rang by itself that this was a portent of death.

## Recent Retirees

*Travis P. Barnes Jr., Local 19*  
*Thomas Putt, Local 19*  
*Steven Hanson, Local 19*  
*Charles Bixby, Local 19*  
*Delia Carreon, local 52*  
*Michael Stravers, local 19*

## *Final Dispatch*

*Scott Fern, local 19*  
*Alfred Buell #55270*  
*Jeffrey Berry, local 19*  
*Al Barnes, local 98*  
*Edward Hartman, local 98*

### **Rusty Hook Publication Schedule: 2021 - 2022**

- Summer 2021: Submission deadline is June 15th, to be published June 28th, 2021.
- Fall 2021: Submission deadline is September 14th, to be published on September 28th, 2021.
- Winter 2022: Submission deadline is November 30th, to be published on December 12, 2021.
- Spring 2022: Submission deadline is February 28th, to be published on March 14, 2022.

## **ABOLITION** (From Page 7)

A 2017 study found that, on average, incarcerated people earn between 86 cents and \$3.45 per day for the most common prison jobs. In at least five states, those jobs pay nothing at all.

Even though the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program (PIE), requires private employers to pay the equivalent of the prevailing minimum wage per hour for inmate labor, net wages to inmates still skim the surface of slavery because of the many deductions. “LFOs,” or—legal financial obligations, such as taxes, restitution, room and board, and other costs associated with the prisoner’s criminal processing and incarceration which prisoners are made to pay — can eat away as much as 80 percent of an inmate’s paycheck.

Even though African-Americans make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population, African-American males make up 37 percent of the male U.S. prison population. Put another way, 2.7 percent of African-American males were sentenced to more than one year in a state or federal prison at the end of 2014. The figure for white males was just 0.5 percent, making African-Americans five times more likely to be behind bars.

However, even with this disproportionate imprisonment of laborers with melanin, over a third (more than ¾ million) of US prisoners are Caucasian, illustrating that the threat of being condemned to involuntary servitude is very real for every laborer in this country, including those with lighter skin.



## **WATERCRAFT**

Every since I was a young child  
water-crafts have captured my imagination.

You may not know where they are going or when they will get there,  
but they clearly have a destination.

Some travel on lakes and rivers, but others are bound for open seas,  
going from coast to coast and traveling from nation to nation.

Some have been employed and commissioned, other are for leisure and pleasure,  
from ancient times to now times they have been loaded with treasure.

The next time you see a majestic ship, watercraft, or vessel;  
whether steel, wood, or fiberglass; whether wind driven,  
self-propelled, or filled with diesel gas; just use your imagination.  
Be like a young child filled with amazement.

If you don't know where your ship is going, become the captain  
of your situation. You choose your destination.

*James Barnett, Seattle Pensioner*

### **Pensioners,**

Here it is over a year into this pandemic. We haven't had a Pensioners meeting since last March, 2020. There is a light dimly at the far end of the tunnel. Relief is on the way and things will get back to normal. Hopefully, later this year, we can resume our monthly meetings. In the meantime the officers of the club have been keeping the club functioning. We currently have 148 members of which we paid our "pro rata" to the PCPA at \$10.00 per member.

As you know the Seattle Pensioners Club was to host the PCPA convention in September of 2021. It was to be held at the Doubletree Inn in SeaTac. Because of the uncertainties of this virus, we had a ZOOM meeting with the PCPA Executive Board and in our opinion and the opinion of the PCPA Executive Board the Convention in Seattle was to be cancelled due to Covid 19. With the help of the Coast Committee and the ILWU attorney the contract with the Doubletree Inn was cancelled with no monetary loss.

The Annual Seattle Pensioners Luncheon held in May has been cancelled due to Covid 19.

The Covid 19 Vaccine is now available and I encourage everyone to get the shots and wear a mask when out in public. Stay safe, Stay healthy.

In Solidarity,  
Carl Woeck  
President

THE RUSTY HOOK  
3440 E. Marginal Way S.  
Seattle, WA 98134



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**To our members -**

On behalf of the International Titled Officers, welcome to the **ILWU COVID-19 Support** website.

The ongoing pandemic has affected each and every one of us in many ways. We know this is stressful and overwhelming, especially for those that are ill with COVID-19 or losBe well and stay safe.

ing their jobs. It is our hope that this website will provide the necessary information and support for our members and their families during this difficult time.

For further questions and support, please contact ILWU International Headquarters as 415-775-0533.

For members of the Coast Longshore Division, please contact your local office for more information.

Be well and stay safe.

VISIT: <https://www.ilwuicovid19support.org>

For information in Washington State:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

**2021 Seattle Pensioner Club Officers**

**President:** Carl Woeck

**Vice-President:**

Ian Kennedy

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Mary Fuller

**Recording Secretary:**

Sally Roach

**Caucus Delegate:**

Chuck Dean

**Trustees:** Lanny McGrew

Bill Crawford

Chuck Dean

**Sick Committee:**

Bill Lassiter

**Luncheon Committee:**

Mary Fuller.

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