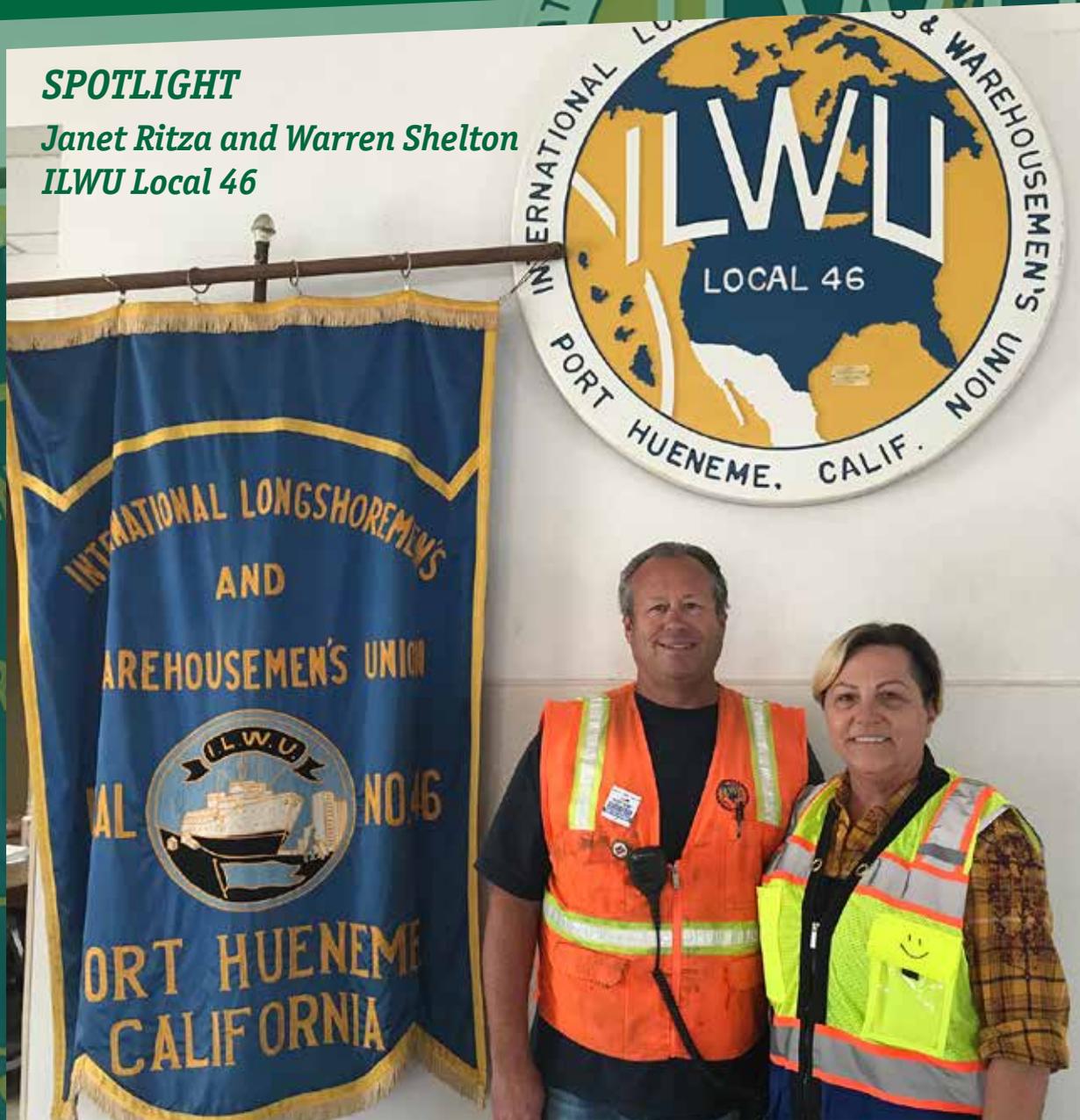


HUENEME DOCK TALK

SPOTLIGHT

Janet Ritza and Warren Shelton
ILWU Local 46



Committed to Community



The Port
OF HUENEME
Oxnard Harbor District

FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

Your Port of Hueneme Commissioners



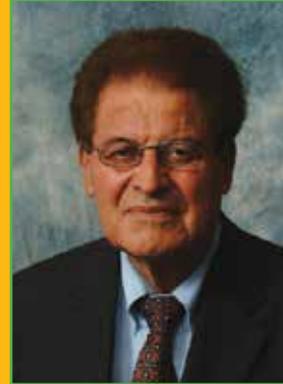
Mary Anne Rooney
President



Jess Herrera
Vice President



Jess Ramirez
Secretary



Dr. Manuel Lopez
Commissioner



Jason T. Hodge
Commissioner



Port Overview

The Port of Hueneme is one of the most productive and efficient commercial trade gateways for niche cargo on the West Coast. The Port is governed by five locally elected Port Commissioners. The Port moves \$9 billion in goods each year and consistently ranks among the top ten U.S. ports for automobiles and fresh produce. Port operations support the community by bringing \$1.5 billion in economic activity and creating 13,633 trade-related jobs. Trade through the Port of Hueneme generates more than \$93 million in direct and related state and local taxes which fund vital community services. In 2017, the Port of Hueneme became the first port in California to become Green Marine certified.



Message from the Board President

Greetings from the Oxnard Harbor District,

It is my pleasure to bring you the Fall 2018 edition of *Dock Talk* as it celebrates our dedicated International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 46 members at the Port. The Port is much more than just big ships and cargo, it is the people of our local community who work tirelessly day in and day out to provide our region access to the global world of international trade. Many of these men and women have third and fourth generation roots in our local community.

This edition of *Dock Talk* also includes a highlight of our high school and college interns who spent their summer or semester working at the Port (see page 14.) As you know, engaging and educating the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs is at the core of who we are at the Port. From our MAST Expo in the spring to our Global Trade and Logistics High School class starting back up this fall, we aim to open the eyes of our youth to the opportunities in the maritime industry. Several of our interns have taken the knowledge they learned during their time at the Port to new opportunities in education and employment. One of our current interns is even the son of a fourth generation ILWU Local 46 member! See page 11 to read more.

This month is marked not only by the start of the new school year, but is also home to our annual Banana Festival. This year will be the 7th consecutive year for our beloved festival, and with each year it seems to get bigger and better than the last! Make sure to mark your calendar for September 29th and come down to help us celebrate all the new and exciting developments taking place at the

Port. We will have live bands, waterside tours of the Port where you can see our latest construction projects underway, and don't forget to enjoy over forty banana inspired foods and treats! One



of the projects you will be able to get a first-hand look at is our Port Deepening Project, as we deepen the harbor from 35 to 40 feet. The sand from this project will be brought around the corner to be used as near-shore replenishment for Hueneme Beach to guard against erosion.

This year, we are doing something extra special at the Banana Festival. We are launching our "Fill the Container" initiative. The Port is calling on our local community to pull together and fill one of our shipping containers with new and gently used clothing, school supplies, and toys for children in Guatemala. The supplies gathered between the Banana Festival and Christmas will be sent directly to the school children of Guatemala to help them in their academic learning in the new year. I look forward to spreading the spirit of investing in not only our local youth, but the youth around the world as leaders of tomorrow.

Best Regards,

President Mary Anne Rooney
Port of Hueneme, Oxnard Harbor District

Welcome from Port Director Kristin Decas



Greetings from our Port family and welcome to the fall edition of our newsletter, *Dock Talk*. This month, the Port is gearing up to host its 7th Annual Banana Festival on September 29th. This festival is one of my favorite events of the year as the Port is able to open up its doors to our local community on a large scale. I get to interface with you to share all that is going on

at your Port, while we enjoy some delicious banana treats! This edition of *Dock Talk* celebrates the hardworking members of our Port family including our local ILWU #46 and our high school and college interns. As you dive into this issue, you will learn that many members of our Port team have deep roots here on the docks, including a family of four generations of longshoreworkers. You will also learn about first generation longshorewomen who have changed their lives by climbing one of the ladders of opportunity the Port offers.

What's Up on the Docks?

As the fiscal year closed on June 30th, we are on track to have our highest cargo growth year yet. Increases in our fresh fruit imports and exports led the Port to close FY2018 with \$1.6 million revenue tons of cargo, an 8% increase over last year. Year to date, the automotive segment has been outperforming the national trends, proving to continue to be a strong niche market for our region. Export growth is forecasted to exceed 40% over the next year.

Literally working around the clock, we are advancing several construction projects at the Port including our Intermodal Infrastructure Project and our Harbor Deepening Project. The resurfacing and paving taking place on both terminals is nearly complete, and will provide increased efficiencies and safety for our customers. This project also included structural reinforcement on our south terminal to enable our cranes to handle heavier cargo. This project goes hand in hand with our Harbor Deepening Project. The deepening enables vessels calling at the Port to load heavier with more cargo, as well as allows us to accommodate slightly larger vessels. This increased

capacity will create over 50 new jobs and generate \$4.6M in local and state tax revenues, a real win-win for our customers and our local community! In addition, the Port has completed retrofitting the high mast lighting to LED earlier this month. This will provide better lighting for the longshoremen and others working on the docks, a benefit to our environment and customers. Start reading on the next page to learn more about our Port projects.

In addition to the construction projects on dock, the Port continues to be a champion for protecting our local environment through various eco-initiatives and utilizing green construction materials. For example, we welcomed 169 eco-friendly pilings (see page 6) to help protect and reinforce the wharf for the Harbor Deepening Project. These are state-of-the-art pilings and represent the exciting green innovation taking place in our industry. I am proud to report that all of this hard work is being recognized on the national and international levels. This summer, the Port was recertified for its second year as the first and only Green Marine Port in the state. And last week, the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), which represents over 130 ports in North, Central, and South America named the Port the recipient of the 2018 Comprehensive Environmental Management Award. We are leading the pack, and will continue to strive to become greener and cleaner each year!

We have had a great summer celebrating the diversity of our community with you at the Salsa Festival, Heritage Square Summer Concert Series, Chamber of Commerce events, Jazz Festival, Fiestas Patrias (Mexican Independence Day Parade), Military Appreciation Mixer, the Heart Walk, and local neighborhood cleanups. I look forward to seeing you all at the Banana Festival on September 29th at the Port!

We are proud to work for you. Please visit us at the Port, online at www.portofh.org and connect with us through our social media channels.

Sincerely,
Kristin Decas
CEO & Port Director

Project Highlights

What's in the works at the Port?

Intermodal Infrastructure Project

EDA Pavement Rehabilitation Project

The project focuses on repaving and improving 13 acres of Port terminal space. This project includes an improved concrete pad for the mobile harbor cranes as well as further improvements to the squid dock. Paving rehabilitation throughout the Port will support smoother and more efficient cargo operations, safer roadway conditions, and benefit customers for years to come.

The project is possible in large part thanks to a \$1.5 million grant awarded from the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA).

This project will allow the Port to continue to meet the needs of existing and new customers. It will also improve on-dock safety for all, extend the useful life of our shallow docks, and reduce the wear and tear on the equipment utilized every day by customers and the Port. The improvements at the mobile harbor crane pad will substantially improve operations by increasing the area for heavy cargo handling without the typical wear and tear of asphalt.

The pavement rehabilitation project is scheduled to be completed by October 2018.

Deepening Project

The Port is scheduled for authorization to deepen its shipping channel from 35 ft. to 40 ft. By deepening the channel, the Port will improve its efficiency and ocean carriers will be able to more fully utilize the cargo capacity of their vessels, which can mean more jobs and revenue to local economy. The dredged sand will also support beach nourishment.

The deepening project was secured with \$12.3 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Port

will be deepening and improving along Berths 1 and 2 in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers deepening of the main entrance channel. Construction materials are arriving, and the project is on track to begin later this year.

Port Lighting Project

The Port is in the process of upgrading and retrofitting over 130 light fixtures across the entire Port complex. This project is part of the Port's initiative to reduce its environmental footprint by improving energy usage through transitioning to LED lighting. Not only will this project reduce the Port's energy consumption but also make the Port a safer working environment during nighttime operations. The lighting project should be completed by the end of summer 2018.

1B Demo

Another planned project in the works for the Port is the demolition of Building 1B which is located alongside Berth 2. The demolition of Building 1B will allow for greater optimization of terminal space, cargo operations, and vessel berthing. The Port has completed 75% of the demolition design and is currently working with the City of Port Hueneme on plan checks and permitting before finalizing 100% design and moving forward with construction.

PHRESH

The Port is proactively beginning development of a clean air plan in partnership with the local air quality regulatory agency, the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD). This plan will address the Port's emissions, air quality goals, future growth, control strategies, community involvement, funding and implementation. The Plan will be called: Port of Hueneme Reducing Emissions & Supporting Health (PHRESH). Stay tuned for more on PHRESH! ♦



Port Receives Green Marine Recertification



The Port recently completed the annual recertification process to maintain their Green Marine certification, reporting even greener scores than last year. This comes one year after the Port made history as the first port in the state to earn the certification. The Port is pushing full speed ahead with environmental initiatives and projects. “We approach our strategic planning, construction projects, and day-to-day operations with the goal of strengthening our community through creating good paying jobs and a clean environment, these go hand in hand for us,” said Oxnard Harbor District President Mary Anne Rooney. “This would not be possible without the support and collaboration of our community and local stakeholders who partner with us to implement innovative and cutting-edge strategies and projects.”

“Since becoming Green Marine certified last year, we have been successful in implementing new technologies and best practices at the Port including a new zero waste policy, phasing in high mast LED lighting to reduce energy use and light pollution, overhauling a harbor patrol boat to reduce emissions, switching to compostable supplies, and hosting zero waste events,” said Port CEO Kristin Decas. “We have also been pursuing new grant opportunities to help the

Port build greener infrastructure and procure zero-emission cargo handling equipment.”

Over the past year, the Port has continued to make strides in their waste reduction program which included the Board of Harbor Commissioners adopting a new zero waste policy. This action was rewarded with a higher score by Green Marine in the waste management category this year. The Port also improved their internal coordination for spill prevention which led to even higher marks for that category in which the Port already had five stars. In addition, the Port also maintained its five-star rating in Community Impacts and Environmental Leadership.



Green Marine’s environmental program assists ports, terminal operators and shipping lines in reducing their environmental footprint through a comprehensive program that addresses key environmental issues and criteria using 11 performance indicators. The Port received the highest possible scores in spill prevention, environmental leadership, and community impact categories. Being that Green Marine is completely voluntary, it affirms even further the Port of Hueneme’s commitment to staying on the leading edge of environmental stewardship. ♦

Welcoming Eco-Friendly Supplies for Deepening Project

During this summer, the Port welcomed new eco-friendly pilings for their new harbor deepening project set to begin later this year. The new pilings came to the Port onboard its own rail, and entered on the South Spur at the Sunkist Lot.

As the pilings are impervious to marine creatures and salt water, they are not treated with chemicals as traditional pilings would be, and therefore do not harm any of the marine life in the harbor. This is an added protection measure the Port made sure to invest in when procuring the new construction materials.

“These new eco-friendly pilings will help support and reinforce the Port’s South Terminal as the Harbor is dredged from 35 feet to 40 feet deep over the next several months,” said Oxnard Harbor District President, Mary Anne Rooney. “The deepening project will allow our existing customers to load their ships with more cargo, thus increasing efficiency and reducing air emissions all while creating more family sustaining jobs for our local community; 563 jobs, to be specific.”

Overall, the Port estimates this project will result in \$28 million in increased business revenue, \$5.8 million in additional local purchases, and \$4.6 million in state and local tax revenues that will go to providing vital safety and community services to our cities.

Bedford Technology, located in Worthington, MN,

manufactured the environmentally friendly pilings. “Bedford Technology is honored to partner with the Port of Hueneme on this project that helps the environment and local economy,” said Jesse W. Hooge, Director of Sales Training & Multi-X Sales at Bedford Technology. “Our products, manufactured in the United States, are engineered from recycled plastic into a sustainable building material that is built for generations to come. This project alone will divert over 1.5 million pounds of HDPE plastic out of the landfill and help support the Port of Hueneme’s environmental and sustainability initiatives.”

Kristin Decas, Port CEO remarked, “These pilings will support the Port’s foundation serving as the pillars that enable our business community to move products around the world, creating jobs and economic growth.” Decas added, “Environmental stewardship and sustainable growth are knitted into the very fabric of how the Port does business. With the beach replenishment component, the project serves as a significant environmental win for our local community.” ♦



A delivery of pilings arrives by rail at the Port of Hueneme.

Celebrating World Trade Week with Innovation in Trade and Technology Expo

The Port hosted the “World Trade and Innovation” Expo on May 23, 2018 – an event to celebrate its 5th annual Maritime Advanced Systems and Technologies (MAST) Expo together with trade partners, and highlighting World Trade Week.

During the event, the Port collaborated with Naval Base Ventura County, EDC-VC, and GT2 for a successful annual Coastal Trident Security Exercise at the Harbor. This event fosters leading edge technological innovation and integration in a port and maritime environment for local and regional safety and emergency response agencies. Over forty exhibitors had interactive displays with technological innovations including flying drones, lasers, and x-ray cameras. Students from Santa Paula, Oxnard, Channel Islands High Schools and R.J. Frank Academy of Marine

the future of trade and the economy in the region.

The afternoon specifically highlighted the various partnerships between the Port and trading partners all over the world. As a World Trade Center licensee, the Port partnered with the Economic Development Collaborative

Ventura County (EDC-VC), California SBDC, Los Angeles Regional Network, U.S. Commercial Service,

United States of America Department of Commerce, Naval Base Ventura County, and GT2 to highlight the economic opportunity and potential for trade the Port offers the region. Consuls General and high-ranking trade officials representing four continents also participated as speakers and special guests.

Sun Fresh International, a Visalia-based exporter of fresh fruit grown in California and the Pacific Northwest, was awarded the Port of Hueneme’s “Export Achievement Award.” Sun Fresh International uses all three weekly container ocean services at

World Trade and Innovation



President Rooney and James Neeley, Logistics Manager of Sun Fresh International, recipient of the Port of Hueneme Top Exporter Award



Science and Engineering Middle School joined the event to engage with the various exhibitors and trade consulates present.

Over 400 people were greeted by Oxnard Harbor District President Mary Anne Rooney who commented, “Our goal at the Port is to facilitate trade for our region. We aim to provide economic opportunity and vitality to those individuals and businesses who are the life-blood of our communities across our state and across our nation.” Rooney continued, “we also believe in moving our industry forward toward a more sustainable and innovative future. I am inspired by all of the conversations and collaborations taking place today among our customers, trade consulates, public safety agencies, elected representatives, and students here today.”

During the lunch hour, event attendees heard from the keynote speaker, Erick Went of Matter Labs regarding blockchain and how technology is shaping up to change

Continued on page 13

Capt. Jeff Chism and Kristin Dscas



Erick Went of MatterLabs



STEM student and Chris Millar of Datastew





A longshoreman watches as autos are driven off a ship at the Port of Hueneme.

Below, left: The auto transport ship Wilfred landing 817 Volkswagens at the Port, circa late 1970s.

Below, left at bottom: A group of longshoremen in the 1990s, including ILWU Local #46 President Warren Shelton at far left.

Below, right: the display case in the ILWU Hall on Port commemorates ILWU members who have passed on.



Port Hueneme Historical Society Museum



A Long History

ILWU on the Port

The Port of Hueneme is the only deep seawater port between the San Francisco Bay Area and San Pedro. Its rich history and continued success is also the successes of 13,633 people that are employed because of the Port of Hueneme's operations; more than 400 of them work on the Port as ILWU longshoremen and live in Ventura County. The Port is the 4th largest employer in the County and each year it continues on its mission to grow the family-sustaining job opportunities in maritime-related careers for the communities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme and the entire County as a whole.



Janet Ritza and Warren Shelton (at left) are familiar sights in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local #46 hall at the Port of Hueneme. As Marine Clerk, Janet is also Chief Dispatcher, and Warren is Marine Clerk as well as the Local #46 President, they are, to put it simply, responsible for keeping track of cargo. “Basically, we do the prep work for the cargo coming off the ships,” says Warren. “We keep track of time logs and making sure the cargo goes in the right place in the yard, and keeping the job running efficiently.”

But in addition to their dispatch duties, there is a wide variety of tasks they perform, during their very long hours at the Port. Janet’s additional title of “Secretary” is an umbrella over quite a number of activities at which she does her best to accomplish for the members.

Janet gives out all the jobs and assigns the people to where they’re going to work for the day. She also keeps an eye on workers’ health and welfare and, as she says, “everything that goes along with being part of the union.”

Janet’s father was a Seabee at Naval CBC Port Hueneme which brought the family here in 1968. She had multiple jobs and then when she was 21, landed her casual longshore worker job in 1980. After working for Mazda at the Port, she has been a proud union worker.

Warren’s connection to the Port was also through family. “My dad was a longshoreman for 33 years at the Port,” he says. “I started as a part-time casual and later became registered.” In addition to Warren’s many duties on Port, he is serving as President of the ILWU Local #46, a yearly elected position. He has been active in running the Union since 1991.

There was not a lot of work in the early days. It was the entry of the United States into World War II that brought a need for longshoremen to the Port, which had been taken over by the US Navy under eminent domain—warships needed loading, and the ILWU was there to do it.

For the first six decades of the Port’s existence, a lot changed with the ILWU; prior to the new millennium, a person looking for work could just come on to Port to the hiring hall and see what was available. Finding workers for the day was about the boss pointing and saying, “you you you,” says Warren. “Things are a lot different now.”

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 changed the way this Port—and all ports—operate. “Everything had to change,” says Warren. Virtually anyone who comes to a port unescorted are now required to obtain a Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) card. Radiation sensors, camera surveillance and more are now the norm.

But how has the work changed? Janet and Warren remember doing things a lot differently, back when they started at the Port—both of them in 1980; both became ILWU workers in 1986.

Spotlight: ILWU Local #46

The Port now imports and exports mostly fruits, autos and fertilizer, although there has been much different cargo in the past. “We used to hand-stow eggs to go to Saudi Arabia,” says Warren. “In big cartons, like 70 pound boxes. We would start in an empty ship, and load it from the bottom of the ship to the top of the ship—hand-stow the cartons so they lost no space.”

“Years ago, people didn’t want to be longshoremen,” he says. “When Janet and I started, she was throwing 50 pound banana boxes from the ship to conveyer belts all day—for 8 hours a day, throwing them one by one.” Janet adds that “it was work, hard work.”

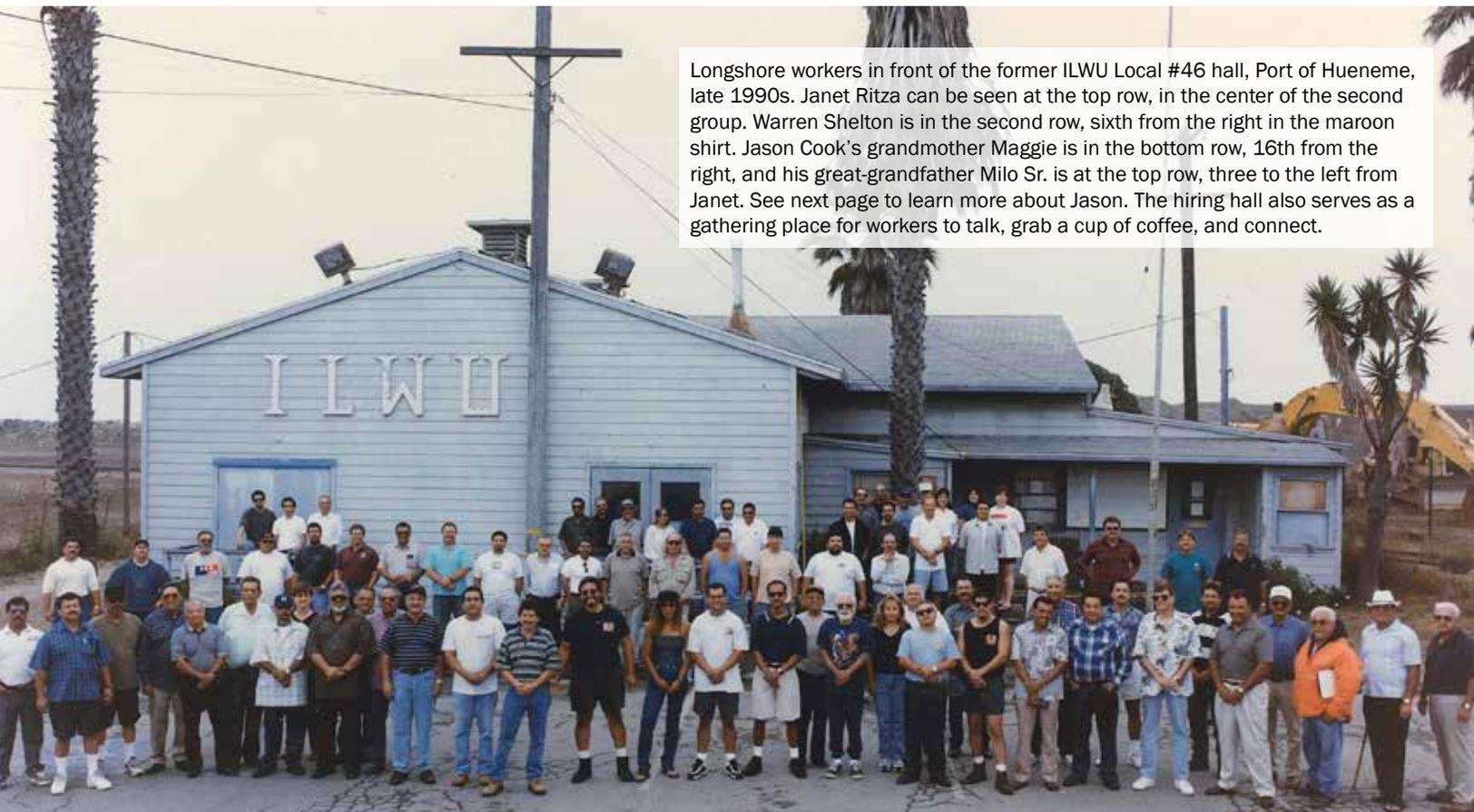
Warren agrees. “It’s hard on your body. Now, it’s changed, the work’s changed.”

Today’s work has its own challenges. “Discharging the cargo is faster but more dangerous,” says Warren.

When auto cargo began arriving at the Port in 1977, they were swung, individually, onto the dock from the ship via winches. Now, drivers are shuttled onto the ro-ro (auto) ships, driving each vehicle individually onto port. Drivers are classified as being one of the longshore worker categories, a designation that also includes mobile crane operators, forklift operators, lashers, gearmen, mechanics, reach stacker operators, UTR operators and dock workers. Longshoremen also work on vessels at the Naval Base Ventura County as needed. Casuals are temporary, non-union employees who receive longshoreman assignments as they arise. Getting into the ILWU is highly competitive process, currently approximately 14,000 ILWU workers are employed at West Coast ports. Getting work for the day at the Port of Hueneme is dependent on if (and how many) ships are in. As Janet remarks, “our schedules are the ships.”

Warren acknowledges that being in the ILWU is most often a “lifetime gig.” In their nearly 40 years of knowing each other, Janet and Warren “still get along,” according to Janet.

Vice President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners Jess Herrera has a long and dedicated record of service during his many years at the Port of Hueneme. He was first elected as Port Commissioner in 1994. He served ten terms as executive officer of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). He has been a leading



Longshore workers in front of the former ILWU Local #46 hall, Port of Hueneme, late 1990s. Janet Ritza can be seen at the top row, in the center of the second group. Warren Shelton is in the second row, sixth from the right in the maroon shirt. Jason Cook’s grandmother Maggie is in the bottom row, 16th from the right, and his great-grandfather Milo Sr. is at the top row, three to the left from Janet. See next page to learn more about Jason. The hiring hall also serves as a gathering place for workers to talk, grab a cup of coffee, and connect.

advocate for dock workers and working conditions, and enhancing working relationships among labor, Port users and the administration. He has served eight terms as Chairman of the ILWU's Southern California regional jurisdiction committee which, in addition to the Port of Hueneme, also included the Ports of LA, Long Beach and San Diego. He is also a longshoreman who works as a marine clerk at the Port of Hueneme, helping coordinate the flow of ships and cargo in and out of the Port.

Board of Harbor Commissioners Secretary Jess Ramirez has been dedicated to working with ILWU for 33 years and has worked on the waterfront for 51 years of his career. He was first elected to serve on the Board of Harbor Commissioners and provide leadership in 1992. He is often seen on dock working different shifts and types of work, whether being on the weekly Chiquita ship assisting in the discharge of the fruit containers, or driving the cars inside the ro-ro ships. Commissioner Ramirez has always been a well-known and respected leader inside and outside of the Port. His dedication and excitement about educating young people is often seen when he proudly talks about his four daughters and their accomplishments, including their degrees from some of the best colleges and universities in the United States. The work he's been doing at ILWU and with the Oxnard Harbor District's community has allowed him to additionally contribute to continued child education, local charities, musical plays and theater performances as well as international charities through his extensive Port and community network. ♦



Port of Hueneme longshoremen move cartons of Del Monte bananas off a ship and onto Port via conveyor belts. Circa 1980s.

We Are Family: Five Generations of ILWU on Port



Jason Travis Cook, Jr. is currently an intern at the Port of Hueneme, but he plans on following in the footsteps of many of his family members and to become a longshoreman.

Jason came to work at the Port through his attendance of the Port's Global Trade and Logistics Class, offered to Oxnard Union High School District students. His standout performance earned him a paid internship, and he has been taking on administrative projects and working with the Operations staff since the summer of 2018. Currently taking independent studies at Condor High School, he will be graduating in the spring of 2019.

Jason's passion is cars. He plans to go to University Technical Institute (UTI) to become an automotive mechanic, and would like to utilize his skills on Port.

He reflects on his Port experience so far. "Working at the Port of Hueneme has had an influence on me," Jason says. "I was able to learn all the great opportunities the Port has to offer like being a harbormaster, tug boat captain, automobile driver, or longshoreman."

His family has been living in the Oxnard area for more than 100 years. He says his great-grandmother came to Oxnard as a little girl and that "she remembers when there were more churches than houses in El Rio."

His desire to be at the Port is one of legacy; he says his great-great grandfather worked at the Port in the 1940s, making Jason, when he joins, the fifth generation family member to be a proud Local #46 worker. Other family members that are or have been longshoremen at the Port include two grandparents, both parents (each at the Port nearly 20 years), four aunts, two uncles, and too many cousins to count!

Financial News

National Recognition for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Port was notified in June 2018 that it would again be receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This makes the eighth consecutive year the Port has been recognized. This certificate is awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the recipients having an outstanding Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR recognition is the highest award given for governmental accounting and financial reporting.

“We are honored to accept this Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the eighth consecutive year,” said Mary Anne Rooney, Oxnard Harbor District President. “This award affirms our administration’s commitment to the highest standards of accurate and transparent reporting, and continues to build community trust in the Port.”

Andrew Palomares, the Port’s Deputy Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer, attributes the CAFR award to the hard work the entire District staff puts into the preparation of the report. “It takes a team effort from all departments to put forth a comprehensive and complete CAFR. This type of organization-wide effort is indicative of just how seriously the District takes the fiscal responsibility we have to the cities and communities within our boundaries. I am especially proud of the District’s Accounting Department who work all year long maintaining top-notch record keeping for the District.” The Port’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was judged by an impartial panel, which reviewed it for particular standards and for showing a “spirit of full disclosure” in the Port’s financials. ♦

Port Prioritizes Fiscal Responsibility by Pre-Funding Retiree Health Benefits

The Port continues to reduce unfunded liability by contributing another \$500,000 to the Oxnard Harbor District’s account with the California Employers’ Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT). This money is in addition to the \$500,000 pre-funded last July.

The Oxnard Harbor District opened an irrevocable trust account with CERBT last summer in an effort to reduce their unfunded OPEB liability. OPEB liabilities largely consist of health care premiums for retired employees. It was estimated in July of 2016 that the District had \$8.9 million of Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) for OPEB liability. This additional \$500,000 payment will reduce this amount today and grow with an average interest rate of 7%.

A 2014 study conducted by United States Common Sense, a policy analysis group started at Stanford University, found the State of California to have over \$150 billion of unfunded OPEB debt. One of the major problems attributing to this daunting number is that most public agencies only utilize the pay-as-you-go funding method for OPEB. In taking steps now by adding the pre-funding element, the Port is avoiding passing on debt to future generations and preventing potential budget shortfalls in future years.

Andrew Palomares elaborated, “As we continue to grow, our aim is to contribute to this fund to keep reducing the District’s unfunded liability. By making this a priority now, there is real potential to have the District’s OPEB costs fully funded within the next two decades.” The Port recognizes these steps are as much an investment in the community as they are in the Port’s employees. ♦



MAST continued from page 7

the Port—including Great White Fleet, Network Shipping, and SeaLand—from the Port to Central and South America. James Neeley, Logistics Manager for Sun Fresh International, was there to receive his second award from the Port, his company also won the Export Achievement Award in 2016. In his own words, “Other Ports don’t

compare to the Port of Hueneme.”

Other Ports don’t compare to the Port of Hueneme.

— James Neeley
Sun Fresh International

Stellar Biotechnologies, Inc. of Port Hueneme and Mission Produce of Oxnard were honored as recipients of the “Leadership in Technology &

Innovation Award” for their unwavering commitment to being a leader in applying new technology to move our region and society forward.

CEO and Port Director Kristin Decas concluded the World Trade portion of the day by saying, “Our partnerships are growing, our reach is incredible, I am thankful to everyone that was here today to celebrate innovation and global trade. With some recent anxiety in the market over tariff talks, this event highlights how interconnected we are with our partner countries and how working together helps us create jobs and solve problems.”

The Port concluded the day with a reception to welcome incoming Commanding Officer of the Naval Base Ventura County, Jeff Chism.

Christina Birdsey, Port of Hueneme COO, reflected on the day’s events, “One of the most important outcomes from this event is connecting people and technologies. We want to foster this growth and have our communities benefit.”

Elected officials in attendance included Supervisor Kelly Long, Supervisor John Zaragoza, Port Hueneme Mayor Pro Tem Will Berg and Councilmember Jon Sharkey; along with representatives from various elected officials including: Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Congressman Salud Carbajal, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Asm. Jacqui Irwin, and Asm. Monique Limón. ♦

Thomas Fire Recovery: Lifting Spirits

Thank you, Port Hueneme Ice for your support and thank you to all the California firefighters and public safety authorities for your efforts to protect and prevent disasters.

Jason Hodge, a second-generation Oxnard native, has served as Oxnard Harbor District Commissioner since 2010, and is a local firefighter who strongly believes the Port of Hueneme is vital to the local economy. Hodge who is trained in fire protection, was involved in helping support the Ojai community with information on how to protect against fire and was instrumental in the recovery efforts during the historic Thomas Fire in Ventura County last December.

Commissioner Hodge put together a surprise delivery of “snow” to Ojai where much of the community was devastated by the ongoing Thomas Fire. While the fire still burned, the community held a potluck to lift the spirits of everyone involved in the ongoing relief efforts for the disaster. With the help of our own Port Hueneme Ice company, 3 tons of ice were delivered to the event to make it more magical and celebrate the spirit of cooperation.



Highlights: Catching up with Recent Port Interns



Alondra Ramirez came to her internship through the Port's Global Trade and Logistics Class. This 12-week class, open to Oxnard Union High School District students, covers imports/exports, finance, trade, development, and more. She interned at the Port in the spring and summer of 2016 while attending Hueneme High School.

Now on track to graduate in the class of 2021 at San Jose State University, Alondra is an International Business Major, and is working as an Administrative Government Student Assistant.

What did you learn during your Port internship?

Invoicing, administrative organization, cargo and shipping, event organizing and management, customer service—and flexibility. I was very interested in the connections that Dona Lacayo, the Port's Chief Commercial & Public Affairs Officer, would develop with Port clients and in the relationship between company and customer. I got to experience the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) Conference and learned about other jobs from different places around the Pacific.

... and what did you like about your internship?

Everyone made me feel comfortable. It was my first job and even though I made mistakes and was nervous, the staff helped me ease into my job and helped me learn a lot that I never knew before. I liked the opportunities, respect, encouragement and trust given to me. They all wished me well once I left, and I was welcome to go back anytime and visit.

Do you like to travel?

I often travel to Mexico—Jalisco (where I spent several years as a child before my family permanently moved to the United States) and Michoacan, to visit my family and explore new and old places. In the summer of 2015, I traveled to Europe for two weeks instead of having a quinceañera, and I cannot wait to go back and meet new people and places.

What are you passionate about?

I like to volunteer. I try to help as much as I can. I believe in karma and if I have the time and resources to participate, I will. I go by "treat someone like you want to be treated." I do what I would want someone to do for me, and I treat people how I would want to be treated.



Maatimu Brown was an intern June-August 2017, performing a variety of duties in reception, finance, and public affairs. He also came to the Port through the Global Trade and Logistics Class. An Oxnard native, Maatimu is currently attending California State University Long Beach, where he made the Dean's Honor List both in fall 2017 and spring 2018.

What influenced your decision for your major in college?

I knew I wanted to do something business-related once I got there. My interest comes from being raised in a family that is very "business-oriented." I chose to focus on Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM) after a survey in high school suggested the career based on my interests, and from working at the Port. My internship experience made me even more interested in the field after speaking with managers working in those positions and learning from what they shared with me.

What did you like about working at a Port?

I got a much closer look than most people in our cities get at where our goods are coming in from. The fact that it was my local port added that personal factor to it, and made the entire situation even more meaningful for me. Besides the knowledge I gained from working there, I liked the people I met and the relationships I formed. I know that I could go visit the office at any time and the people there would welcome me with open arms, which is a great feeling to have. Also, knowing that they would be willing to help me in my future career endeavors is something I truly appreciate.

Do you have hobbies?

I really love cars. My brother is the one responsible for it—he started teaching me car stuff and buying me Hot Wheels before I could even walk. I appreciate any type of car that looks cool and sounds good, but my heart's set on Japanese cars from the 80s and 90s. I'm not a mechanic by any means, but in my free time I like working on and driving around my 2001 Acura Integra.

I'm also interested in travel. In the summer of 2016, I went to Costa Rica with my science teacher, her kids, and a few other students at my school. I had not been outside of the country since I was probably around eight years old visiting my mom's family in Kenya. It was an awesome trip and something I'd like to do again!



Zoë Neil came to the Port at the recommendation of a past intern, and worked for ten months starting in August 2016. She was primarily a marketing intern, fitting for her Major in Communications with an Emphasis in Business and Nonprofit at California State University Channel Islands, Camarillo. She received her degree at the end of 2016, and the following year moved from Los Angeles to northern California for work.

What took you up north?

Since July 2017, I have been fortunate enough to be the Case Manager for Marin County's San Rafael and Novato Downtown Streets Teams. I work with my Team Members (TMs) who're experiencing homelessness to break down any barriers they may have to obtaining their goals of self-sufficiency. Helping my TMs navigate through their array of everyday challenges is incredibly inspirational, and motivates me to be the very best I can be for them. On any given day, I can play the role of resource counselor, support system, advocate, and companion.

What did you get from your Port internship?

Oh my goodness, I learned so much at the Port! Every day I learned something new about global trade, environmental stewardship, energy, autos, and of course—bananas!

Additionally, my internship absolutely strengthened my marketing skills. I learned how to really get creative, and the Port staff gave me the freedom to explore and test my communication abilities. I can undoubtedly say that my professional confidence had risen substantially by the end of my internship.

What were some of your activities and duties at the Port?

In addition to marketing, I provided administrative support, which included financial account management, clerical duties, and inventory management.

My absolute favorite part of my day at the Port was when I got to go out onto the docks and explore all of the cargo with the incredible harbormasters! I loved trying to find the most unique pieces of cargo to post onto social media for everyone to see.

I also really enjoyed being able to participate in all of the Port events, especially when I was in charge of being the paparazzi! The Port consistently hosts so many awesome tours and community engagement events—with students, elected officials, consulates, and *many* more.



Marcus Sabrowski was an intern with the Port from May through July of 2017, while at home for the summer between semesters at the Pennsylvania State University at University Park. He came to us through talking with staff and executives at the Port facilities and applying. He worked mainly as a business analyst in the Port's Business Affairs Department, creating weekly reports and analyzing data about trends and statistics involving the Port.

After graduating *cum laude* from Penn State, he recently started work as a Government Contract Advisory Consultant at Baker Tilly at their Arlington, Virginia offices.

What influenced your decision for your major in school?

My main influence would have to be high school teachers and my parents. Economics is the study of how goods and services are produced, distributed, and consumed — who wouldn't want to know these things?

What did you learn during your internship?

Everything from what a TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) is to how "reefer" (refrigerated) cargo works! I also learned that small ports like our own can have huge impacts globally, and just how small the world is.

My internship helped ensure me of my career path. I knew I wanted to work alongside government agencies and contractors, but this helped solidify it in my mind.

... and what did you like about your internship?

The Business Affairs team allowed me to own my work for the first time. They entrusted me with meaningful work and appreciated everything I did. Not many people can say that about their internship experiences! There was never a dull day working at the Port; everyone kept me on my toes and excited to work.

What do you do with your off-hours?

I am passionate about photography and volunteerism. Throughout college, I found myself volunteering more than I ever have in my life and hope to do the same now that I have graduated.

I have also travelled cross-country by car twice! Both times were amazing experiences. You don't get to see those kinds of views every day. ♦

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