



Issue no. 4 June - July 2009

In memory, Tom Wylie

Titled Officers

President;	Matt Ventoza
Vice President	Jerome Johnson
Day Business Agent;	Kurt Harriage
Night Business Agent	Gary Bailey

From the President
Convention Caucus

June 12, 2009-June 18, 2009

There were 79 resolutions presented at the convention. Some were passed some failed and some were referred to the Longshore division caucus. The convention deals with issues that affect everyone under the ILWU umbrella, which includes organizations like the Inland-boatmen's Union and others. Many of the issues reported and adoptions thru resolutions to the convention were political and social such as universal healthcare and supporting other organizations throughout the world, in particular the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA). They were "adopted" as our (Seattle) sister port thru a resolution.

The committee reports consisted of:

Credentials
Constitution
Programs
Resolutions

These committees would break into groups and when all the groups were done with business we would report to the convention delegates.

It's hard to explain all you do at a convention in a report because if I did it would be a book!

Longshore Caucus Report

June 15- June 19, 2009

At the Caucus there were 42 resolutions submitted four (4) of those were referred to the contract caucus because they dealt with contract issues. If my numbers are correct 19 passed, 5 were filed, 8 failed, 4 were

withdrawn, 1 referred to the coast secretary, 1 referred to the trustees.

TWIC:

The coast is doing what they can in opposing the TWIC and everything associated with it. It isn't an easy battle because the Democrats are taking credit for getting it implemented and many other unions are in favor of it. Only time will tell, don't hold your breath!

Membership numbers:

In 2006 we had 13,582 registered Longshoremen and Marine clerks.

In 2007 we had 14,109. In 2008 we had 13,925.

In 2009 we have 13,830 as of 3/31/09.

Container volumes:

In 2008 container volumes were 15,302,948. For the first two months of 2009 they were 1,818,916. The projected container volumes for this year are around 10,913,496. That would be down 4,389,452 containers.

Legal costs \$\$\$:

The non-jurisdictional legal expenses incurred by the Longshore division are as follows: I copied this all from the coast committee report,

2007-\$630,729

2008-\$730,713

2009-\$171,395 so far

The majority of this expense involves OUR OWN MEMBERS SUING US. In most cases, it is members that are seeking INSTANT GRATIFICATION, seeking to circumvent seniority provisions, unhappy with democratically determined rules, or attempting to enrich themselves with a nuisance cash settlement.

From the President

Longshore Caucus Report Cont.

In worst cases, members are suing the PMA because they think that they and the courts are smarter than the Union's past and current leadership in promoting membership designed agreements, procedures and rules that best represent the interests of the membership.

There is also outside influence in the way of opportunist lawyers and consultants that seek clients as a way to undermine the Union while at the same time putting money in their pockets.

Management of all such cases takes an inordinate amount of time and resources away from the Coast Committee and staff. Given the value of that time and the fact that it takes away from Coast Committee time to manage the contract and to fight jurisdictional intrusions, the real cost to the Longshore division is much greater than the above reported actual legal expenses. The Coast Committee is settling less and intends, wherever possible, to aggressively seek expenses from individuals. Suing the Union cannot be considered culturally acceptable. Members should be urged to stay within the democratic structure and to accept its conclusions.

Respectfully Submitted
Matt Ventoza President

Cruise Ship Operations

These 5 points we achieved for the cruise ships would not have been accomplished without the membership and I want to thank all of you for your patience and diligence during the negotiations.

Along with the cruise ship agreement the IAM has filed charges against the ILWU and the PMA, they think it is their work. We will be having what is called 10K hearings starting on the 30 of June with the NLRB about this.

From the Labor Relations Committee

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS

Seattle, Washington

June 15, 2009

During the course of discussions related to cruise vessel / terminal operations at Pier 91, Seattle (Smith Cove Cruise Terminal), the Parties recognize that each have submitted proposals that will impact the Cruise Industry and its long term viability in Seattle.

The Parties also recognize that it is best to resolve differences, move forward and meet Cruise Industry standards.

Following are the provisions and the understanding that outline the framework for the resolution of such matters:

1. Longshore Shuttle. Longshore personnel shall drive the shuttle van that transports longshoremen between the designated longshore parking lot and the cruise terminal.
2. Parking Shuttle. Longshore personnel shall drive the parking lot shuttle bus that transports luggage from the Terminal 90/91 remote parking area to the cruise terminal.
3. Cold Ironing. All on dock activities associated with the plugging and unplugging of vessels for cold ironing or its equivalent shall be performed by ILWU Longshore Division employees, except for US Flag vessels and crews as to their work on the vessel, as may be contractually assigned to them as of July 1, 2008. (See section 1.81 and Letter of Understanding - Clarifications and Exceptions to ILWU Maintenance and Repair Jurisdiction.) Section 1.75 (Harbor Industrial Services).
4. Passenger Gangway Maintenance. ILWU Mechanics to perform seasonal passenger gangway maintenance. (Harbor Industrial Services).
5. Operations. Per section 2.42 and 2.6 of the PCLCD for cruise vessel operations in the port of Seattle, when so ordered by the employer, longshore personnel shall load and unload luggage, stores and garbage beginning at 0700. When a 0700 start is ordered, longshore personnel shall be paid a minimum of 1 overtime hour on top of the 8 hour guarantee.



From the Delegates

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2009

The INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION which is the highest governing body of the union is a gathering of delegates from all the various divisions of the ILWU, which includes longshore warehouse, mining, IBU, HAWAII, CANADA, and ALASKA.

The convention is held every three years. The site is on a rotational basis representing the geographical areas of the ILWU. (WA/PUGET SOUND-ALASKA, SO. CAL., HAWAII, OREGON/COL RIVER, NO. CAL. and CANADA.)

This convention was dedicated to Ah Quon McElrath who was a social worker for local #142 and longtime advocate for workers and social issues.

How the convention works....

Delegates to the convention are assigned to committees by the titled officers and staff at the International.

The names of the committees are

1. Credentials/Officers Report
2. Programs
3. Resolutions
4. Constitution.

Resolutions are categorized and assigned to the appropriate committee.

Committees meet to discuss each resolution and sometimes offer amendments and then ultimately vote on whether a resolution should be sent to the convention floor or not. On the convention floor the debate begins again where delegates may weigh in on an issue.

The International Constitution and Convention rules govern how the convention is run. There were nearly 80 resolutions submitted.

In addition to resolutions delegates review the Officers Report which leads off with accomplishments of the Union and the financial condition of the International. Also contained in the report is the work of the Union. The work of the Union is separated by different categories.

Longshore

This section addressed ...

1. How the contract is administered
2. The economy
3. Industry growth
4. Membership (13,830)
5. Contract gains (MOB, Pension, Manning, Jurisdiction)
6. Port security
7. Education
8. International relations

Organizing/Mainland

This section addressed...

1. The Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) and how it would reform the National Labor Relations Act to benefit workers who wish to organize into Unions.
2. Blue Diamond- Due to threats and intimidation and Union busting consultants being hired this drive was unsuccessful.
3. Rite-Aid- This drive was successful but hammering out a first contract has been difficult.
4. IBU/Marine Division- The IBU has been successful in organizing workers in spill response and environmental services.
5. Local #63 OCU- Has successfully organized workers employed by steam ship lines and logistic companies.
6. Port security workers- Local #28 successfully organized guards at APM Tacoma and Reliant Security in Longview.

Organizing/ Hawaii

Hawaii has long been the example of successful organizing. Local # 142 has added 732 members since the last convention. These additions have helped offset the loss of members in the pineapple and sugar industries.

Warehouse

1. Local # 5 has increased membership from 380 to 490 since last convention.
2. Local # 6 is located in the Bay area and represents around 2,000 members and over 50 contracts. The local continues to be involved in social activities and membership education.
3. Local # 9 current membership is around 130

Convention Report 2009 Cont.

representing workers at Sea-Tac Airport. The local was successful in Washington Supreme Court in their class action lawsuit against the Port of Seattle over health coverage for retirees that worked at POS warehouse operations.

4. Local # 17 represents workers around the Sacramento area, the majority of which are in the rice industry and grocery distribution. Had the organizing drive at Blue Diamond been successful the workers would have been represented by Local # 17.

5. Local # 26 represents workers in Southern California with 30 contracts ranging from scrap steel to security guards. One contract is with PMA covering security guards in LA/ Long Beach.

ILWU-CANADA

The Canadian, government influenced by right-wingers have conducted studies into long-shore negotiations. These studies addressed the concept of the elimination of ILWU hiring halls (which would allow the employers to hire whoever they want) and the issue of work stoppages. The Union has been successful preventing these issues from going any further.

IBU-Marine Division

The majority of the members of the IBU work in the ferry industry, but as stated earlier the IBU has been successful organizing workers in the spill response industry as well.

in the tow boat industry good contracts were negotiated but the economy is adversely affecting some companies.

Alaska

Alaska longshore ratified its contract by 86%. The new contract includes increases in wages and pensions. Last year the Union was successful in regaining half of the Break-Bulk work that was lost to foreign crews and non-union.

Staff Services

The International is fortunate to be supported by some of the best staff around. These people love the ILWU as much as any member. They

work very hard whether its research and education, contract administration, communications, or lobbying in D.C.

The Convention had several guest speakers which included ...

Gov. Gregoire who paid tribute to the two strikers who were killed in Seattle in '34. She thanked the ILWU for fighting for fair wages, benefits, and conditions. She ended with saying the biggest fight we have is the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Rick Bender President Washington State Labor Council. President Bender noted that Washington has the fourth highest union density in the country and among the highest workers compensation and unemployment benefits. He hopes to see the ILWU gain a seat on the Executive Board of the national AFL-CIO.

Richard Hughes President ILA. President Hughes noted that new Secretary of Labor Solis made her first public appearance at an ILA hall. The ILA is currently in contract negotiations. Employers are continually abusing the grievance machinery.

Ken Riley President ILA #1422 noted that other AFL-CIO unions are moving in on ILA work. He suggested a No. American Dockers Caucus.

Debbie Fontaine Rank and File member of the Rite-Aid bargaining committee. She was fired for her union activity, she eventually won her job back.

Paddy Crumlin President Maritime Union Of Australia noted the ILWU support during the Patrick Stevedore dispute. Emphasized the need to continuing international solidarity.

Martina Davis Correia sister of Troy Anthony Davis who is on death row in Georgia. Troy was convicted by some very shady testimony and evidence. The convention passed a resolution in support of Troy.(R-32) This is one example of the long history of the ILWU's involvement in social justice.

Now I would like to highlight just some of the issues and resolutions that were addressed by the convention.

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Resolution C-6 "Correct Our Mistake". This resolution addressed the name of our Union. This was a very controversial issue. It originally passed at committee and was brought to the Convention where a minority report was filed. After some very compelling and emotional debate, and a claim of improper procedures during the committee meeting it was sent back to committee where it was then defeated.

Resolution C-17 "30% Organizing Mandate" This action by the 1997 Convention required that 30% of the International's Per Capita be earmarked for organizing. This put the International with little \$ in reserve. C-17 changed the mandate to up to 30%.

Resolution R-7 "Single Payer Health Care" This resolution reaffirms the ILWU's position on single payer health care. It also calls on the AFL-CIO and Change to Win to support single payer.

Continued Membership in the AFL-CIO. President McElrath stated this decision would be done by the International Executive Board (IEB). He believes a decision now would be premature. There may be a new President of the AFL-CIO that supports every member union having a seat on the Executive Board.

The Convention concluded with nominations for International office. Nominees were President Bob McElrath, Vice President Ray Familathe, Sec/Treas. Willie Adams, IEB Herald Ugles, Conrad Spell, and Max Vekich.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent the local as a delegate! Thank You!

Respectfully submitted
Rich Austin #57220.

Political Action News

We have some important races this election season and we must get involved. We need members to attend the July Stopwork meeting to approve the endorsements.

From the Safety Committee

Bad Order Equipment

Do not operate or hook up to red tagged equipment or defective machines. Report any bad order equipment and either take it to the shop or have the equipment red tagged.

Stretching Chassis

Under no circumstances that you are to stretch or shrink chassis under the hook. Drivers are not to stretch or shrink chassis at any time.

Injuries

Be sure to file an accident report if you are injured on the job. Do not let the employer fill it out for you, have your foreman do it. If you are controverted by the employer you need to inform the Business Office of this.

T-91

The defibrillator at Terminal 91 is located in the North lunch room.

From the Business Agents

Jurisdiction

Members need to be on the lookout for crew doing our work. Every member on the job needs to be aware of this and to call your BA if you see crew members doing our work. It is the responsibility of all of us to protect our jobs.

5 High Stacking

Use your discretion when stacking containers 5 high. Only stack containers 5 high that you can verify the weight with the checker. Ask the clerk how much each can weigh when putting or taking from 5 high.

Only call the BA when you have an emergency

Please do not call the BA to make a move on the board, or to ask where the peg is. Call the Dispatch office and please don't use the BA's phone number on any applications. Use the business office phone at 206-623-7461.

From the President

The American Radio Association went on strike Saturday morning the 27 of June and the ILWU honored those pickets thru the day and part of the night. The employers took us to Arbitration on Saturday morning and lost so we stood our ground and continued to honor them. The ARA got their contract Saturday evening. They would like to thank all the ILWU for there support.

We Need You, Join the Pensioners Club

The Seattle Pension Club has seen a decline in membership over the last couple of years. We are the backs of the ILWU. We walk the picket lines with the actives, we are represented at the caucus; and we sit on all committees created by the caucus. The Seattle club also has been active in picketing.

We are politically active on issues that affect the working class in general and the Longshore Union in particular. We are involved in the Harry Bridges Chair, at the University of Washington and in any endeavors that are helpful to our Locals. We have a member of the PCPA with the negotiating team. We send delegates to conferences and conventions.

We need members to remain viable, to continue looking after our needs as well as covering the backs of our active brothers and sisters. A decline in membership means a decline in revenue, thus limiting our activities. The Rusty Hook is solvent thanks to Locals 19 and 52, but the club itself is dependent on the annual dues. Dues at this time are \$25 per year, plus a \$3 assessment for conventions.

WE NEED YOU, Old pensioners, new pensioners, active rank-and-file. Locals 19, 52, 98, we want you all. JOIN THE CLUB. We meet on the first Monday of the month, at 10 AM, in the Executive Board room at Local 19's Hall. There is social time before and after the meeting; but, the one to two hours of the meetings are all business. We invite you all to join us.

Thank you,
Bob Rogers - President

Pensioners Club

Join the pensioners club! Show your support for your Union and for those who came before us. Applications can be found on the Rusty Hook website. www.rustyhook.org. Or you can visit the pensioners office. The Pensioners office is open from 8:30am till 12:30pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It is located in the back of the Executive board room. Come to their meeting and join the Club!

I also encourage all member's wives, daughters, mothers and aunts to join the ILWU women's auxiliary. The Auxiliary is the support arm of the union. Inquiries can be made at the Pensioners office.

Meetings

The 3 meetings below begin on the first Monday of the Month

1. Pensioners; at 10:am, All members are welcome. Come meet our Old Timers!

2. Auxiliary #3; at 11 am

3. Shop Steward; at 5:30pm. All members welcome! No steward meeting in July.

Executive; Tuesday before Stop Work and the second Tuesday after first meeting of month. Both meetings start at 5:30.

Stop Work; Second Thursday at 5:50pm

Websites

www.ilwu19.com

The members only area has the most current meeting agenda, minutes, contracts, the Constitution & rules, educational pamphlets and much more. Call the shop steward for your members only access. 206-920-0759 or Email me at ilwu19@unions-america.com

If you would like this newsletter Emailed to you Send a request to;
ilwu19@unions-america.com

www.rustyhook.org - Pensioners Newsletter.
You can print out a membership application on the site.

