



# OFF THE HOOK!

Southern California I.L.W.U. Local 13 - Volume 1 Number 2 April-May, 2005

## SAFETY COMPLIANCE TEAM

By James Mbrti

**S**afety is an issue that has been widely marginalized by the employers and production has been their top priority. How much longer can we as a union allow the employers to ignore safety? For years the employer has flagrantly violated our safety code with impunity. It is now time for the PMA and its member companies to be held accountable for their actions and accept equal responsibility for safety enforcement.

The Compliance Team's goal is to force the employer to comply with the rules set forth in the PCMSC (Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code). The Compliance Team is a trilateral effort. Representatives from each Local 13, 63, and 94 are taking part in overseeing the day-to-day operations at each terminal and logging the infractions from each respective terminal. In the first month alone 211 complaints were written and 127 were filed by our compliance team. These complaints included detailed descriptions and photographs. When our Officers confronted the employers with these complaints it became apparent that safety would no longer be ignored.

Although we've made some progress the compliance program is still in its infancy. We're in an experimental phase right now trying to outline the best course of action and most diplomatic methods of enforcement. One thing is for certain, we can't do it alone. The membership needs to get involved at all levels. We are all responsible for safety. Right now there is a compliance steward program in place that allows the Membership to get directly involved as the eyes and ears of the

union. In February the first letters went out to Members who expressed interest in the compliance steward program. Through the symbiotic efforts of the compliance stewards, compliance team, and Officers we can make an impact. It's not too late to get involved. Compliance stewards meetings are being held once a month. All Members are invited to attend. Information on becoming a compliance steward is available at the Memorial Hall and be sure to check the bulletins for updates. You can text message from your cell phone any questions, comments, useful information, or specific safety concerns can be forwarded to [complianceteam@ilwu63.net](mailto:complianceteam@ilwu63.net).

An effort is being made right now to create a coastwise compliance program. What does the future hold? Only time will tell, but we're heading in the right direction.

## ROCK SOLID



## ON YOUR SIDE

# I.L.W.U. Local 13 Calendar of Events April -may, 2005

Wednesday - April 6, Labor Relations Committee

Thursday - April 14, Class "A" Meeting 7:30pm

Monday - April 11, I.D. Meeting 3:pm & 7:pm

Thurs. - April 14, Executive Board Meeting - 6:30pm

Wed. - April 21, Casuals Meeting 10:15am & 7:15pm

Wednesday - April 27, Labor Relations Committee

Thursday - April 28, Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday - May 4, Labor Relations Committee

Thursday - May 5, Class "A" Meeting 7:30pm

Monday - May 11, I.D. Meeting 3:pm & 7:pm

Thursday - May 12, Executive Board Meeting

Thursday may 19, Casual Meeting 10:15am & 7:15pm

Wednesday - May 25, Labor Relations Committee

Thursday - May 26, Executive Board Meeting



Websites: [ilwu13.org](http://ilwu13.org) and [ilwu.org](http://ilwu.org)

I.L.W.U. Local 13 Telephone Numbers

Local Office (310) 830-1130

Business Agent (310) 830-1877

Health Benefits (310) 830-6116

Dispatch Hall (310) 834-7213

Dispatch "The Tape" (310) 834-7217

Record Clerk (310) 834-7386

Casual Hall (Tape) (310) 607-4974

International (415) 775-0533

Clerks Local (310) 521-6363

Foremens Local 94 (310) 832-1109

Credit Union (310) 834-6411

PMA Training Center (310) 847-1600

Alcohol-Drug Recov. Prog.(310) 547-9966

Memorial Association (310) 830-3591

P.M.A. (562) 495-7600

International Longshore &  
Warehouse Union Local 13  
231 West "C" Street  
Wilmington, California 90744

I.L.W.U. Local 13 Executive Board

Mark A. Mendoza - President

Kevin Schroeder - Vice-President

Harry Dong - Secretary Treasurer

Ray Familathe - Day Business Agent

Larry Manzo - Night Business Agent

Mike E. Freese - LRC Rep..

Richard "Ole" Olson - LRC Rep.

Richard Alvarez

Chris Lomeli

Patrick Bates

Alberto Bonilla

Andrew Kustich

Tuitufu (Tui) Taliulu

Mike Druskovich

John Russo

Cathy Familathe

Sunshine Garcia-Campbell

Jeff Lynn

Mike Hernandez

Joe Marino

Mark Mascola

Greg Mitre

Jack Mendez

Frank Ponce De Leon

Jose Olivares

Sal Pardo

Jeff Bunn

Jesus Puga

Richard Rico

Ray Benavente

Tim J. Podue

Suzie Torres

Trustee's

Frank Kostrencich

Bobby Olvera, Jr.

Pete Capalbo

Publicity Committee

John "J.T." Torres

Dave Burris

Laura Hansen-Lara

D.C. Chavez - Editor

**Off The Hook!**, is the official publication of the I.L.W.U. Local 13. All articles and photos are the property of I.L.W.U. Local 13. Members wishing to submit articles, photos, or cartoons may do so by submitting to the above address, Attn: D.C. Chavez. Include your name, registration number, a phone number and a mailing address with your submission. **Deadline is May 21st.** CD or Floppy Disk formats using PC/Windows operating system are acceptable. Please save your data file in Text (txt) from your word processor. You may submit your files via the internet using the following e-mail address;  
**[offthehooklocal13@charter.net](mailto:offthehooklocal13@charter.net)**

# Presidents Report

By **Dave Arian, President**

**“ALL YOU CAN ASK FOR IS THE RIGHT TO GET INTO THE FIGHT”**

## **LOCAL 13 LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN TO ALL ITS MEMBERS**

**T**here is continuity at Local 13. We must all get behind the new President Mark Mendoza. The election results pointed out clearly that the Membership was looking for a different type of leadership. I have been in many elections; won some lost some but never lost sight of the real importance of have a unified front against the employers.

The struggle around the 2008 contract has already started. The U.S. President and those who would like to weaken or destroy us are putting into play new directives that will attempt to undermine our hiring system and a screening process that undermines our constitutional rights. These new attacks are not about Homeland Security they are about undermining this Union.

After the last contract, The Longshore Division saw the need to begin to prepare for the 2008 struggle. The key to our victory is the commitment of our Membership to better educate themselves and be willing to volunteer their time to build the support we need.

The election of Mayor and our relation to policy maker, is going to be an important part of our victory in 2008.

Local 13 is the largest and most influential Longshore local in the world. We need to expand our connection with Longshore unions around the world. In May we will be hosting an International Conference in Long Beach from workers around the world. We need to take the next step and build relations with the 7 major ports in the world. We need to send a delegation and receive delegations from these ports. The ability of this union and particularly this Local to build these relations will

be important part of our victory in 2008.

The greatness of this Local is the democracy process and the participation of the Members. I want to go on record, thanking our Local 13 Staff and in particular our Secretary/Treasurer, Harry Dong who has done an outstanding job; Tim Podue who made a real contribution to this union; The Business Agents Gilbert Fernandez, Larry Monzo and our two LRC Reps Ole Olson and Norm Tuck.

After 35 years of running for office it is still gratifying that 914 members of this Local put a check by the name of Dave Arian.

Something Harry Bridges said to me over 30 years ago still rings true in my mind **“THE ONLY RIGHT YOU HAVE IN THIS UNION IS THE RIGHT TO BE IN THE FIGHT.”** This election gave me that right and I congratulate Mark Mendoza and offer all my support

In Solidarity,  
Thank you Local 13.  
Dave Arian



"Okay, any other ideas for getting scabs past the picket line?"

## Southern California District Council

**By Cathy Familathe, Delegate**

**T**he SCDC is historically the legislative arm of the ILWU in Southern California. There are three (3) other District Councils: Northern California, Oregon and Washington. All locals (including non-longshore) are encouraged to participant in the council. The Southern California District Council represents all workers in the ILWU from Fresno to the Mexican Border. It focuse's it's work and activities around legislative issues and political action.

The SCDC is planning a *Legislative Conference* in Sacramento on May 9-11, 2005. The purpose of the conference is two-fold - 1) educate current delegates and participants on the ILWU and Political

Action as well as the process and 2) lobby our representatives on issues pertinent to the ILWU such as port security, infrastructure, etc.

The council continues to meet on a regular basis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at ILWU Local 63 - 350 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, San Pedro in the Labor Room. The next meeting is: Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. All individuals interested in participating in Political Action are encouraged to attend. For more information contact: ILWU SCDC - 350 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 207, San Pedro, CA 90731 - Office Phone: 310-521-8796 - Fax: (310) 521-8798 and E-Mail: mail@ilwuscdc.org.

## Community Outreach Committee

**By Sal Pardo, Chair**

**T**he Executive Board approved a comprehensive 5-year Community Outreach Report, which listed all **Donations, Contributions and Sponsorships** that Local 13 has either given to various organizations and/or sponsored various events at the E-Board meeting of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The report detailed the donations, contributions and sponsorships by which organizations or groups the Local gave money to over the 5-year period. It also shows how much money was given to various surrounding communities; i.e., San Pedro, Wilmington, Carson, etc. **Member Collections** were also included. A budget through September of this year based on the findings of the 5-year report was incorporated into the report.

A power-point presentation is scheduled to be presented at the May 2005 membership meeting. For additional information or to join the committee, please contact the following committee members by leaving a message at Local 13 (310) 830-1130: Sal Pardo, Chair; Cathy Familathe, Sunshine Campbell.



**"You get three wishes, but they have to be pre-approved by your HMO."**

# The Second International Pacific Rim Mining and Maritime Unions Seminar

By **Sunshine Garcia-Campbell**

**T**he ILWU will be hosting the Second International Pacific Rim Mining and Maritime Unions Seminar, May, 22-26, 2005 at the Long Beach Convention Center. Joining together to celebrate "Globalizing Solidarity" will be over 200 attendees including: the ILWU Longshore Division; Locals 20 and 30 (chemical processing and mining); ILWU Canada; Local 142 Hawaii; Local 200 Alaska and Alaska Longshore Division; IBU; the AFL-CIO; the U.S. Steelworkers of America; the United Mine Workers of America; the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA); the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ); Zenkowan (Japanese dockers); the Chilean dockworkers and many others.

The 2008 contract negotiations are fast approaching, making this an important time to come together. As multinational owners of capital and resources expand their influence and control globally, employers in one country are increasingly accountable to, and take directions from, corporate decision makers abroad. This is changing the traditional collective bargaining relationship and as the employers think globally, we must also think globally, in order to protect our jurisdiction, safety, medical and pension benefits, and human rights. Other issues to discuss will include port security, the port and rail infrastructure crisis, women's issues and domestic and global trends in the Pacific Rim economy and political environment.

All ILWU members up and down the Coast are welcome to drop in and observe the seminar, which will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center, with participants staying at the Coast Long Beach Hotel.

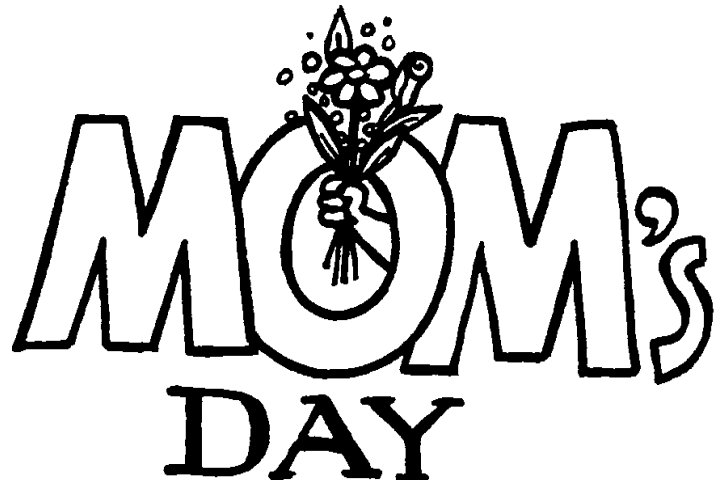
As we welcome labor representatives from mining, steel, stevedoring, and maritime, to the third largest port in the world, (Los Angeles/Long Beach), Locals 13, 63 and 94 have been given the privilege of coordinating the Southern California Host Committee.

In order to make our union brothers and sisters feel at home and welcome, the Southern California Host Committee, organized by Local 13, has formed subcommittees for this purpose. We are asking all available members to donate their time, whether it's only day, or all week, all help is welcomed.

## The subcommittees are:

- **Transportation** - organizing the transportation of all attendees to and from the airport and all daily activities
- **Excursions** - organizing all the family excursions
- **Accessories** - organizing all needed accessories, i.e. name tags and welcome bags for seminar attendees
- **Bar-b-que** - to help organize a bar-b-que.
- **Protocol** - organizing schedules and meeting for other subcommittees.
- **Diplomats** - Diplomats will serve to welcome their assigned guests and ensure that things go smoothly for them. Volunteers are particular needed with Japanese and Spanish language skills.
- **Hospitality Suite** - daily volunteers are needed to participate and organize.

If you are interested in being on the committee, or can help in any way, please contact Sunshine Campbell at the ILWU Memorial Hall, 310-830-1130.



# Membership Committee

**By Julie Brady**

**F**irst and foremost I must make a correction to the article that was printed last month. I misstated the penalty for missing meetings or late payment of dues. Please accept my apology. Here is the correct information:

## **Limited Class "B" Rules and Guidelines**

1. All class "B" registrants must attend all stewards meetings and any other meetings designated by Local 13.

A. Any Class "B" registrant who does not attend their stewards meetings, shall be held back **two weeks for every missed meeting**. B. Any Class "B" registrant who goes delinquent on dues, shall be held back **one month from elevation for each delinquency**.

Please read the following rules regarding your availability requirement as a Class "B" longshore worker. YOU WILL be held accountable for all the following:

1. All Class "B" longshore workers shall work or make themselves available at least 5 days per week.  
2. All Class "B" longshore workers must work at least 70% of the average hours worked by all Class "B" longshore workers in order to meet the minimum availability requirement in any payroll month.

3. The payroll month and the calendar month are not the same. Your availability is monitored and expected to be sufficient in all payroll months. (Copies of the payroll calendar can be obtained from PMA payroll office.)

4. When you are unable to work due to a disability, illness or a doctor's appointment, you shall submit documentation verifying the date you were seen in the doctor's office, the length of time you will be off work, and your return-to-work date. **You may not work during the period of your doctor's note, or the note becomes nullified.**

5. It is **your** responsibility to submit copies of your documentation to all offices listed below, with your name and registration number clearly written at the

top of the page. You shall submit your documentation to the following: PMA (the document must be stamped with the date you submitted it) Dues office (Memorial Hall) Benefits office (Memorial Hall)

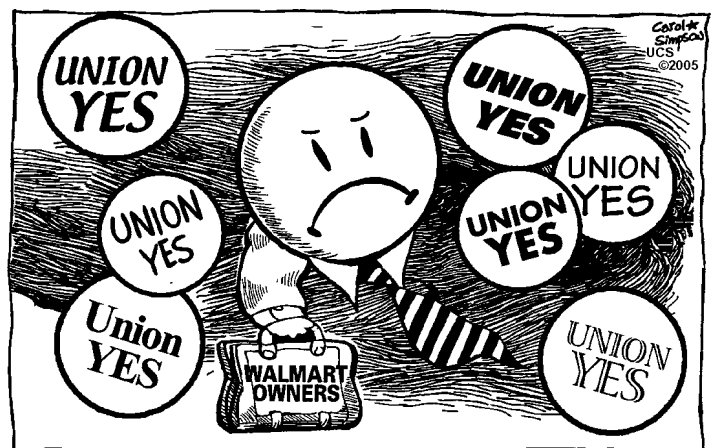
The following is an excerpt from the JPLRC SCLB-284-2001 dated December 14, 2001 in regard to elevations. "Following considerable discussion, the Committee agreed to the following criteria to be used for consideration for elevation from Class "B" to Class "A" longshore status:

A. Individuals found guilty of one Employer complaint shall not be eligible for elevation to Class "A" longshore status for a minimum of 60 days. Individuals who have an open Employer complaint at the time of elevation will not be considered for elevation to Class "A" longshore status until the complaint is resolved and will be held back for the appropriate time period as outlined above, if found guilty of the complaint.

B. Individuals with one unexcused appearance on any single non-availability list will not be eligible for elevation to Class "A" longshore status for a minimum of 60 days.

C. Individuals who worked or were available for work (subject to verification by the JPLRC) less than 400 hours in each payroll quarter in the year in which they were registered or who obtained less

(Continued on next page)



than 1600 hours in a complete payroll year in which they worked or were available for work as registered Class "B" longshore workers will not be eligible for elevation to Class "A" longshore status for a minimum of 60 days.

If an individual has a verifiable injury or confirmed disability which caused him or her to be absent for 30 or more days of work, and he or she failed to obtain a minimum of 1600 hours in a payroll year or 400 hours in a payroll quarter, then the individual will only be considered for elevation to Class "A" longshore status after returning to work for no less than 30 days and obtaining no less than 150 hours.

If an individual has a verifiable injury or confirmed disability which caused him or her to be absent for less than 30 days of work, he or she will be expected to obtain the minimum work hours' requirement of 400 hours in a payroll quarter.

D. Individuals found guilty of more than one employer complaint, more than one unexcused appearance on the non-availability list, or any combination of the above-outlined criteria may be eligible for consideration for elevation to Class "A" longshore status for the sum of the appropriate time period(s) as stated in items A, B, and C.

E. Individuals who worked as "red numbers" must obtain the minimum work hours' requirement as outlined in Item "C."

You should have received the whole document in your package when you were registered.

**UPDATE:**

**Casual Process** - There will be pre-screenings of an additional 1000 perspective new casuals. The number will start at 6713. There will be a group of 500 on March 29, 2005 and another group of 500 on April 12, 2005.

**Elevation Review** - At the end of March there will be a review of members who have been held over. Members will be notified by the first week in April to attend the Union Review if they were released from the employer.

**Registration** - No news yet about future registration.

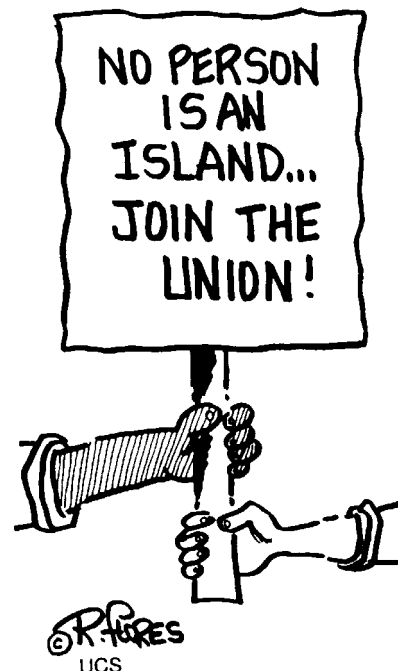
**BE SAFE! KEEP PUMPING!**

## Victory For ILWU The Federal Government Upholds Casual Hiring.

The Officers are pleased to announce that the National Labor Board informed us of its opinion that the Casual Hiring Process of 2004 was conducted fairly and legally. As you know, after we conducted the lottery selection process last summer, charges were filed with the federal government falsely claiming that the process violated the law. After an extensive investigation into these charges, the Board ultimately decided that the process was legal and non-discriminatory.

For months the Officers devoted a great of effort and expense into defending this union against these charges. From the beginning it was our goal to make certain that the casual hiring process was conducted legally and efficiently, and that we had provided an equal opportunity to everyone to join the ranks of the longshore industry. It satisfies us to learn that the federal government has validated our efforts and agrees with us that the hiring process was conducted fairly and within the law.

With these charges now behind us, we can return our focus and energies to the building of a stronger and more united Union whose goals have always been to obtain fair wages and safe working conditions for all of our members.





Stories & News Excerpts From  
**HARRY BRIDGES INSTITUTE**  
**NEWS**

Dan Pasley, Editor

**W**e are privileged to offer a personal remembrance of Harry Bridges on the 15th anniversary of his death. Author and social critic Dick Meister has covered labor issues for four decades as a newspaper and broadcast reporter, editor and commentator. He reminds us of that Harry Bridges' concept of who the union was here to serve.....

**"THE GODDAMN WORKING STIFF —  
THAT'S WHO!"**  
By Dick Meister

He died 15 years ago this month, but I can still see him, a wiry, gray-haired, hawk-nosed man. I can hear him.

I see him pacing restlessly back and forth behind the podium at union meetings, nervously twirling a gavel, puffing incessantly on a cigarette. I hear him calling on members in the broad accent of his native Australia, actually encouraging debate and dissent.

He died in San Francisco at the age of 88 — Harry Bridges, co-founder and for 40 years president of one of the most influential organizations in this or any other country, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Bridges often was irritating to the ILWU's friends and foes alike. He was irascible and obstinate. But he was unquestionably one of the past century's greatest leaders.

Bridges was not in it for money. He retired in 1977 with a pension of merely \$15,000 a year, never having made more than \$27,000 a year, far less than he would have made had he remained a working

longshoreman. Bridges was in it because of his unswerving belief in "the rank-and-file," as he once told me, a naive and inquisitive young reporter — "the goddamn working stiff, that's who! Can you understand that?"

I understood, eventually. And though I and others sometimes harshly questioned Bridges' specific notions of what was needed by working people, none could legitimately question his incredible commitment, skill and integrity.

Bridges saw his lifelong task as shifting wealth from those who owned it to those who created it. To help carry out that task, Bridges and Louis Goldblatt, the brilliant young leader of the warehousemen who worked closely with longshoremen on the docks, put together the ILWU in the mid-1930s.

Operating under the banner of the newly created Congress of Industrial Organizations, the union ultimately extended its jurisdiction to virtually all waterfront workers on the Pacific coasts of the United States and Canada and to workers in a wide variety of occupations in Hawaii.

Bridges and Goldblatt drafted a union constitution that still is unique in the control it grants members, guaranteeing that nothing of importance can be done without direct vote of the ILWU's rank-and-file.

Thanks in large part to Bridges, the ILWU was one of the first unions to be thoroughly integrated racially and has always been probably the country's most socially conscious union.

The union strongly opposed the actions of government officials and others who tried to deny

(Continued on page 15)



## GLOBALIZE THIS!

In every country,  
in every factory,  
in every mine, on every dock  
throughout the world...  
it is more true now than ever ...

“An injury to one is  
an injury to all!”

### Harry Bridges Institute

350 W. Fifth Street / Suite 208  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
310.831.2397 / FAX 310.831.4361  
www.harrybridges.com



#### AT WORK

The Art of California Labor  
Los Angeles Maritime Museum  
Tue-Sat 10-5 / Sun 12-5 (Thru April)  
Berth 84 (Foot of 6th St.)  
San Pedro, CA

May 15

#### LIBERTY HILL DAY

Third Annual Uppie Awards  
With Dennis Kucinich, John Ross and Dr. Michio Kaku  
Warner Grand Theatre  
Sunday 5-7 PM  
478 W. Sixth St. / San Pedro, CA  
(San Pedro Jail) 638 Beacon St  
Cocktail Reception at Seventh Heaven  
7:30 PM  
Info: 310.519.1500

May 20

#### Remembering

Dickie Parker & John Knudsen  
Plus a special dedication to all the ILWU  
workers who have died while on the job.  
John S. Gibson Memorial Park  
Harbor Blvd & Sixth Street / San Pedro  
Friday 10:30 AM  
Chair: Abel Suarez 310.835.0343

#### REGULAR MEETINGS IN THE COMMUNITY LABOR CENTER

First Friday (Monthly)  
ACLU / South Bay Chapter  
7:00 PM / Board Meeting  
Call 310.377.3923 for information

Second Tuesday (Monthly)  
Central San Pedro  
Neighborhood Council  
6:30 PM / Stakeholders Meeting

Second & Fourth Fridays (Monthly)  
San Pedro Neighbors for Peace & Justice / 7:00 PM

Fourth Wednesday (Monthly)  
SEIU 434-B  
6:30 PM / Organizer's Meeting


Fourth Sunday (Monthly)  
San Pedro Neighbors for Peace & Justice / Youth For  
Peace  
The Community Labor Center  
is available for meetings, screenings and workshops for  
community and labor organizations.

Call Stacey 310.831.2397 for information.

Remember

LIBERTY  
HILL  
DAY

May 15



## Political Action Committee

**By Joseph Radisich - Chair**

### *Another Mayoral Debacle?*

**T**he March 9, 2005 mayoral primary turned out to be a replay of 2001. James Hahn and Antonio Villaraigosa survived the primary and will square off in a rematch on May 17, 2005. Villaraigosa achieved the top vote in the primary by almost 10% and James Hahn barely squeaked by Bob Hertzberg to secure the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. Will this be a replay of 4 years ago? Maybe, maybe not.

For one, Local 13 endorsed Villaraigosa in 2001. Labor put up major resources in that campaign, but it was not enough to turn back Hahn's ads linking Villaraigosa to a convicted drug dealer. In the end, Hahn was able to secure the majority of the conservative valley vote, an overwhelming African American vote, and was able to split the vote in the Harbor Area. This is proved to be a very unusual coalition of groups for Hahn.

In November of 2004, Los Angeles labor union's met to vote on an endorsement for this year's mayor's race. Los Angeles labor unions, as well as Local 13, voted in favor of endorsing Hahn for a second term. At this time the considerations were 1) Hahn is the incumbent, 2) Hahn had raised 3 times more money than the other candidates and 3) Hahn, overall, was a solid vote for labor during his 4 years in office. This included support for the ILWU during 2002 negotiations. Hahn seemed like a shoe in.

Fast forward to this year. After the presidential elections of November, the general public seemed to be disinterested in local city politics. But slowly and surely, Hahn's seemingly cake walk into his second term began to erode. Federal investigations into "pay to play" politics dogged his campaign throughout the first months of the year. The leadership in the African American community pulled their support, still mad over the firing of police Chief Bernard Parks and valley voters appear to hold a grudge over Hahn's anti secession

movement.

At the same time as Hahn's decline, Villaraigosa started to rise to the front of the pack, despite the fact that he broke a pledge saying he wouldn't run for mayor. He began to raise money at a faster rate than anybody, and was able to reassemble the majority of his coalition from the last campaign, minus labor. Even more important, many of Hahn's old allies began jumping ship into the Villaraigosa camp. The result was a 105 lead for Villaraigosa in the primary. This included more union members voting for Villaraigosa despite their union's endorsements for Hahn.

So where does this leave Local 13 this time around? Four years ago, Local 13 went out on the limb to endorse Villaraigosa. The thinking was that although Hahn was a good labor candidate, with a good record of supporting the ILWU, Villaraigosa's life long dedication to the labor movement was better.

The thinking was that Villaraigosa could win as well, as evidenced by his 5% lead coming out of the primary. In the end, Local 13 lost in this assessment, and the majority of Los Angeles unions and Local 13 have tried to avoid the same scenario this time by supporting Hahn. The problem is, at this time, Villaraigosa is picking up more support from traditional Hahn allies than vice versa. But there is still a month and a half to go and anything can happen. What's going to be the outcome of this election? Flip a coin! But either way, the ILWU will have a friend of labor sitting as the Mayor of Los Angeles.

**GO  
VOTE!**

# Education Committee Report

**By Patricia Agurie, Chair**

**W**ith the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach booming, Local 13 has brought in thousands of new members over the last five years and thousands more new casuals. The need for membership education about the union and the labor movement is imperative.

The ILWU Education Committee, consisting of Local 13, 63 and 94 is committed to this task. In order to educate all workers on the ILWU regardless of seniority; “the goal of the education committee is to strengthen the ILWU’s solidarity and prepare our membership for the challenges of the 2008 contract and beyond. Therefore, we must revisit and redefine our role as workers and the ILWU.” The committee has separated into 9 subcommittees and is developing educational classes to be taught at meetings.

For the month of January 2005, Ian Ruskin performed part of his one-man play, “From Wharf Rats to Lords of the Docks,” teaching us about the “**Early Maritime History**” of the longshore industry. A booklet entitled “Caretakers of a Great Inheritance” outlined this history in a time line format.

In February 2005, the educational topic was about “**Rank and File Democracy**.” A power point presentation was given as well as a workshop on Parliamentary procedures.

Finally for the month of March 2005 our topic was “**Safety: Dangers Under the Hook**.” The presentation outlined the safety subcommittee’s purpose: to utilize all resources available and educate workers on safety. The objective is to work with the compliance team to disseminate safety education to *all* workers covered under the contract. The ILWU approach to safety:

1. Coast Level: Compliance Team
2. Local Level:
  - a. JAPC – Joint Accident Prevention Committee
  - b. Compliance Stewards

3. Education Level: Safety Subcommittee of the Education Committee.

In April 2005 the education topic will be on “**Big Box Corporations**”. The presentation’s focus will be on how these companies affect labor, our community, and the economy of the nation. In conjunction with Big Box month, the committee is planning a “take action” rally. Apparently Sam’s Club’s policy is to refund your money if you are not satisfied. We are planning to have our members who have Sam’s Club Cards return them to the store all on the same day. The community and the media will be invited.

Lastly, “**International Ports and Solidarity**” is the topic for the month of May 2005. The committee is currently working on a power point presentation and booklet. This topic corresponds with the conference on “Maritime and Mining” held in Long Beach from May 22-26, 2005.

In addition to what the committee is currently working on, help is needed for future classes. The following topics will be covered in the coming months:

1. Contract Crossroads, June 2005
2. How the Longshore Division Works, July 2005
3. How the Local works, August 2005
4. Political Action, September 2005.

As you can see the committee is really active. We encourage all workers regardless of rank or seniority to participate. The Education Committee meets twice a month. The first Monday at 6:30pm and the third Monday at 12:30 pm in Local 13’s executive boardroom. The meetings for the month of April are on the 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and the 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

If there are any questions feel free to call Local 13 at 310-830-1130 and leave a message for the education committee.

## Constitution Committee

**By Jack Mendez, Chair**

**T**he Constitution Committee is a sub committee of the Executive Board. The duties of the Committee are to review amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. These proposed amendments, which add, subtract or change language go through the Executive Board where they are discussed as to their merit. A vote in favor of any change will then be referred to the Committee where we would review the proposal checking to see that the wording is correct and does not conflict with other sections of the Constitution and By-Laws.

A report is then made to the Executive Board where it is included in the Executive Board minutes then as per Article XIV of the Constitution and Article VIII of the By-Laws, the proposed amendment shall be read at two regular membership meetings of the Local at which the Membership must vote in favor of the amendment both times. It is then placed on a ballot and the amendment shall be

incorporated in the Constitution and By-Laws only after receiving a majority vote at a referendum election.

The following three (3) proposals had their first reading at the March 17, 2005 meeting, and are currently working their way through the system.

1. New: Constitution Article II Section 4 – That allows for additional Business Agents to service our growing Membership.
2. New: Constitution Article II Section 5 – That describes how relief Business Agents are employed.
3. Amend: By-Laws Article II Section 2(b) and Article III Section 1(b), which raises the amount of money, held in the Locals General Fund.

The second reading will take place at the April 14, 2005 meeting. I hope to see you there so we can take care of our union business.

---

## Annoucement!

### **Southern California Pensioners Group (SCPG) Abel Suarez**

The SCPG is having a Memorial Service in memory of those brothers that were killed on the waterfront or died as a result of their injuries incurred on the dock.

The event will be held on Friday, May 20th at 10:30 AM - Gibson Park on Harbor Blvd. (between 5th and 6th Streets) in San Pedro.

All are welcome! Any questions call (310) 835-0343 or e-mail: [catsmail13@aol.com](mailto:catsmail13@aol.com).

# ILWU Southern California Pensioners WAGES, PENSION & WELFARE

**By George Kuvakas, Sr., President**

**W**ages in 1945 were \$1.10 per hour. We had 10-hour shifts and were required to work another three hours to finish the ship to sail. We did not have an eight (8) hour guarantee shift, only a 4-hour guarantee. There was no "on and off" only a 15 minute break after lunch. All the work was back breaking, no lifts to move the cargo, only tractors to pull the 4-wheelers of cargo on the docks. We had to keep the cargo hook moving or the boss would be all over us. We couldn't come out of the hatch until five minutes before the hour for lunch or home.

Only less that a score of years ago, conditions of labor on the waterfront of the Pacific Coast Ports were miserable indeed. Pay was low and even part of that had to be kick-backed in one form or another. Work was when you got it and strictly according to a system of favoritism and payoff. There was no job security, no dignity in the work. Stevedoring was an industry of crooked bosses and tramp labor. This is the story of an era of progress on the waterfront told in terms of the gains made by longshore workers and ship clerks through their militancy and union strength.

In 1946, the ILWU Coast wide voted to go on strike for wages and safety conditions. The strike lasted over 139 days, and it was rough. We fought for a small increase in wages and penalty cargos, better safety conditions and we fought back of the company stooges.

Today up and down the west coast, men and women are hired for longshore work through the Joint Dispatch Halls with dispatchers voted in by secret ballot by the respective union. There is no favoritism, no kickback. It is a system under which the "rackets" cannot live. It is a democratic system.

In 1948, after the ship owners and politicians using the National Labor Relations Board and application of the Taft-Hartley Act, failed to smash the solidarity of the Longshore workers and ship clerks, a new coast agreement was negotiated. The hiring hall

was preserved and wages were boosted.

A scheduled day off, usually on a Sunday, was won. The agreement also improved the vacation provision, provided pay for call in at any time reduced the workday and improved overtime rates. At the same time, changes came about in the policies and leadership of the employer organization. It brought an entirely "new look" to the Pacific Coast Waterfront and this had a great share in making possible negotiations for the first time in the industry for welfare and pensions.

In addition to the improvements in conditions, the basic longshore wage in July 1952 was \$2.10 per hour and the annual wage was \$4,500.00.

The ILWU-PMA pension plan was agreed to by both parties, and in July 1952, the first Longshore workers, Clerks and Walking Bosses retired under this agreement.

In 1960, the M&M agreement was negotiated and the employers were given shorter manning scales of gangs and short gangs for container operations. In return, the ILWU was given pensions, health & welfare benefits and a guarantee that these benefits were for a life-time and agreed to by the PMA and Paul St. Sure, the then President of the PMA.



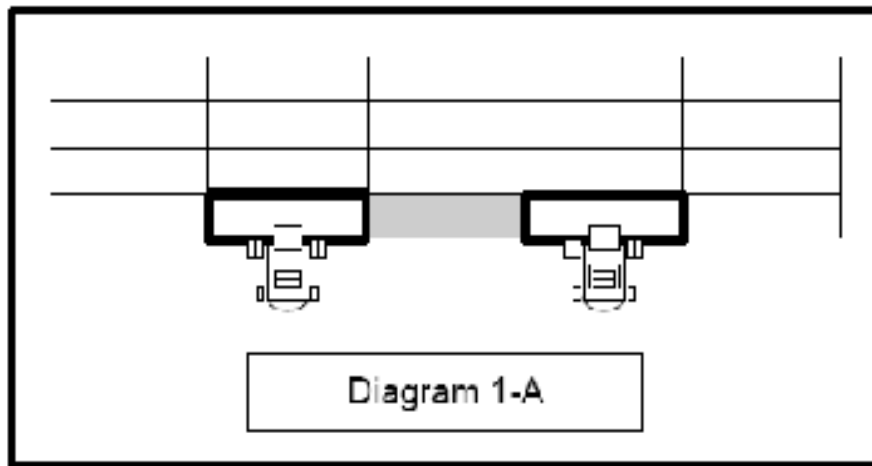
# Pacific Coast Marine Safety Codes

## ILWU-PMA

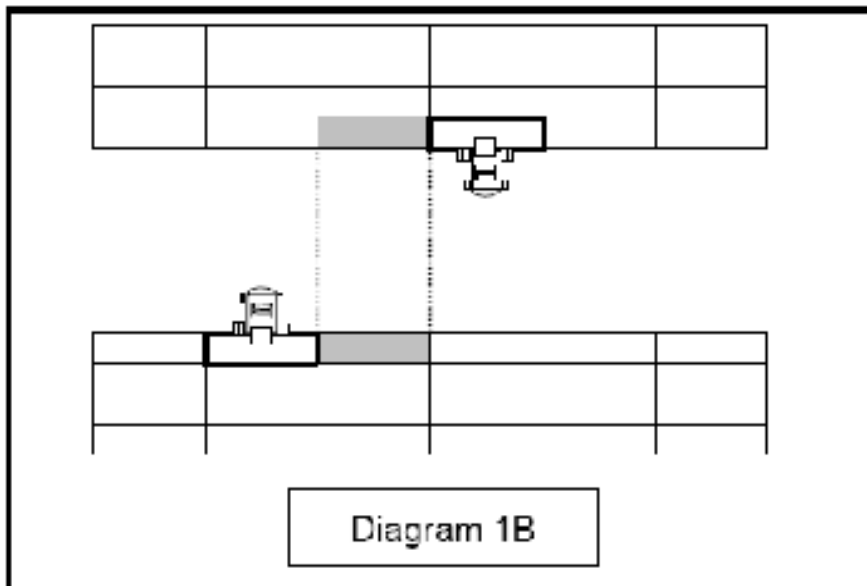
**By Richard Flores**

### **Section 16 Container Terminal Safety Rules Rule 1629**

**Rule 1629.** Top Handlers, Side Handlers or Reach Stackers when working side by side on the same side of the aisle (See diagram 1-A).



or when working on opposite sides of the same aisle (See diagram 1-B) shall maintain a minimum separation of one container length between each operation.



*Check Out The Union Websites!  
ilwu13.org and ilwu.org*

## Deceased List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Book #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Deceased Date</u>
Andrew Koehler	30142	Retired	January 6, 2005
Louie Soto	34315	Retired	January 9, 2005
Charles Harkness	30745	Retired	January 10, 2005
Raymond Amesqua	35087	Active	January 11, 2005
Glen Smith	34581	Retired	January 12, 2005
Ygnacio Garcia	33192	Retired	January 17, 2005
Clarence Cornish	33216	Retired	January 18, 2005
Joel Villar	31094	Retired	January 19, 2005
Jimmie Valbuena	31548	Retired	January 31, 2005
Kendall Tucker	30687	Retired	February 25, 2005
Ernest Lujan	39277	Retired	February 25, 2005

## Retired List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Book #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Retired Date</u>
Daniel Jones	33047	Early	September 1, 2005
Howard Dempsey	06197	Normal	January 1, 2005
John Medina	33368	Normal	January 1, 2005
William Saxon	34767	Normal	January 1, 2005
Edward Matamoros	35958	Normal	January 1, 2005
Frank Espinoza	33921	Normal	February 1, 2005
Joe Braggs	35821	Normal	February 1, 2005

(Continued from page 9)

constitutional rights to many — Bridges included by labeling them as communists, establishing important precedents that enhanced the civil liberties of everyone.

The ILWU under Bridges was an outspoken foe of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, even at a time when most other unions enthusiastically supported involvement. And members backed their opposition to oppressive regimes abroad by refusing to handle cargo bound for or coming from their countries.

All that has been done by the ILWU, has been done only with the agreement and deep involvement of the union's rank-and-file. That's how Harry Bridges wanted it, and how very fortunate we are that he did. Few organizations anywhere have done more for the "working stiffs" to whom he devoted his life.

For complete set of Harry Bridges News visit [www.HarryBridges.com](http://www.HarryBridges.com)  
 You may contact Dick Meister by email: [dickmeistersf@earthlink.net](mailto:dickmeistersf@earthlink.net)  
[www.dickmeister.com](http://www.dickmeister.com)).

# *Attend Your Monthly Local Meeting*

Your invited to speak-out on the issues! Bring someone with you!

# March 2005 Election Results

<b>President:</b>	Mark A. Mendoza	<b>Executive Board:</b>	Chris Lomeli
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Kevin Schroeder		Patrick Bates
<b>LRC Representative:</b>	Mike E. Freese		Andrew Kustich
<b>Day Business Agent:</b>	Ray Familathe		Tuitufu (Tui) Taliulu
<b>Day Dispatchers:</b>	Donnie Puliselich		John Russo
	Louis "P-Nut" Ybarra		Jesus Puga
	Joe A. Ponce		Sunshine Garcia-Campbell
	Richard Campos		Cathy Familathe
	DeWayne Forster		Jeff Lynn
<b>Casual Hall Dispatcher:</b>	Tom "TC" Connelly		Joe Marino
<b>Chairman Of Stewards:</b>	Ramon Ponce de Leon		Frank Ponce De Leon
<b>Casual Hall Sgt-At-Arms:</b>	Tom "Big T" Martinez		Greg Mitre
<b>Publicity Committee:</b>	John "J.T." Torres		Mark Mascola
	Laura Hansen-Lara		Jeff Bunn
	Dave Burris		Ray Benavente
<b>Promotions Committee:</b>	Antonio "TC" Connelly		Alberto "Twin" Bonilla
	John "J.T." Torres		Jose Olivares
<b>Grievance Committee:</b>	John Russo		Jack Mendez
	Tuitufu (Tui) Taliulu		Tim J. Podue
	Steve Serafin		Richard Alvarez
	Dave Burris		Mike Hernandez
	Mark Mascola		Richard Rico
	Richard Alvarez		Sal Pardo
	Antonio Di Iorio		Suzie Torres
	Jeff Bunn		Mike V. Druskovich
	Cesar A. Huizar		
	Trina Sandoval	<b>Trustees:</b>	Bobby Olvera, Jr
<b>Membership Committee:</b>	Ricky Rivas		Peter Capalbo
	Cathy Familathe		
	Julie Brady		
	Sal Pardo		
	Richard Dines		
	Suzie Torres		
	Ray Ponce		
	Bruce "Le" Yip		
	Albert Garcia		
	John Espinoza, Jr.		
	Stephanie Carr		
	Lisa Tonson		
	Mike Ponce		
	Mike Hernandez		
	Melody Jeffries		
	Mike Contreras		