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The 1934 West Coast Longshoremen's Strike: A Legacy of Struggle and Solidarity

By Curt Cunningham

As we prepare to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the 1934 West Coast Longshoremen's Strike on July 5, 2025, the echoes of that historic struggle resonate deeply with our pensioner's and active members. Known as "The Big Strike," this 83-day labor action, which culminated in the pivotal "Bloody Thursday" on July 5, 1934, was a defining moment in American labor history. It reshaped the waterfront, birthed the ILWU, and set a precedent for worker solidarity and resilience that continues to inspire.

This article explores the strike's unique context, the sacrifices of the longshoremen, the upcoming ILWU memorial, and the enduring relevance of our fight for dignity, fair wages, and workplace democracy in today's world.

The Context of 1934: A Waterfront in Crisis

The early 1930s were a grim time for American workers. The Great Depression had plunged millions into poverty, with unemployment rates soaring and desperation driving fierce competition for scarce jobs.

On the West Coast, longshore workers faced particularly brutal conditions. The work was grueling, dangerous, and unpredictable with heavy cargo moved by hand, hook, and sheer physical endurance. Injuries were common, and safety measures were virtually nonexistent.

The "shape-up" system, a daily ritual where workers gathered at the docks hoping to be picked by foremen, was rife with favoritism, bribery, and discrimination. Longshoremen were at the mercy of employers who controlled hiring through company-run "blue book" unions, which offered no real representation.

Yet, beneath this oppression, a spark of resistance was growing. Inspired by radical ideas from groups

like the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and influenced by labor activists, longshoremen began to organize in secret.

By 1933, the passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act, which granted workers the right to organize, gave momentum to their efforts. The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), though weakened by years of employer dominance, saw a resurgence as new locals formed along the coast. Led by figures like Harry Bridges, a charismatic Australian-born longshoreman, the workers demanded a coast-wide contract, union-controlled hiring halls, higher wages, and a six-hour workday to share scarce jobs during the Depression.

The Strike: A Coastwide Stand

On May 9, 1934, over 12,500 longshoremen walked off the job, shutting down every major West Coast port from Bellingham, to San Diego. This was no ordinary strike—it was the first industry-wide action in the region's history, uniting longshoremen with seafarers, cooks, stewards, and other maritime workers in a display of unprecedented solidarity. The strikers' demands were clear: an end to the shape-up, a union-run hiring hall, a coastwide contract to prevent employers from pitting ports against each other, and better wages and hours.

The employers, backed by powerful shipping companies and local governments, responded with hostility. They hired strikebreakers, or "scabs," and enlisted police and private security to protect them. Violence erupted in ports like San Pedro, Portland, and Seattle, where strikers clashed with police and company guards. In San Pedro, two workers, Dick Parker and John Knudsen, were killed on May 15 when private guards opened fire. In Seattle, ILA leader Shelvy Daffron and Sailors' Union member Olaf Helland lost their lives in confrontations. These early deaths hardened the strikers' resolve, but the worst was yet to come.

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Seattle ILWU Pension Club

Address: 3440 East Marginal Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134

Phone: 206.343.0504

E-Mail: pensioners@ilwu19.com

Website: ilwu19.com/cobwebs

Office Hours: Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm and also on stop work Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

President:	Mary Fuller
Vice President:	Joe Toro
Secretary Treasurer:	Kathleen Brown
Recording Secretary:	Sally Roach
Trustee:	Lanny McGrew
Trustee:	W. T. Lassiter
Trustee:	Sally Roach
Convention Delegate:	Joe Toro
PCPA Ex. Board:	Joe Toro
PSDC:	James Barnett
Historian:	Cyndi Kendall
Sick Committee:	W. T. Lassiter
Luncheon Committee:	Mary Fuller
Rusty Hook:	Curt Cunningham
Final Dispatch:	Molly Gorski

Club Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 11:00am, unless there is a holiday, then it will be held on the second Monday of the month.

Seattle Pensioner Club Forms

Membership Renewal: ilwu19.com/joinapp

Change of Address: ilwu19.com/address

The Rusty Hook Online

Online PDF Version: ilwu19.com/rustyhook

Content Submission: rustyhook@ilwu19.com

Subscriptions: ilwu19.com/address

ILWU-PMA Benefit Plan

Washington Area Director: Andrea Stevenson

Address: 21907 64th Ave West Suite 130
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Website: ilwu19.com/benefit_plans

E-Mail: washingtonawd@benefitplans.org

Office: (206) 938-6720

Toll Free: (877) 938-6720

Fax: (206) 938-6726

Send your questions about the Benefit Plan to:
pension@ilwu.org

Bloody Thursday: A Turning Point

July 5, 1934, marked the strike's darkest day, forever etched in labor history as "Bloody Thursday." In San Francisco, employers attempted to forcibly reopen the port by running scab trucks through picket lines at Pier 38. Police, backed by the National Guard, attacked unarmed strikers with tear gas, clubs, and shotguns. In the chaos, two men—longshoreman Howard Sperry and political activist Nick Bordoise—were gunned down by police. Over 100 others were injured. The brutality shocked the Bay Area, galvanizing public support for the strikers.

The deaths of Sperry and Bordoise sparked a massive response. On July 9, an estimated 50,000 people lined San Francisco's Market Street for a dignified funeral procession, mourning the fallen and signaling a shift in public sentiment. Between July 16 and 19, the San Francisco and Alameda County Central Labor Councils called a general strike, halting work across the city for four days. This historic action, one of the largest in U.S. history, pressured employers and led to federal arbitration.

The arbitration panel's award was a victory for the longshoremen. While they didn't secure the full \$1-per-hour wage (settling for 95 cents), they won a six-hour workday, a 30-hour workweek, and, most crucially, union-controlled hiring halls with union-selected dispatchers. The hated shape-up was abolished, and the coastwide contract ensured unified standards across ports. The strike also laid the foundation for the ILWU, which broke from the ILA in 1937 to form an independent, democratic union that welcomed workers of all races and backgrounds—a radical stance for the time.

The 2025 ILWU Bloody Thursday Memorial: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

On July 5, 2025, the ILWU will host its annual Bloody Thursday commemorations across West Coast ports, with events planned in San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, and beyond. These gatherings, organized by ILWU locals and groups like the Bay Area Longshoremen's Association, are more than memorials—they are vibrant celebrations of the union's origins and its ongoing commitment to worker power. In San Francisco, Local 10's event at the union hall near Fisherman's Wharf will feature speeches, music, and a ceremonial tribute to Sperry and Bordoise, complete with the Local 10 Drill Team escorting symbolic coffins. In Southern California, a memorial service at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena will honor Parker and Knudsen, while Seattle and Portland will hold similar tributes to their fallen.

This year's memorial takes on added significance as the ILWU navigates a modern labor landscape marked by automation, global supply chain pressures, and renewed debates over workers' rights. The 2025 events will include educational panels and storytelling sessions, where veteran longshoremen and pensioners share oral histories with younger members. These stories emphasize the sacrifices of 1934—not just the lives lost, but the families who endured hardship, the communities that rallied, and the courage it took to defy powerful employers during an economic crisis.

The ILWU is also using the anniversary to highlight its "March Inland," the union's expansion beyond the docks to organize warehouse workers, hospital employees, and others. This legacy of 1934 underscores the union's belief in solidarity across industries, a principle that resonates in today's gig economy, where workers face similar challenges of precarious employment and corporate control.

The Strike's Lasting Impact: Lessons for Today

The 1934 strike's legacy is woven into the fabric of modern labor rights, particularly for West Coast longshoremen. The union-controlled hiring hall, a cornerstone of the ILWU's victory, remains a model of workplace democracy, ensuring fair job allocation and protecting against employer favoritism. The coastwide contract, another hard-won gain, prevents companies from exploiting regional differences, fostering unity among workers from San Diego to Bellingham. The ILWU's commitment to racial inclusion, set a precedent for diversity in labor organizing at a time when many unions excluded minorities.

Today, ILWU members enjoy some of the highest wages in the labor movement. These earnings reflect the union's bargaining power, rooted in the 1934 strike's success in securing control over hiring and work conditions. The six-hour workday, though later negotiated away, was a radical achievement during the Depression, designed to share work among more people. The ILWU's democratic structure, where members control union decisions, continues to empower workers to shape their future.

Beyond the waterfront, the strike's impact reverberates in the broader labor movement. It was a catalyst for the rise of industrial unionism in the 1930s, inspiring the formation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and influencing strikes like the Toledo Auto-Lite and Minneapolis Teamsters strikes of 1934. The San Francisco General Strike demonstrated the power of collective action across trades, a strategy that resonates with today's calls for general strikes and cross-industry solidarity.

Contemporary Relevance: The Fight Continues

The struggles of 1934 feel strikingly relevant in 2025. Longshoremen today face new challenges, including automation that threatens jobs and corporate consolidation that strengthens employer power. The gig economy, with its reliance on precarious, non-unionized labor, mirrors the shape-up system of the 1930s, where workers had little control over their livelihoods. The ILWU's response—organizing warehouse workers and advocating for broader labor protections—echoes the 1934 demand for dignity and fairness.

The upcoming Bloody Thursday memorial will also address these modern parallels. Organizers plan to highlight the ILWU's role in recent labor actions, such as the 2014 Port of Oakland protest against the Israeli-owned ZIM *Piraeus*, where ILWU members supported community pickets over geopolitical concerns. This solidarity reflects the union's historical commitment to social justice, from opposing racial discrimination in the 1930s to supporting anti-apartheid efforts in the 1980s.

For today's workers, the 1934 strike offers a blueprint for resistance. It shows that unity across ports, industries, and communities can overcome even the most entrenched opposition. The longshore workers' willingness to endure violence, economic hardship, and public backlash underscores the cost of progress—and the necessity of perseverance. As gig workers, teachers, and service industry employees organize in 2025, the ILWU's story reminds us that collective action can transform industries and secure lasting gains.

Remembering the Human Cost

The 2025 memorial will center the human toll of the 1934 strike. The deaths of Sperry, Bordoise, Parker, Knudsen, Daffron, Helland, and others were not just losses for their families but sacrifices for a movement. These workers, many of whom were immigrants or marginalized, faced tear gas, batons, and bullets to demand a better future. Their courage turned public opinion, forcing employers to concede to arbitration and paving the way for the ILWU's formation.

The memorial will also honor the unsung heroes: the unemployed workers, farmers, and community members who supported the strikers despite their own hardships. In Portland, for example, farmers pledged not to cross picket lines, recognizing their shared struggle against exploitation. This solidarity across class and occupation was a hallmark of the strike and a lesson for today's fragmented labor landscape.

Conclusion: A Call to Action

As the ILWU prepares to mark the 91st anniversary of Bloody Thursday, the 1934 West Coast Longshore Strike stands as a testament to the power of collective resistance. The upcoming memorial is not just a remembrance of past sacrifices but a call to action for the present. It reminds us that the benefits we enjoy today—high wages, union control, pensions for our retired members, and workplace dignity—were won through struggle, not granted by benevolent employers. In a world where workers face new forms of exploitation, from algorithmic management to anti-union legislation, the ILWU's legacy offers hope and a roadmap.

On July 5, 2025, as we gather to honor the martyrs of 1934, we will reaffirm our commitment to solidarity, democracy, and justice. For the rest of the labor movement, the strike's lessons urge us to support organizing efforts, challenge unfair labor practices, and build coalitions across industries. The longshoremen of 1934 showed that ordinary workers, united in purpose, can change the course of history. Their fight is now our fight, and their victory is a beacon for the struggles ahead.

From the President's Desk

To all the Pensioners Club members, if you haven't been to the Pensioner's office at the Local 19 hall, you should make a point of stopping by. Two of our members went to work and cleaned and painted the whole office and kitchen. It looks fabulous! So bright, so clean. We should give a BIG thanks to JOHN FISHER and CYNDI KENDALL.

They have done a lot for this club. Thank you.

The Club is now open on Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm and also on Thursday, stop work night, from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Come on by. We just had our Annual Luncheon. It turned out great. About 80 people attended. We had people from Tacoma, Local 23 Pensioners, the U of W, Harry Bridges Center, and JOE TORO as MC. STEVE NOE on Ukelele, LEITH KAHL on banjo and Big JOHN COOPER, singing the National Anthem. I want to thank each and every one of you that helped at the Luncheon. You know who you are! This event wouldn't happen without you. Hope to see you all next year.

MARY FULLER

Son, if you really want something in this life, you have to work for it. Now quiet! They're about to announce the lottery numbers.

Matt Groening

Pensioners March Meeting

The March Pensioners Meeting was called to order by President Bill Lassiter at 11:00 a.m..

Guest Speaker: MARK ELVERSTON, Local 19 President delivered an engaging address. He shared updates on several fronts:

City Hall Advocacy: MARK discussed his recent visit to City Hall to meet with Sarah Nelson regarding a proposed amendment for housing development near the stadiums.

Container Summit: The ongoing Container Summit was highlighted, with ILWU maintaining a strong presence to represent our interests.

Port of Seattle Updates: MARK reported on ongoing interviews with Port of Seattle Commissioners and provided insights into the Grand Alliance and Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), which was established in 2012.

New Union Hall Project: Exciting progress was shared on the proposed construction of the new union hall, which Local 19 will undertake independently, without Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) involvement.

Housing Proposal Concerns: Further discussion focused on Chris Hansen's proposed housing development, currently under review by the City Council.

Break Bulk Show: MARK noted that the Break Bulk Show is scheduled in two weeks, offering another opportunity to showcase our work.

New Shipping Line: Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has officially commenced operations at the Port of Seattle, marking a significant milestone.

Terminal 46 and Tariffs: Questions were raised about the status of Terminal 46, followed by a discussion on proposed tariffs and their potential impact.

Media Engagement: MARK encouraged members to stay informed by reading *Post Alley*, which features insightful articles relevant to our industry. He urged pensioners to write letters to newspapers and get active.

Seattle's high move count—Seattle has the highest move count on the West Coast, which goes unnoticed in media coverage.

Washington Area Labor Council Report: JAMES BARNETT, our Pensioners' Representative on the Washington Area District Council, presented a report from the statewide ports meeting held on March 19, accessible via Zoom. The meeting covered ongoing port projects across the state. JAMES proposed that the Pensioners consider drafting a letter addressing the proposed South Seattle housing development to amplify our voice on this issue.

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

New Business: A motion was unanimously passed requiring itemized receipts for all luncheon expenses before disbursing funds, ensuring greater transparency and accountability.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m., leaving members energized to stay active and informed.

Special Note: JAMES BARNETT proudly serves as the Pensioners' Representative on the Washington Area District Council, advocating for our interests at the regional level.

Call to Action: Pensioners are encouraged to stay engaged by reading *Post Alley*, writing to local newspapers, and participating in discussions about our port and community. Let's keep Seattle's vital role in West Coast maritime operations in the spotlight!

Pensioners April Meeting

President MARY FULLER called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: COZETTE HILL ILBA President shared some updates:

The ILBA store is now open and is offering a large-print contract book for members.

Efforts continue to source the white longshore hats. COZETTE recommended Hardcore Longshore (hardcorelongshore.com) for purchasing union merchandise.

Guest Speaker: MARK ELVERSTON, Local 19 President delivered a comprehensive report on the Port of Seattle's working waterfront. Key highlights included:

Cruise Season Kickoff: Cruise ships will begin operations in Seattle this Saturday, marking the start of a busy season.

Port Advocacy: MARK commended the strong turnout of ILWU members at City Hall, where they voiced concerns about a Seattle City Council proposal to place housing on industrial lands, emphasizing the need to protect our working waterfront.

Vice President JOE TORO expressed heartfelt gratitude to MARK for his consistent presence at our meetings and his outstanding leadership. His updates keep us informed about critical developments at the Port of Seattle and within our local unions.

Retirement Announcement: MIKE JAGIELSKI, President of the Puget Sound Pensioners Association (PCPA) announced his retirement due to health concerns. We wish him well in his next chapter.

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Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

Robert Barnes 19
Steven Arneberg 98
Loren Keating 19
Robert Seath 52
Robert Taylor 98
Albin Vrey 19
Douglas Smith 19
Roosevelt Lathan Jr. 19

ACTIVES

Michael Gowdy 19
Jeffrey Rhea 19
Hampton McDaniel 19

SPOUSES

Patricia Cvitkovic 52
Sandra Allyn 98
Wilma Lambert 52
Mary Ann Majar 98

Retirees

Juan Heflin 19
Jeannine Lofton 19
Scott Berkey 19

Dan Elverston 19
Mitchell Blondin 52

Sick Committee

Be sure to get plenty of exercise and take care of your health. We want you to be healthy and enjoy your retirement. You have worked hard to earn it.

If you are in need of some socializing please come to one of the meetings. We'd love to see you.

If any of our Brothers and Sisters would like a call or visit instead; please give me a call at (206) 938-3207 cell; (206) 605-8479. W. T. LASSITER.

Got an Alcohol or Drug problem?

The ILWU has a way for you to seek help.

ILWU/PMA Drug and Alcohol Program

The program is available to all actives, retirees and their families. If you need help or someone to talk to,

Call; DONNIE SCHWENDEMAN our
Washington Area ADRP Representative
3600 Port of Tacoma Road Suite 503

Tacoma, WA 98104

Phone; (253) 922-8913 - Fax: (253) 922-8956

E-Mail: dschwendeman@benefitplans.org

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action

psara.org

Working across generations for social justice, economic security, dignity, and a healthy planet for all of us.

Check out their newsletter;

The Retiree Advocate

psara.org/newsletter

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Pensioners' Office Hours Update: The Pensioners' Office will now operate on a revised schedule:

Fridays: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stop Work Meeting Nights (second Thursday of each month): 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

President's Report: President MARY FULLER thanked COZETTE HILL and the ILBA for providing a delicious lunch for the meeting. MARY encouraged members to consider donating occasionally to support future luncheons and requested feedback on preferred menu options to enhance our gatherings.

Vice President's Report: JOE TORO announced his attendance at the Executive Board Caucus, starting May 3. He will travel on May 3, attend the meeting early on May 4, and return home the same day.

New Business: A motion was unanimously passed to rescind last month's decision—made in the absence of the President and Vice President—regarding changes to luncheon finance handling.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m..

Pensioners May Meeting

President MARY FULLER called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting began with a heartfelt moment of silence to honor deceased members NICK BUCKLES and DOUG SMITH. A touching note was shared from DOUG'S widow, who conveyed that one of his final wishes was to donate \$1,000 to the Pensioners Club. This generous gesture was met with deep appreciation and will support our club's efforts.

Communications: PCPA Convention Update. A proposal was made by the PCPA to shift the convention to a biannual schedule, rather than annually. The decision on whether we will host the 2026 PCPA Convention remains pending, with further details to be determined during the 2025 PCPA Convention.

Sick and Wellness Committee Report: BILL LASSITER presented his report, with copies distributed to attendees. He encouraged members to stay connected and check in on one another, fostering our tight-knit community. CYNDI KENDALL shared an update on GARY SMITH, who recently underwent a quadruple bypass surgery and sends his greetings to all.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

The July Pensioner's Meeting has been cancelled.



2025 Bloody Thursday

July 5th, 2025

ILWU Local 19's 70th Annual Bloody Thursday Memorial Picnic At Lincoln Park

Join us to honor the fallen longshoremen on Bloody Thursday with a day of remembrance.

All events are open to members, families, and supporters.

Schedule of Events:

6:00 AM: Gather at ILWU Local 19 Hall. The Local 19 Motorcycle Club will lead a procession to Pier 91.

Before 7:00 AM: Wreath-laying ceremony at Pier 91 on Elliott Bay to honor all fallen longshoremen.

9:15 AM: Regroup at Local 19 Hall. The Motorcycle Club will escort us to Lakeview Cemetery (1554 15th Ave E, Seattle).

10:00 AM: Ceremony at Shelvy Daffron's gravesite, with a wreath placed to honor those lost on Bloody Thursday.

12:00 PM: Head to Lincoln Park for our Memorial BBQ. Enjoy a photo booth, ice cream truck, baseball games, and more fun activities throughout the day.

We look forward to seeing you there as we come together to remember and celebrate our shared history!



RUSTY HOOK / Summer 2025

Updated Hearing Aid Benefit Effective July 1, 2022

From Andrea Stevenson

All people with ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan eligibility are eligible for the Hearing Aid Benefit.

BENEFITS: A Hearing Aid Program benefit is payable after certification by a licensed medical or osteopathic doctor that an eligible person has a hearing loss that may be lessened by the use of a hearing aid. Effective July 1, 2022, the benefit is 100% of the expenses incurred in connection with the purchase of a hearing aid, up to a maximum of \$4,000.00 (\$8,000.00 if a hearing aid is required for both ears). Included in the benefit are the cost of the hearing aid, the cost of batteries and other ancillary equipment provided at the time the hearing aid is purchased, the doctor's hearing examination charges if such charges are not otherwise covered and the cost of service or repairs to the hearing aid. In general, a Hearing Aid Program Benefit is payable only once in a three-year period. A hearing aid purchased for either ear will be covered provided at least three years have elapsed since a prior claim. Any unused portion of the benefit may not be carried forward to a future benefit period.

LIMITATIONS: No benefit is provided for service or repairs to, or batteries or ancillary equipment purchased for a hearing aid purchased before July 1, 1978. No benefit is provided under the Hearing Aid Program for a doctor's hearing examination unless a hearing aid is purchased. No benefit is provided for expenses that the claimant is not required to pay, such as expenses covered under Workers' Compensation. The benefit cannot be assigned to any person or organization, including physicians or hearing aid dispensers. Oregon Kaiser eligibles must obtain their hearing aid at Kaiser; no benefit is provided for a hearing aid purchased elsewhere.

HOW TO CLAIM BENEFITS: An ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan Hearing Aid claim form should be submitted to the Coastwise Claims Office. Claim forms can be obtained at the Locals, from the Benefit Plans office or at www.benefitplans.org. Part I is completed by the claimant (eligible Longshoremen or survivor). The doctor completes Part II, and the licensed dispenser or seller of the hearing aid completes Part III. If the claim includes expenses for a doctor's hearing examination, see the instructions below. (over) Claims received by the 10th of a month are paid by the end of the month. Payment, including payment of dependent claims, is issued to the eligible Longshoreman or survivor.

The address for claims and correspondence is ILWU-PMA COASTWISE CLAIMS OFFICE P.O. Box 429101 San Francisco, CA 94142

Doctor's Hearing Examination Charges:

ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan Eligibles: Claimants with hospital-medical-surgical coverage under the Coastwise Indemnity Plan should first submit a separate medical claim to their health plan for reimbursement of the doctor's hearing examination charges. If the medical claim is denied or is not paid in full, a claim for the unpaid amount may be submitted as part of the Hearing Aid claim. Attach to the Hearing Aid claim form a copy of the doctor's bill together with evidence of the medical claim payment or denial.

Kaiser Eligibles: Claimants enrolled under these HMO plans may obtain a doctor's examination at no charge through their health plan. If an HMO plan member chooses not to use his/her health plan for the hearing examination, a claim for an examination obtained elsewhere can be submitted with the Hearing Aid claim. Attach a copy of the doctor's bill to the Hearing Aid claim form. The cost of such an examination will be included in the calculation of any Hearing Aid Program benefit that is paid. As noted under Limitations, no Hearing Aid Program benefit is payable for a doctor's examination unless a hearing aid is purchased.

Please be sure you open ALL mail regarding your ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans.

This includes correspondence pertaining to medical, dental, vision, prescription plan and pension. If something does not make sense or your bill does not look like it was paid correctly (i.e.: remaining balances unpaid or no payments at all) please contact WA Area Welfare Director, Andrea Stevenson. Do not hesitate to call (206) 938-6720 (office), (206) 938-6726 (Fax) or email WashingtonAWD@benefitplans.org. Please always include your longshore registration number and a telephone number, anywhere on your paperwork, so I can contact you. The San Francisco Benefit Plans phone number is: (888) 372-4598.



"How much longer do I have before I have to change to a healthy lifestyle?"

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ILWU PENSIONERS CLUB

WELCOMES YOU

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Convention Year 2025
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A City Known for Bridges, Cable Cars, Fine Restaurants, and Tourists

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The Westin San Francisco Airport
1 Bayshore Highway,
Millbrae, CA 90430

Room Rate: \$189.00 (Single or Double)
+\$20.00 per person (Triple & Quad Occupancy)
Rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes.

Reservations Contact: Efrain Tuvilla
650-872-8131
etuvilla@westinsfoairport.com

Westin San Francisco Airport
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM -4:30 PM

Reservation Cutoff Date: Friday, August 22, 2025

MANY ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Contacts:

Lawrence Thibeaux - President
Norman McLoad - Vice President
415-474-0300
sfbailwupensioners@gmail.com



ILWU SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA PENSIONERS

56th Annual Convention

September 14, 15, 16, 17, 2025

Mail to: SFBA ILWU Pensioners

400 North Point Street

San Francisco, CA 94133

REGISTRATION FEE \$40.00 PER PERSON

Make check payable to: ILWU SFBA PENSIONERS

Please return as soon as possible: No Later than August 22.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I will _____, We _____ will be attending the 56th Annual ILWU
SFBA Pensioners Convention

Name of Organization _____ Spouse _____

Address: _____ City/State/Province

Phone _____ email _____

Number attending Executive Board Meeting September 14 (lunch
included) _____

Number attending the Sunday Evening Meet & Greet _____

Number attending the Harbour Cruise Monday including buffet lunch

Number attending the Banquet and dance on Tuesday, September 16

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Vegan/Vegetarian

Please let us know of any dietary needs _____

Any questions call Lawrence Thibeaux 415-474-0300

Or email stbailwupensioners@gmail.com

PCPA Delegate Report

By Joe Toro – Convention Delegate

As your delegate to the PCPA I'm bringing back key updates and developments that impact us in Seattle and throughout the Coast.

Booming 2025 Cruise Season: Jobs and Revenue

Seattle is set to welcome 298 cruise ship sailings in 2025, bringing nearly 2 million tourists through our ports. This translates to \$900 million in economic impact for Washington State and supports over 5,000 jobs in related industries.

For the ILWU, this means more jobs on the docks and bigger paychecks—a testament to our collective bargaining power. The growing cruise industry has become a dependable boost for our members each year.

Terminal Updates: Problems and Progress

Terminals 25 and 30 remain shut down and vacated. Both sites face serious stormwater drainage issues, and so far, no one wants to cover the cost of fixing them. Negotiations are ongoing.

Meanwhile, there's positive momentum at Terminal 46. Local 19's president and the negotiation committee are working to bring in major break bulk customers to this terminal. The expansion of T-46 into the old Coast Guard property is on track for completion by November 2025.

Protecting Our Benefits: Passing the Torch

A major theme at the convention was the importance of educating the next generation of workers. Our pension, medical, and retirement benefits didn't happen by chance—they were fought for. It's critical that our older members teach casuals and new members so they understand what's at stake and step up to protect what we've built.

As pensioners, we have the experience and the responsibility to mentor and guide these members. Our future—and theirs—depends on it.

Cruise Pushback in Alaska

Not all ports welcome cruise traffic. Alaska's president reported that some city officials in smaller communities are talking about limiting cruise ships to their small communities due to overcrowding concerns. This could impact cruise routes and port work in the future, and it's something we'll need to keep an eye on.

The Future of PCPA Conventions

There was serious discussion around the rising costs of hosting the annual PCPA convention. Options considered included:

- Raising dues for Pensioner Clubs.
- Holding conventions every two years instead of annually.

No decision has been made yet, but it's clear that changes may be coming. More information will follow once the PCPA reaches a final decision.

Correspondence

To TONY WOECK, I am so sorry your name was misspelled in the last Rusty Hook. That is all on me. I've known you and all the WoECK's for a long time. RODNEY BAKKEN, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$170.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, RODNEY.

DENNIS FILLBRANDT, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks DENNIS.

ROBERT DELAY, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, ROBERT.

JOE TORO, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks JOE.

JOANNE HOPPER, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$45.00 to the Pensioners' Club in memory of her husband BROTHER RICHARD HOPPER. Thank you so much JOANNE. We will never forget DICK.

GLEN DREIER, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks GLEN.

KENNETH CARLTON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$30.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, KEN.

MARTHA SKINNER, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, thank you MARTHA.

STEVE McMANUS, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$30.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks STEVE.

SEAN O'DONNELL, \$150.00 to cover past dues from 2021 to 2025 and \$50.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you so much SEAN.

DAN PHILIO, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks DAN.

IMRE DEJONY, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, IMRE.

GARY EPPERSON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$20.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks GARY.

CHRIS ROMISCHER, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks CHRIS.

MATT PALMER, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$30.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, MATT.

LOUISE SMITH, \$1000.00 donation to the Pensioners' Club in honor of her husband BROTHER DOUG SMITH. Thank you for the beautiful letter telling us about his request to send a check to the Pensioners' Club and how he wanted to thank everyone for the great paper. He will never be forgotten. Thank you so much LOUISE.

BOB LINDSEY, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$20.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks BOB.

SALLY BJORNSON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks SALLY.

ROBERT DESARIO, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks ROBERT.

Correspondence

DON BURFITT, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$470.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you so much DON. I do this for all of you old timers I have known for over 50 years and this union. We go back along way. Thank you again DON.

DAVE STULLER, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks DAVE.

SALLY NORTON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks SALLY.

JIM MINIKEN, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the ILWU Christmas for Kids. Thanks you so much JIM.

BRUCE ROBERTS, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks BRUCE.

CHARLES KOLE, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, CHUCK.

LYLE GILL, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, LYLE.

WAYNE ERICKSON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you so much WAYNE & ANN.

CHUCK SHARIN, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you, CHUCK.

TIMOTHY KNITTLE, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you so much TIMOTHY.

SAM MOSS, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$20.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, SAM.

DARRELL OLSON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks DARRELL.

JOFF FRYE, \$90.00 for 2024, 2025, & 2026 dues and \$60.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you JOFFRIE.

RON LONG, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks RON.

SHAWN & DIANE CAREY, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks SHAWN & DIANE.

JERRY BRADY, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks JERRY.

BOB DUGGAN, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks BOB.

GARY KALDESTAD, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks GARY.

MIKE CASO, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the ILWU Christmas for Kids. Thank you so much MIKE.

PEPE McDONALD, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club in memory of his brother, BROTHER BOB McDONALD. Rest in Peace, BOB.

DICK MELTON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks DICK.

RENO BERGE, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you, RENO and BROTHER BOB McDONALD will never be forgotten.

VIRGIL LIUDAHL, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks VIRGIL & BETTY.

STEPHEN SNOW, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks STEPHEN.

DALE HANKE, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks DALE.

DON WALVATNE, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks DON.

STEVE FARNAN, \$60.00 for 2026 & 2027 dues and \$40.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thank you, STEVE.

JIM BURNS, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you, JIM.

VANA SPEAR, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you, VANA.

JEFF VIGNA, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you, JEFF.

RICK JOHNSON, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 to the Pensioners' Club. Thanks RICK.

**SIXTH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH RALLY
THE LABOR COMMUNITY CELEBRATES
EMANCIPATION DAY**

SEATTLE – Thursday June 19, 2025 ILWU Local 19 and the A. Philip Randolph Institute Seattle presents the sixth annual rally to honor Juneteenth and continue the fight to end systemic racism and slavery everywhere.

Attendees are invited to gather at 10 a.m. at the ILWU Local 19 Union Hall – 3440 E Marginal Way S (corner of Spokane and East Marginal).

The program will run from 10:00am - 2:00pm with speakers beginning at 10:30am outside the southwest corner of the hall. Food will be served on the south side of the hall along Spokane Street. Several vendors will have tables set up inside.

This is a family friendly event, children are welcome. Kim Farrison of ILWU Local 52 will be the MC. The speakers will include ILWU Local 19 president and ILWU Local 52 president. There will also be speakers from many community labor organizations including Jonathan Toledo representing SAARPR, Mrs. Vanessa Prawl Executive Director of APRI, Kimonti Carter representing Black Prisoners Caucus, Katie Garrow representing MLK Labor, The Black Whole, Chukundi Salisbury, Washington State Labor Council, APWU, UFCW 3000, Reverend Harriett Walden representing Mother's For Police Accountability and the legendary Clarence Thomas retired ILWU Local 10 member.

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Shelvy Daffron gravesite ceremony on the 35th anniversary of
Bloody Thursday July 5, 1964

In hearts where kindness
blooms, a gentle light,
Compassion weaves its threads
through human care.
With tender words, we lift the
soul's dark night,
And share the warmth that
banishes despair.
Each act of love, a ripple soft
and wide,
Does mend the weary, broken,
and forlorn.
In empathy, our spirits
coincide,
A bond of grace where trust is
newly born.
No wealth surpasses mercy's
boundless store,
For kindness heals where pain
has left its scar.
Through open hands, we give,
and so restore,
The hope that shines beneath
the farthest star.