



## Inlandboatmen's Union, Alaska Region – Regional Director's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to report on what the Union has been working on. You may have heard that we have been standing strong with not blindly signing Letter of Agreements (LOAs) that come across our desk. Our issues with this range from how it will affect all our members and/or contract to something as simple as not being included in all relative employer-based discussions, which consequently delays the signing process. With most LOAs and actions that may have a strong impact we include our Executive Board in making the best possible decision for the Union as a whole.

The most recent LOA is for the training class that is held every year in January for the Pursers, which would require a total of 17 members to be unavailable for dispatch. The Union has to sign a LOA for our members to work shore side since our current contract is for the employment of the vessels and not shoreside, which we were reluctant to sign because of the lack of vessel workforce the State currently has. We have a high amount of hold overs and denials of vacation and felt that by signing this we would be contributing to an issue that there has yet to be a positive solution for.

I received a call from one of our members that has expressed concern about the importance of signing this LOA. After explaining the reasons for not hastily signing the LOA I told them I would be meeting with the E-board before making a final collective decision. I also advised this member to write a letter to the E-Board so they could hear it from their point of view, which I had unfortunately not noticed had been received. I would like to personally apologize for that oversight on my part; nevertheless, this members concern was still addressed with the E-board.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December we reached out to Labor Relations and told them our concerns about the possibility of our members being held over as a result of signing this LOA. I understand that the members that need this class are very concerned but as the Regional Director I need to make sure we do the best for all members. It's important to remember we need to stand together as one union and not just one department.



After coming into office Krissel and I have found ourselves very busy with Pre-Determination meetings and more grievances in our region than there are in the whole west coast of IBUs regions, as well as ongoing contract negotiations. We are hoping to meet with the State the first week in February although there are no definite dates at this time.

In November IBU celebrated it's 100-year anniversary and held a convention in Seattle Washington. We arranged to have our E-board meeting concurrently to give our members the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary as well as take part in this important convention. At this convention we took the opportunity to continue to build our relations and solidarity with the lower 48 IBU regions, as well as ensure that our regions dues were reduced. We're excited to welcome members from other regions to visit and contribute their experience to our region in the near future.

Our offices are always open for any members who would like to discuss any issues or just stop by and chat. Volunteers are always welcome and much needed, and we would like to thank members who have already volunteered many hours in the office with us. Thank you again. There are many ways to

contribute such as simply answering office phones, attending membership meetings and negotiations, or supporting your fellow Union Brother and Sisters on the vessels by becoming department and ship delegates. If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail us.

In the face of the most recent supreme court decision, also known as the Janus Decision, we are in need more than ever to stand strong together and show those trying to dismantle the union that we will not falter.

In Solidarity,

*Trina Arnold*

Trina Arnold  
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Inlandboatmen's Union, Alaska Region