Register for relief

If you choose to participate in this voluntary program, the minimum amount that PMA can withhold from each paycheck is $5.00 due to administrative reasons. The payroll deduction program will cover approximately 26 payroll periods during the six-month period. So, for example, a minimum contribution of $5.00 per paycheck during 26 weekly payroll periods would amount to approximately $130 by the end of the six-month program.

The funds raised from ILWU members through this payroll withholding program will go entirely to the special Hurricane Relief Fund of the AFL-CIO's United Community Fund (UCF), labor's charity for special disasters. Funds will be used to provide aid and comfort to dislocated workers and their families who have been affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The basic contribution to ILWU-PMA Voluntary Payroll Authorizations can be made at any time through the joint dispatch halls, local Union offices and PMA offices. You may also choose to cancel your donations at any time before April 30, 2006.

The AFL-CIO has set up worker centers in seven cities where evacuees are staying: Baton Rouge, Houston, Atlanta, Mobile, Dallas, San Antonio and Pearl and Mississippi. These centers are providing job referrals, counseling and information services to dislocated workers and their families. We are also guiding families as they apply for government and other assistance, helping them access aid as expeditiously as possible. The centers will also fulfill some immediate needs of victims by distributing supplies, clothing, etc.

Under our new program, interested ILWU longshore workers can, with ease and convenience, make voluntary, charitable contributions for hurricane relief efforts directly through individual payroll withholding. In addition, our longshore employer PMA will match dollar-for-dollar on the first $250,000 of contributions by longshore workers through this program. This program is completely voluntary.

In this case, all you need to do is sign and return to PMA a consent form, "ILWU-PMA Voluntary Payroll Authorization," specifying the amount you choose to withhold from your paycheck each week for a payroll period between Nov. 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006. You may also choose to cancel your donations at any time before April 30, 2006.

In the special notice regarding the ILWU-PMA hurricane relief campaign, workers have submitted the consent form for authorization of withholding donations are reproduced on the last page of this issue. The consent form can be cut out and used to submit to PMA. The signed and completed consent form are also being distributed to all longshore workers through the joint dispatch halls, local Union offices and local PMA offices.

It's times like these that make us so acutely aware of how much we rely on each other to overcome the inevitable adversities.

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

Our entire country has been stunned by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. We have all been moved by compassion to reach out and find some way to help those who have suffered so much.

So many have lost their homes and most of their worldly possessions. And so many have lost their places of work, the jobs and income that sustained them and their families. The loss of a sense of home and community is by itself devastating, but being separated from loved ones, having lost touch with them for so many anxious days and weeks, or having lost them for—It's all so overwhelming.

Characteristically, the ILWU family immediately jumped into the fray to provide aid and comfort. In our locals up and down the Coast, officers and rank and fileers quickly sized up the needs, what they could best do to meet them and got down to it. The basic necessities and small comforts of life are not the only things in short supply—so is hope. And we must help with that too.

There won't be a quick fix to this disaster. Recovery will be a long process we have to be there for the long haul. As organized labor has always known and practiced, the best way to assure that commitment over time is through an organized and structured program.

So I and the other officers of the ILWU have worked out a plan for ILWU longshore workers to raise and donate money to the ongoing relief effort for the next six months.

We have decided to work with and through our friends and colleagues in the AFL-CIO. The labor union federation that stood by us during the devastating longshore contract fight is now leading a comprehensive program to help working people in the Gulf area get back on their feet.

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ILWU mobilizes relief for Katrina victims

By John Showalter

Kris Hillyer ran into her daughter's bedroom and began packing clothes when she first saw the devastating images of Hurricane Katrina victims flashing across her television screen on the day after the Category Five storm crashed into New Orleans and communities along the Gulf Coast. "I took all the new clothes I'd just bought her for school and packed them up to send to relatives in Jonesboro, Georgia. Their church is driving the goods to victims in Gulf Coastal communities," said Hillyer, an ILWU Local 52 marine clerk who works as an on-deck rail supervisor at the Port of Seattle. She is working with local Red Cross officials to let donors know which goods are most needed.

Hillyer's actions are mirrored in the cash and material donations given by many ILWU local members throughout the weeks since Katrina robed hundreds of thousands of working families of everything. The Coast Committee and the International have, together, donated $10,000 to the AFL-CIO's hurricane relief fund, while a Seattle team of ILWU Local 3000 members established with the involvement of longshore Local 19's Jack Block, Jr., Northwest Marine Fund and others have raised cash as much as $4,000 for storm victims.

Block—a City Councilman in Burien, Wash.—is coordinating longshore and maritime relief donations and their shipment south with Hillyer, Gabriel Prawl of Local 19 and others from the ILWU Puget Sound locals, regional churches and member organizations of the North West March on Washington. The Burien City Council agreed to allow the ILWU to use an empty Gotchek's Department Store building as a drop-off point for donations, and steamship company NOLAPHLA has donated five empty 53-foot containers. Gordon Trucking loaned vehicles and Tacoma Local 23 members paid $2,900 to hire approximately 174 drivers to transport items like diapers, toiletries and clothes to a distribution center in one of several evacuee centers in San Antonio, Texas.

Block traveled with the five-truck relief convoy of ILWU members and their families, which left on Sept. 19. The trucks were unloaded by the Salvation Army and donated individuals, with local NAACP officials to plan material donations to the Gulf Coast. At Local 23, members joined with a military family relief effort called "Southern Comfort" at nearby Fort Lewis. As families from Gulf Coast military bases were relocated to Fort Lewis, the local pitched in to transport goods and give cash donations to those families: Members at other locals in California and the Columbia River region are giving through the AFL-CIO's fund and coordinating with local churches, donors' companies and distribution centers for evacuees in cities around the country.

At Local 10 in the San Francisco Bay Area, just days after Hurricane Katrina struck, retired longshoreman Reverend Joe Noble, Local 10 President Trent Willis, and Executive Board member Clarence Thomas met with U.S. Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), members of the Million Worker March and local NAACP officials to plan material donation efforts to the Gulf Coast. Members of the ILA's Worker March and locals contributed $10,000 for storm victims. "Southern Comfort" at nearby Fort Lewis. As families from Gulf Coast military bases were relocated to Fort Lewis, the local pitched in to transport goods and give cash donations to those families: Members at other locals in California and the Columbia River region are giving through the AFL-CIO's fund and coordinating with local churches, donors' companies and distribution centers for evacuees in cities around the country.

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The disaster after the disaster

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf coast last month killing hundreds of people. Citizens of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama lost their homes, their jobs and their businesses. The levees around New Orleans broke and flooded 80 percent of the city.

We have since found out that the government diverted needed money to shore up levees to the war in Iraq and anti-terrorism initiatives. Americans cried out for help from the Superdome—the New Orleans convention center and from atop their flooded homes while Bush and his cronies at the Department of Homeland Security fled and dawdled. Federal Emergency Management Agency head Michael Brown was complimented by Bush for doing “a heck of a job” before the American people demanded he be sacked in favor of someone who knew something about emergency response. The world watched in horror as the all-powerful U.S. government left American citizens, New Orleans’ poorest and most vulnerable residents, to fend for themselves.

The Bush administration’s incompetence and callous disregard for human suffering is in itself a disaster of immense proportions to American workers. This common sense legislation requires the president to issue a waiver to the Davis-Bacon Act protections for financially distressed workers in the Gulf states amounts to legalized looting of these workers who will be cleaning up toxic sites and struggling to rebuild their communities when those contractors rake in huge profits from FEMA reconstruction contracts,” commented Ed Sullivan, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department.

In the rush to cut worker wages in the Gulf, Bush’s Davis-Bacon suspension may have been illegal, according to a Congressional Research Service report on Sept. 15, 2005. The law requires the president to issue a national emergency, according to the CRS.

“The Bush administration first made mistakes when it was too slow to respond to rising floodwaters,” said Rep. George Miller (D-CA), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee. “Then it made mistakes when it was too quick to slash workers’ wages.”

H.R. 3763, introduced by Miller Dec. 8, would rescind Bush’s proclamation to slash wages for workers in the region. It already has 170 cosponsors. This common sense legislation is needed to get money in the hands of the people who really need it—the workers in the Gulf region who have been devastated by the hurricane.

The day after Bush signed the executive order allowing contractors awarded federal money to help rebuild the Hurricane Katrina devastated Gulf Coast to pay substandard wages to construction workers, the U.S. Department of Labor waived most federal affirmative action laws for contractors. The affirmative action waiver applies to companies that do not have existing government contracts and are awarded federal relief work contracts. This waiver is for three months, but could be extended.

The bankruptcy bill the Republicans passed earlier this year could effectively ruin the futures of the working poor in New Orleans whose lives have already been demolished by keeping them responsible for debts they cannot possibly pay with all their assets washed away.

“In today’s limping economy, far too many working Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, just barely getting by, said Congressman Gary Ackerman (D-NY). “If the Bush administration’s diabolical ‘in a good state of health’ financial condition, many families are only one tragedy away from being devastated by debt. Many of the families who have now lost their homes, livelihoods, and personal possessions will soon be contacted by credit collection agencies demanding the next minimum payment on a credit card. Unfortunately, the bankruptcy bill recently passed by Congress makes matters far worse for these families.”

The hypocritical Republican Congress is moving to exempt Katrina victims from the bankruptcy bill. But earlier this year, Democratic amendments to it designed to exempt disaster victims from the effects of the bill were voted down. Clearly there will be more disasters and more working people financially wiped out and deserving of a fresh start. But Congressional Republicans feel no pressure to provide for them and won’t. Congress needs to repeal the bankruptcy bill that is simply a boon to multi-billion dollar credit card companies at the expense of working people.

To add insult to misery, the Bush administration is busy handing out no-bid contracts to its most cherished corporate supporters. A major donor to the Republican Party, the Fluor Corporation and the Shaw Group, a client of George W. Bush’s former campaign manager, was awarded a $100 billion contract. Meanwhile, Halliburton Company subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root (which still funnels money to Vice-President Dick Cheney) was awarded a $30 million clean up contract.

We ask you, as member of Congress to take several sound public policy steps that would help those people who have suffered so much in the Gulf.

Your member of Congress can be reached at:

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Tell your member of Congress and Senators to:

1. Restore Davis-Bacon wage protections for construction workers who will rebuild the Gulf Coast.
2. Protect the Jones Act so mariners in the Gulf region will have gainful employment.
3. Identify and protect recovery workers from new and terrible biological and chemical hazards in the region.
4. Improve the benefits of the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program.
5. Provide health insurance coverage to all survivors through Medicaid, and reverse the budget cuts that limit Medicaid’s ability to meet ongoing needs as well as those created by Katrina.
6. Provide comprehensive reemployment services to displaced workers.
7. Restore affirmative action requirements for contractors in an area where those who suffered most were disproportionately poor and people of color.
8. Repeal the bankruptcy bill so that Americans hit by disasters can start anew.

ILWU election endorsements

California state ballot initiatives

Prop 74 NO: No new delays on teachers’ worker rights.
Prop 75 NO: No silencing union’s voice in the political arena.
Prop 76 NO: No budget power grab to allow the governor to cut school spending.
Prop 77 NO: No unfair and unlimitred redistricting.
Prop 78 NO: No phony reform designed for pharmaceutical companies’ profit.
Prop 79: YES: prescription drug discounts for uninsured low and middle-income Californians.
Prop 80: YES: secure energy supplies and no more Enrons.

Washington State ballot initiatives and port commissions

Washington State ballot initiatives and port commissions (by the Puget Sound District Council)
ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams presents Ian Ruskin with proclamations from the mayors of San Francisco and Oakland proclaiming Sept. 4 "Harry Bridges Day," sung by his father Woody Guthrie and the Almanac Singers as a fundraiser for Bridges legal defense and written by Lee Hays, Millard Lampell and Pete Seeger. Sarah Lee Guthrie sings her grandfather's newly discovered "Harry Bridges." Longshore Local 13 member David Mora sings "Harry Bridges Manbo" and former Dave Matthews Band guitarist Tim Reynolds sings "Put the Mask On." Peruvian guitarist Ciro Hurtado sings his "Tengo Hambre Blues" and Jackson Browne rounds it up with Pete Seeger's "Step by Step" sung to a reggae beat.

Ruskin's fascination with Bridges led him to found the Harry Bridges Project five years ago to "promote the legacy of this extraordinary labor leader and social visionary, and to aid in educating future generations about his life and work," he said. His producer, Suzanne Thompson, hooked up Wesler and Ruskin and the result is a special video send which is $24 check payable to "The Harry Bridges Project," 350 West 5TH Street / Suites 208-9 / San Pedro, CA 90731. The second disc contains 21 special features, with interviews with Arlo Guthrie, Ruskin and others. See www.theharrybridgesproject.org.

ilogue: This image is provided as a reference for a story about a special screening of "From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Dock," a film about the life of Harry Bridges, a prominent labor leader. The screening was part of a Labor Day parade and festivities in San Francisco, and it included special appearances by Family members such as Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. The film was directed by Ian Ruskin and featured interviews with various union leaders and community members. The screening was a part of the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies' "Wharf Rats' opens along the Coast."
**INTRODUCTION BY HARVEY SCHWARTZ**

This is the first in a series of oral history articles featuring the legendary Sam Kagel, who retired as Coast Arbitrator for the longshore industry in 2002 after 54 years on the job. Kagel, though, did not start his storied career as an impartial judge. In the beginning he was a union advocate with the Pacific Coast Labor Bureau, a consulting firm that represented organized workers in negotiations, mediations and arbitrations.

The Pacific Coast Labor Bureau was new when Kagel, a graduate student in his early 20s, joined in 1932. He soon met Harry Bridges and other longshore activists. Once the 1934 strike began he worked closely with Bridges, saw the union through to victory, and represented the longshoremen’s cause in 1934 when the union was struggling for its very survival.

**SAM KAGEL**

Edited by Harvey Schwartz
Curator, ILWU Oral History Collection

About 1906 my father, Hyman Kagel, came to San Francisco to avoid the Cra’s Army and he got his butt out of rural Russian because the Jews were being slaughtered. He knew my mother, Zelda, who was from a Russian village some miles from his. When she first got to the country my mother worked in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York. That was where they had the huge fire in 1911 that killed so many women who had been locked inside by the factory owners. Fortunately, my mother left for San Francisco a few years before that happened.

My father’s first job in America was on a hog farm in Colusa, California. He went there from San Francisco, but soon returned to the bay city where he married my mother. I was born in San Francisco in 1909. When I was about five we moved to the East Bay and settled in Oakland, where my parents bought into a small grocery store at the corner of 4th and Harrison. That was part of a poor work-class neighborhood. Eventually I got to Frank Norris, Emile Zola, Anatole France and Upton Sinclair. Those guys were basically sociologists who turned out to be great writers. Zola wrote a famous novel about coal miners. He also opposed discrimination among Kagel’s fondest memories as he looked back in June 1934 and serving on the JMSC remained among Kagel’s fondest memories as he looked back to the 1950s are on deposit at the Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University. They are currently undergoing archival processing for eventual use by labor scholars, students and the Labor Archives Director Susan Sherwood for her help with material on Kagel.

At the 2004 Bloody Thursday memorial in San Francisco, Kagel was made an honorary member of ILWU Local 10. It seemed a fitting tribute to a man who had spent seven decades in labor relations and, as you will read, had dedicated himself totally to the longshoremen’s cause in 1934 when the union was struggling for its very survival.

**ABOUT 1906**

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In the 1930s the unions began to stir in the 1930s, and the Labor Bureau was the only place they could come to. Lawyers were not in the collective bargaining field yet. We only used lawyers when we got arrested. Generally the lawyers didn’t get into collective bargaining until the U.S. got into World War II (1941-45). When the War Labor Board was set up with millions of regulations, then the unions “got the shit in their neck,” as we said on
In 1934 the longshoremen demanded a coast-wide agreement, a union hiring hall that would get rid of the fink halls at the other ports and the morning “shape-up” for jobs in San Francisco, a six-day week to spread employment around and some increase in wages. Once the ‘34 strike began and the other maritime unions went out too, the longshoremen expanded their original demands to include the requirement of a settlement for everyone.

I discussed all these things continually with Harry. These demands were solely what the longshoremen up and down the coast said they wanted. There were all pure work shop issues. They were not designed politically by Communists, Republicans, Democrats or anybody else, despite the employer charges at the time that the ‘34 strike was a Communist uprising.

Five weeks into the strike Harry became Chairman of the Joint Marine Strike Committee (JMSC) set up then by all the maritime unions. For all intents and purposes he was the Committee. There were other outside officials on the JMSC, like Randolph Meriwether, who headed the MEBA, but Merry did whatever Harry wanted to do and what Harry advised.

I actually became a member of the JMSC because of Meriwether. I represented his union and worked with him on everything. We became close friends. When they said to pick guys to represent the MEBA on the JMSC, Merry said I should go, even though I was not a member of his union per se. But I was made an honorary member in June 1934.

It was all very exciting. Here I was, for God’s sake, a young guy in the midst of an event I knew was of major concern. I knew that because I already had some background in labor economics and history. I was full of piss and vinegar too. Hours and days meant nothing to me. We would go day and night, weekends included. There was no such thing as regular hours.

I lived in Berkeley, but could get to San Francisco easily because the ferryboats were not on strike. Sometimes, when it got late, I would stay overnight in this wonderful old hotel near the waterfront. It was a sight across from the Southern Pacific Building. I think it was called the Terminal Hotel. They charged a dollar a night.

Sometimes, when it got very late, I just slept on my mattress on my legs on the floor of the Labor Bureau. But I never felt put upon. This was part of the job. I was representing unions and being an advisor to a member of the JMSC. I wasn’t there for the fun of it.

Then came the battle on Bloody Thursday, July 5, when the employers tried to force open the port. It was a sight across from the Southern Pacific Building. I think it was called the Terminal Hotel. They charged a dollar a night. Sometimes, when it got very late, I just slept on my mattress on my legs on the floor of the Labor Bureau. But I never felt put upon. This was part of the job. I was representing unions and being an advisor to a member of the JMSC. I wasn’t there for the fun of it.

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During the middle of Bloody Thursday, Archbishop Edward J. Hanna, who later served on the board that arbitrated the strike, got me on the telephone. He wanted to meet with people from the MEBA and the JMSC. The only other member I could get at that time was Harry. I was in my office in the Ferry Building when everything started. You could smell the fumes from the gas and from whatever else the police were shooting, and you could hear shots. I left my office and watched the battle as it moved up and down the waterfront. The mounted cops tried to break up the crowds of strikers by using their horses’ rumps to move in and separate people. And I saw guys getting clubbed.

Despite the violence, federal mediation hearings were ongoing during the strike. I had to testify for the MEBA on July 7, the day after the general strike. The police caught 13 people on Mission Street for the two workers the police killed on Bloody Thursday. I cut the mediation proceedings off at 10 a.m. so I could join the funeral procession. Nobody said anything while we marched. Except for the low music and the shuffling of shoes there wasn’t a single sound. We just got in line and walked.

I can still see the San Francisco general strike of July 16-19 held to protest the killings. I can still see it and feel it. It was an exhilarating moment at the beginning. I looked up Market Street and there was nothing but a long column of marchers. It was like in the movies where something happens and all of a sudden the film shows blank. But it was short-lived, as it had to be. It was really a sympathy strike that was ended before it could completely unravel.

We had Harry testify before the National Longshoremens’ Board appointed by President Roosevelt to arbitrate the longshore strike. Harry had been on the waterfront for years, had worked all types of cargo, and had been a member of a “star gang,” which was a kind of pre-strike steady gang that was really a form of favoritism. We knew how he was articulate because we had been dealing with him, and his name was “the name” in this event. So what better witness do you want to describe the conditions on the waterfront? Harry was made to order.

We didn’t want to put on a lot of witnesses. There was no point to that. So we just used Harry. I worked with him for hours getting him prepared for the testimony. He and I used to sit in our office, work hard, and drink Old Quaker, which was one of the earliest whiskies that came out after Prohibition ended in 1933.

I remember how Harry spoke publicly in those days, and afterwards as well. He wasn’t given to impassioned speeches. He just explained what the situation was and why the longshoremen wanted and why they wanted it. He never got excited when we met with the JMSC or the federal mediators or when he appeared as a witness in the arbitration proceedings. Harry just knew where he wanted to go and how he was going to get there, and it was no big excitement.

Harry’s testimony to the National Longshoremens’ Board was outstanding and the union got its basic demands satisfied in the ‘34 strike arbitration award. One thing the award did not cover was conditions like sling load limits. In those pre-container days the hand-worked cargo was moved to and from ships in slings. Before 1934 the loads were too heavy and were dangerous. So once the longshoremen were back to work they undertook by “job action,” or quickie strike, to cut down on the size of the loads. The employers screamed bloody murder about these work stoppages.

There was an arbitration system set up after the ‘34 strike under which the Secretary of Labor selected arbitrators for the longshore industry. The first arbitrator, Judge Max C. Sloss, who had been in San Francisco and decided in 1914 some early cases against the union, including these work stoppage beefs. He called me at least twice to come down to his offices. I was a witness in the arbitration proceedings. Harry said the longshoremen were not obeying his work stoppage decrees. I told Harry he was wrong. He said, “Look, I tell the guys to cut it out. That’s the best I can do.”

Finally he went to his membership. They took a vote and decided to be represented by the arbitrator. They got all the arbitrator’s awards. But in the meantime the sling loads were reduced in practice. There was some slowing of the cargo hook as well, which meant that the pre-strike “speed up” was eliminated.

Looking back, Harry’s great achievement was in setting up a democratic union that was exactly the opposite of the kind of autocratic union then in existence on the Labor Bureau, work hard, and drink Old Quaker, which was one of the earliest whiskies that came out after Prohibition ended in 1933.

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I remember how Harry spoke publicly in those days, and afterwards as well. He wasn’t given to impassioned speeches. He just explained what the situation was and why the longshoremen wanted and why they wanted it. He never got excited when we met with the JMSC or the federal mediators or when he appeared as a witness in the arbitration proceedings. Harry just knew where he wanted to go and how he was going to get there, and it was no big excitement.

Harry’s testimony to the National Longshoremens’ Board was outstanding and the union got its basic demands satisfied in the ‘34 strike arbitration award. One thing the award did not cover was conditions like sling load limits. In those pre-container days the hand-worked cargo was moved to and from ships in slings. Before 1934 the loads were too heavy and were dangerous. So once the longshoremen were back to work they undertook by “job action,” or quickie strike, to cut down on the size of the loads. The employers screamed bloody murder about these work stoppages.

There was an arbitration system set up after the ‘34 strike under which the Secretary of Labor selected arbitrators for the longshore industry. The first arbitrator, Judge Max C. Sloss, who had been in San Francisco and decided in 1914 some early cases against the union, including these work stoppage beefs. He called me at least twice to come down to his offices. I was a witness in the arbitration proceedings. Harry said the longshoremen were not obeying his work stoppage decrees. I told Harry he was wrong. He said, “Look, I tell the guys to cut it out. That’s the best I can do.”

Finally he went to his membership. They took a vote and decided to be represented by the arbitrator. They got all the arbitrator’s awards. But in the meantime the sling loads were reduced in practice. There was some slowing of the cargo hook as well, which meant that the pre-strike “speed up” was eliminated.

Looking back, Harry’s great achievement was in setting up a democratic union that was exactly the opposite of the kind of autocratic union then in existence on the Labor Bureau, work hard, and drink Old Quaker, which was one of the earliest whiskies that came out after Prohibition ended in 1933.
The Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, the organization of ILWU longshore retirees, gathered for their 38th Convention in San Francisco Sept. 13-17. Their goal: to support the union’s Coastwise contract and the interests of all active and retired ILWU members and families.

In all, 132 delegates and 20 guests, representing pensioners from the U.S. West Coast and Canada, roulked the camaraderie they shared for so many years on the job and in the hall. But it was not about nostalgia. The retirees focused on problems that will confront the youngest worker, the working man’s children, and eventually the old timers everyone hopes to be one day.

Longshore Local 10 President Trent Willis welcomed the pensioners to the area. “But it’s really the other way around,” he said, referring to the retirees welcoming of younger members to the union they built.

The union’s top officers stepped down by the meeting to greet the old timers. International President Jim Spinoso’s opening remarks made clear that the retirees and beneficiaries their pensions and benefits were safe and that the union was watching out for them — something not the Bush administration or Republicans that might harm pension plans in the future.

The convention tried to make every effort not just to hold the bar up with our plan but to make it better for workers throughout the world,” Spinoso said.

International Vice President Bob McElrath assured the pensioners that the Welfare and Pensioners Committee of the Longshore Caucus was meeting often in preparation for the 2008 negotiations.

“The committee is in training just like a pro fighter,” McElrath said. “The committee members want to work hard, fight like a champion, we can go in and do 15 rounds.”

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams said a few words about organizing.

“It’s important that we do another March Inland,” Adams said. “Longshore will grow, by the nature of the work, but we need to also fight for the people who can’t fight for themselves.”

Coast Committeeman Joe Wend laid down a friendly challenge to sign up more pensioners for the union’s contract battles.

“There are only 2,000 pensioners signed up, yet there’s 8,700 retirees,” Wend said. “The fight for pensioners’ benefits is a constant fight. You need to get down to the hall and mingle with the new members. We need to make the family connection to show that we are all in this together.”

Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz Jr. stressed the need to re-unify labor.

“The movement of the global economy has labor eating at each other, while the big boys, the Wal-Marts and Wall Street, are sitting back laughing at us,” he said. “Some other unions have even gone after their pensioners, because with the high health costs a guy working a job like that is a champion, we can go in and do 15 rounds.”

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President—Arne Auvinen
Vice-President—Joe Lucas  
Recording Secretary—Bill Dancon Treasurer—Barbara Lewis  
EXECUTIVE BOARD:  
Seattle—Paul McCabe, alternate Bill Roberts  
Columbia River—George Gornick, alternate Vera Forsberg  
Coo Bay—Jim Davidson  
Columbia River small ports—(Longview and Astoria)—Kenny Swicker, alternate Ester Avenin  
Southern California—Chephas Williams, alternate Ralph Rocker  
Canadian—will elect delegate to Executive Board when they go back home  
Negotiating Committee—Bill Ward  
Education Committee—Al Pehrson  
Benefits Committee—Rich Austin  
Hill—Judy Swicker, Lou Overidge

PCPA President Arne Auvinen summed up one of the most important goals ahead for workers in the U.S. “This country of ours is just like the flag in ‘The Star Spangled Banner,’” he said. “The Constitution is tattered and torn and we have to get organized so we can make changes in this country. We’ve gotta get those jackals out of the White House and Congress and get things going our way.”

The next PCPA convention will be in Tacoma Sept. 18-20, 2009.
Strike situation worsens at Northwest Airlines

by Tom Price

When Northwest Airlines unionized workers went on strike Aug. 20, the workers walked out. Since then, except for support from other union workers, things have gotten worse.

The Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, the union representing 3,500 mechanics, cleaners and custodians, returned to the bargaining table Sept. 3, 9 to accept much of the company's demand for $176 million in concessions and to bargain severance pack-
ages. The next day, longshore Local 19 voted a $20 per member assessment for AMFA strikers, totaling $100,000.

But when AMFA sat down at the table, the company boosted its demands to $393 million in concessions and another 1,000 job cuts. AMFA broke off talks Sept. 11.

NWA's previous offer Aug. 20 called for a workforce reduction of 53 percent, a 26 percent pay cut, 20 percent medical co-pays and a freeze in retirement contributions. NWA also hired 1,300 scales to do AMFA's work. Yet if the company's job cuts mean AMFA will have lost 90 percent of its jobs in the last five years, they will mean AMFA will have lost 90 percent of its jobs over the last five years.

“Our resolve is still very strong,” said AMFA Asst. National Director John MacFarlane. “This isn’t about increased increases in pay and benefits. This is truly about our survival and our job security.”

Workers around the country are outraged by NWA’s shabby treatment of its workers, especially when those were among the most hard-hit for expulsions of the dissolving unions, and AMFA workers are finding ways to work together.

The Communications Workers of America’s (CWA), whose officers were bitter and acrimonious, unions on both sides are finding ways to work together.

America West, which is preparing to file for bankruptcy, set a Labor Day rally at San Francisco Airport’s old international terminal. Longshore Local 10’s President Trent Willis addressed the crowd.

“Japanese and European aircraft manufacturers are a lesson to us,” said MacFarlane, “because they have made contributions.”

Unions unite across the split

Although the split in the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) is the result of the CWA’s decision to break with the rest of the Teamsters are preparing to jointly represent reservations, ticket agents at US Airways and gate agents at US Airways. The company has also announced it will outsource flight attendants, aircraft cleaning and maintenance jobs to other countries like China and Singapore, where there is no FAA inspection. But even the FAA will lose as many as 300 inspectors that the airlines used to have. That could affect the Sept. 23 Los Angeles Times meeting.

“Looking in people’s shoes, looking at grandchildren who wouldn’t hurt a fly, we’re spending unbelievable resources on looking at the least likely people to hurt us, and the most likely people are completely ignored,” MacFarlane said.

American Airlines is one of the few companies to decide to bring the back in house, MacFarlane said. American now keeps 80 percent of its work in house.

“They think they can make money off it, and as long as they manage it in a way that can become a profit center for them.”

ILWU International President Jimpin Spinoso shakes hands with AMFA National Director O.V. Delle-Femine at ILWU longshore Local 10, AMFA Local 9 President Joe Prisco and ILWU Local 10 President Trent Willis.

ILWU International Vice President Bob McNait, AMFA Local 9 President Joe Prisco and ILWU Local 10 President Trent Willis.

ILWU International President Jimpin Spinoso shakes hands with AMFA National Director O.V. Delle-Femine at ILWU longshore Local 10, AMFA Local 9 President Joe Prisco and ILWU Local 10 President Trent Willis.
This notice applies to all ILWU-represented employees, ILWU members, nonmembers and new hires working in an ILWU bargaining unit, including members and individuals who happen to be present at work when the time covered by this notice is occurring, by choice or through a lapse in union security, including by choice, suspension or expulsion from union membership in any local or division affiliated with the ILWU, for the one-year period following the date of this notice or until such time covered by a later notice of similar kind.

The information contained herein applies to ILWU International per capita and, for those working in the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee’s jurisdiction, to all payments of any kind under an union security clause. This notice also applies to local dues and fees paid to any affiliated ILWU locals or divisions, except those affiliates who have chosen not to be covered by this notice and have issued their own separate notice under their own separate polices and procedures. (Accordingly, this notice shall be superseded by any other notice issued by any affiliated ILWU local or division with respect to its dues and fees.)

Please be advised that individuals working under a union security clause contained in a collective bargaining agreement, notwithstanding the specific provisions of such clause, are subject to the same condition of employment under such clause to pay uniform dues and any required initiation fees and, by writing to the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer, or to their local ILWU secretary-treasurer, resign or decline union membership and choose to become a financial core member at any time. Such financial core members “are deemed to be in compliance with any union security clause, regardless of any specific wording to the contrary, so long as they timely pay all regular and periodic financial core dues or fees properly charged by their bargaining representative as explained herein.”

Please be advised, however, that financial core members deprivey themselves of the valuable benefits of membership in the ILWU and their ILWU local or division. A financial core member does not have the right to vote, nominate for office, hold office, or be a candidate for office in the ILWU; nor may he/she participate in organize in or attend ILWU meetings or any functional division that is limited to union members. In addition, a financial core member has no right to vote on dues increases or on contracts submitted to the membership for ratification. These rights and privileges of union membership are accorded only to union members in good standing.

Nevertheless, financial core members are still legally required under a valid union security clause to pay for their union for the costs related to collective bargaining, contract administration, grievance adjustment, and union organizing of establishments within competitive markets of ILWU-unionized employers, and other activities reasonably related to the effectuation of this notice. If such destruction of nonchargeable activities (hereafter called “chargeable activities”), as well as union expenditures for non-representational activities such as political activities, lobbying (hereinafter called “nonchargeable activities”): activities which most workers know help build a better climate for us all in bargaining with employers and in securing fundamental worker rights - may not be charged to financial core members who file timely objections.

For the calendar year 2004 (which is the most recent audited year), the financial review has confirmed that no more than 13% of all ILWU International’s expenditures were for nonchargeable activities. While each ILWU local and division may have different percentages of chargeable expenditures, financial reviews and practical experience confirm that the nonchargeable percentage for ILWU locals is significantly lower than that for the ILWU International. Nevertheless, those ILWU locals and divisions covered by this notice will not collect to the extent of the financial core fees greater than the nonchargeable percentage of 13% stated above for the ILWU International for the applicable collection period hereby paid in such a manner that local issues a separate notice.

For those individuals employed in the ILWU Longshore Division and work for a PMA-member company under the Pacific Coast Longshore and Clerks Agreement, please also note that you may object to Coast Pro Rata Fees, for calendar year 2004 (which is the most recent audited year), the financial review has confirmed that no more than 13% of all ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee’s expenditures were for nonchargeable activities.

The ILWU International Executive Board and the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee have adopted Procedures on Financial Core Members Objecting to Nonchargeable Expenditures (hereafter called the “Procedures”). Said procedures can be obtained from the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer at 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Under the Procedures, a financial core member of any affiliated ILWU local and division has the right within an applicable 30 day period of time to object to expenditures for nonchargeable activities of his or her local dues paid to the ILWU local and the per capita paid to the ILWU International, as well as any Coast Pro Rata fees paid to the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee. In the event a financial core member perfects such objection, he or she shall receive after the appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues and per capita reflecting the ILWU International’s non-chargeable percentage of 13% stated above and, additionally for those working in the ILWU Longshore Division, an appropriate monthly reduction or an advance rebate of a portion of local dues and per capita fees reflecting the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee’s nonchargeable percentage of 13% stated above.

Under the Procedures, an objection by a financial core member must be made in writing and postmarked within 30 days from the date of this notice or the date of becoming a new financial core member under an ILWU union security clause and receipt of this notice, whichever is later, and addressed to the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer, 1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109. To be valid, the written notice must specify the union/local’s name, address, social security number, current wage rate, the name of his or her employer and the name of the local union or division which represents the objector. A financial core member does not have the right to appeal an objection that is not filed within the 30-day filing period with respect to other notices of this type, please be advised that under this notice only, objections filed by current financial core members will be deemed timely if postmarked on or before November 15, 2005. Individuals who after the date of this notice become new hires or financial core members may file an objection within 30 days of the date they become a new hire or financial core member or receive this notice, whichever is later.

Unless changed by a later notice, those financial core members who file timely objections will not be charged from the date they file a timely objection through October 2006. The procedures related to nonchargeable activities based on the applicable percentages noted above and also will be provided, independently audited financial information concerning the breakdown between chargeable and nonchargeable expenditures of the ILWU International, Coast Pro Rata Committee (if the objector works in the Longshore Division) and of their ILWU local (if covered by this notice as explained herein). Objectors will also be given an opportunity to file, within 30 days of receipt of such financial information, an amended objection, if such information results in revised such nonchargeable expenditures and percentages, as well as an opportunity to have such a challenge resolved, if not voluntarily settled, by filing for a neutral arbitration conducted by the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in proceedings conducted under AAA Rules applicable to objections to agency fees. Please also note that the amount or portion of financial core fees pending the period to be reviewed and challenge as well as the amount reasonably in dispute pursuant to any challenges will be kept in an interest bearing escrow account pending resolution of such challenges. Objectors who file challenges will receive any amount that may be determined to be owed. Please consult the Procedures for further details.

It is important to know that the vast majority of ILWU-represented workers believe that the tittle financial core members can do for maintaining union membership and enjoying all the valuable benefits of full participation in the governing of the ILWU, and the negotiation of working conditions is quite a bargain. For a few cents more each week, union members enjoy all the benefits of membership in the ILWU. We sincerely believe that after careful consideration, new hires and financial core members too will agree that becoming and remaining a union member makes the most sense. If you are not a union member already, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the ILWU International or your local to join the ILWU.

This notice may be superseded or amended by later notices as issued by the ILWU, the Coast Pro Rata Committee or affiliated locals and divisions of the ILWU.

Joe Radisich takes the oath of office as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners.

**Longshore retired, deceased and survivors**

**Coast Benefit Workshops coming your way**

Do you know that medical studies indicate:

- For every family our uninsured families have only about a 50 percent chance of receiving the recommended treatment when we are in need of care.

At least 44,000 people, and perhaps as many as 98,000 people, die in hospitals each year as a result of medical errors that could have been prevented. That’s about as many deaths as are caused by such feared threats as motor vehicle wrecks, breast cancer and AIDS put together.

It is projected to cost $455,643 for the plan year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Do you know where and how to get:

- Answers to your questions about your benefits.
- Information about health care quality.
- Information about Pension Legislation relevant to the ILWU longshore pension plan.
- Ideas about how you can help protect your health and pension benefits.

All of this and more will be covered at the Longshore Division’s Benefits Workshops.

The time to secure our benefits is now. Make sure you make arrangements to attend the workshop in your area. Spouses are encouraged to participate. The workshops are guaranteed to increase your understanding of the benefits which are critical to your family’s security and well-being. Knowledge is power. Power is protection.

**Workshop schedule**

- **Southern California**—Oct. 25
  - Port of San Pedro and Washington area—Nov. 1
  - Columbia River and Oregon area—Nov. 3

- **Northern California**—Oct. 27
  - Puget Sound and Washington area—Nov. 1

**Watch for notification of the Workshop location in each area.**

**RECENT RETIREES:**

**Local 4—** Richard Proll; **Local 7—** Walther Robbe (Pauline); **Local 8—** Luke Bescellier (Barbara); Robert Huntley (Patsy); **Local 9—** Don Taylor; Luke Bescellier, Henning Hellesvik, Robert Huntley, James Foster Jr.; **Local 10—** Charlie Sawyer (Lillie), Ray Goodwin (Robbie); Luke Dolman, Carl Stitt, Wilbert Watkins; **Local 12—** Edward Napier (Dawn); **Local 13—** Gilbert Martinez (Marty), Dolph Campbell (Norma), Nick Avala (Marie), Victor Valverde (Julian), James Barber (Claudette), Tony R. Martinez (Adam), George Ireland (Shirley), Ralph Buss (Harriette), Terry Cooper (Nellie), Paul Van Deinder (Morey), Felipe Dominguez, Norman Tornstrom, Dan Stoward, James Barber, Ernest T. Ramirez, Welton Sample Jr.; **Local 19—** Arthur Speaks (James), Leo Hunska (Marion). **Mary Ann), Arthur Harding (Malie), Cleo Laverty, Vernon Strand; **Local 21—** Daniel Abel; **Local 23—** Rene Aguirre (Travis), Manual Eliz (Elma), Robert Steix (Diane), Ronald Allen (Cheryl); **Local 24—** Ivan Lacey (Ann) **Local 26—** William Good; **Local 94—** Marie Peone (June), Charles Barnes; **Local 40—** Pedro Perez; **Local 47—** David Bemis (Norma); **Local 52—** John Snyder (Rhonda); **Local 54—** Leslie Frey (Ruth), Robert Pierce (Betty); **Local 63—** Lawrence Henon (Paddy), James A. Jackson (Margaret), Gordon Roberts, Robert Weeks; **Local 92—** Carl Koppen (Berlyt), Leland Roundtree; **Local 94—** Herbert Moor (Yake), William Cerrillo (Dixie), Laurence Degelman. (Survivors in parenthesis.)

**DECEASED:**

**Local 4—** Richard Proll; **Local 7—** Walther Robbe (Pauline); **Local 8—** Luke Bescellier (Barbara); Robert Huntley (Patsy); **Local 9—** Don Taylor; Luke Bescellier, Henning Hellesvik, Robert Huntley, James Foster Jr.; **Local 10—** Charlie Sawyer (Lillie), Ray Goodwin (Robbie); Luke Dolman, Carl Stitt, Wilbert Watkins; **Local 12—** Edward Napier (Dawn); **Local 13—** Gilbert Martinez (Marty), Dolph Campbell (Norma), Nick Avala (Marie), Victor Valverde (Julian), James Barber (Claudette), Tony R. Martinez (Adam), George Ireland (Shirley), Ralph Buss (Harriette), Terry Cooper (Nellie), Paul Van Deinder (Morey), Felipe Dominguez, Norman Tornstrom, Dan Stoward, James Barber, Ernest T. Ramirez, Welton Sample Jr.; **Local 19—** Arthur Speaks (James), Leo Hunska (Mary Ann), Arthur Harding (Malie), Cleo Laverty, Vernon Strand; **Local 21—** Daniel Abel; **Local 23—** Rene Aguirre (Travis), Manual Eliz (Elma), Robert Steix (Diane), Ronald Allen (Cheryl); **Local 24—** Ivan Lacey (Ann) **Local 26—** William Good; **Local 94—** Marie Peone (June), Charles Barnes; **Local 40—** Pedro Perez; **Local 47—** David Bemis (Norma); **Local 52—** John Snyder (Rhonda); **Local 54—** Leslie Frey (Ruth), Robert Pierce (Betty); **Local 63—** Lawrence Henon (Paddy), James A. Jackson (Margaret), Gordon Roberts, Robert Weeks; **Local 92—** Carl Koppen (Berlyt), Leland Roundtree; **Local 94—** Herbert Moor (Yake), William Cerrillo (Dixie), Laurence Degelman. (Survivors in parenthesis.)

**DECEASED SURVIVORS:**

**Local 4—** Ruth Laine; **Local 7—** Muriel Wallace; **Local 8—** Ada Hamilton, Velma Allsberg, Sophia Eda Loisa Hines; **Local 10—** Sarah Buller, Rose Lee Barry, Willie Guza, Mabel Bobosh, Freddie Bedsworth, A. M. Bonner, Marietta Newby, Amelia Venegas, Maria Costa, Anne Tatum, Virginia Burke; **Local 12—** Hazel Hanch, Gertrude Currie, Bessie Renick, Mildred Moore; **Local 13—** Margaret Goleazi, Iron Jessen, Barbara Pervis, Selesti Taylor, Thelma McCoy, Tula Palica, John Royce; **Local 14—** Elaine Todd, **Local 19—** Viola Wibb; **Local 21—** Evelyn Scott, Althena Burnham; **Local 23—** Antoinette Ragdale; **Local 27—** Georgia Bond, **Local 29—** Gloria Ruiz; **Local 34—** Marjorie Duarte, Barbara Corenello, Esther Roush; **Local 40—** Thelma Johnson; **Local 50—** Adella Beeler; **Local 63—** Lorraine Bates; **Local 91—** Mairann Machado; **Local 94—** Minnie Oma Garri, Nora Harder, Irene F. Jones; **Local 98—** Alice Spjut, Ivy Jutte.
ILWU-PMA Hurricane Relief

Voluntary Payroll Withholding Authorization

To the Payroll Department:

I hereby voluntarily authorize the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) to withhold from my paycheck the dollar amount specified by me below for the sole purpose of making a voluntary, charitable contribution to the special Hurricane Relief Fund of the AFL-CIO's Union Community Fund (UCF), labor's charity for working families and communities in charitable contribution to the special Hurricane Relief Fund of the AFL-CIO's Union Community Fund (UCF), labor’s charity for working families and communities in need. The Union Community Fund is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations to UCF are, therefore, tax-deductible in the extent provided by law for charitable contributions. If you donate more than $250 to UCF in any calendar year, then UCF will issue you a receipt for tax deduction purposes. Contributions for less than $250 do not need a formal receipt but are still deductible for charitable contributions. Thank you for your generosity in helping those most affected by the hurricanes.

Minimum Amount of Donation

If you choose to participate in this voluntary program, the minimum weekly amount that PMA can withhold from each paycheck is five dollars due to administrative reasons. In deciding what amount, if any, you wish to withhold from your paycheck on a weekly basis, it is important to note that the withholding program will operate throughout the period ending April 30, 2006. You may also choose to cancel your donations at any time before April 30, 2006, by sending a written notice of cancellation to PMA.

Where Will the Money Go?

The funds raised through this payroll withholding program from longshore workers will go entirely to the special Hurricane Relief Fund of the AFL-CIO's Union Community Fund (UCF) and help our working brothers and sisters in the Gulf region devastated by the hurricanes. None of the monies donated will go towards overhead costs or other purposes.

Please make a difference and help our working brothers and sisters get back on their feet.

Thank you for your generous help for working families in dire need.

Your completed form can either be dropped off at any PMA office with the envelope marked "Attn: Payroll Department", or you can mail it directly to:

Attn: Payroll Department
Pacific Maritime Association
101 SW Main Street, Suite 330
Portland, OR 97204

ORDER BY MAIL

copies of ILWU Story® $15 ea.

copies of The Big Strike $10 ea.

copies of Workers on the Waterfront $15 ea.

copies of The Union Makes Us Strong $15 ea.

copies of A Terrible Anger $15 ea.

copies of We Are the ILWU DVD $15 ea.

copies of We Are the ILWU VHS $15 ea.

copies of Life on the Beam $12 ea.

copies of The March inland $15 ea.

Total Enclosed $