

INCSO CONTACT



Newsletter of the National Staff Organization

May 2005

Through Ian Ruskin...

'Harry Bridges' to Address NSO Rep. Assembly



Harry Bridges

Labor leader "Harry Bridges" will address the 2005 NSO Representative Assembly. Bridges, who died in 1990, will be portrayed by Ian Ruskin as part of the Harry Bridges Project. Australian born Bridges was a labor leader and social campaigner whose impact on the fabric of American life during the 20th Century was profound and far reaching. From 1930 until the early 1970's, he was a national and international figure. His work as a labor organizer in the forefront of change, his struggles to withstand 21 years of deportation trials (the longest in American history) and his campaigns for justice and equality made him a unique figure. He fought to win basic rights and human dignity for workers and to build a sense of community that would include people of all racial, ethnic, religious and political backgrounds. The successful struggle of West Coast dock workers, "Wharf Rats" as they were known, to achieve decent working conditions and become the "Lords of the Docks," was one of the first important union victories following the enactment of the National



Ian Ruskin as Harry Bridges

Industrial Recovery Act and the Wagner Act in the 1930's. Their success inspired and encouraged groups of workers across America to organize. The Harry Bridges Project was created to develop programs that can fill an important void in the American public's understanding of their own history - the history of American 20th Century workers. The story - of workers' struggles to build better lives for themselves and the struggles of the American labor movement to organize - is often ignored or glossed over in our educational system. Many of the major events of the 20th Century that most directly affected the lives of all Americans - including the Great Depression, the New Deal, the rise of the labor movement, McCarthyism, the Cold War and now, globalization - are also hardly touched on, if considered at all, according to the Harry Bridges Project. "Our Project takes audiences on journeys through some of America's most exciting, turbulent and epochal years, with one of its most dynamic figures as their guide. It also demonstrates the importance of working people

Election Notice

During the NSO Representative Assembly, an election will take place for the following NSO Executive Committee positions serving a two-year term (June 11, 2005 - June 9, 2007).

Region 1 Director
Region 3 Director
Region 5 Director
Region 7 Director
At-Large Director A
At-Large Director B

uniting across all racial, ethnic, religious and political lines and of working towards a world of justice and dignity for all," says actor Ruskin.

The one-act play is a human portrayal of Bridges' passion, struggles and wicked sense of humor. It features many of his own words - from his rallying speeches of the 1930's to the high drama and comic absurdity of his trials - and covers his life from his childhood in Australia until near his retirement in the 1970's. It includes the 1934 General Strike in San Francisco, the hearings and trials, his marriages and divorces, the constant controversy of a union involved in social and political issues here and abroad, and the ground breaking Mechanization and Modernization agreement. It features rare labor songs and political parodies, and is an exciting and entertaining way to explore 50 years of American history. The performance includes the sound track, props, pro-



Bridges in London, 1959

gram notes and, if time, a talk about the issues involved. Ian Ruskin, who will portray Bridges, is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London. In England, he worked in repertory theater, London's West End (where roles included the title role in "Jack the Ripper") television (including the Laurence Olivier "King Lear") and film. In Los Angeles, Ruskin's work has ranged from "Murder She Wrote" to the one-man play "The Man Himself" and the upcoming film, "Scenes of the Crime." He has also done extensive voice work in radio plays, commercials and in over one hundred films and television programs. He currently is founder and director of "The Harry Bridges Project." Performances have been before unions, museums and

historical societies, libraries, colleges and universities across the country. In 2005, a performance was made before the California Teachers Association.

For greater detail about Harry Bridges and the Harry Bridges Project, you can go to <http://theharrybridgesproject.org/>.

Reminders about the NSO RA...

Affiliate presidents will receive the 2005-06 Proposed NSO Budget and Proposed Constitutional amendments by mail. Affiliates are asked to distribute the information to delegates for their review. Action will be taken at the Representative Assembly on Saturday, June 11.

Solidarity Reception: There will be a reception on Friday for solidarity and networking purposes. Afterwards, delegates will be free to enjoy San Diego on their own. Further details will be available at the NSO registration desk.

Delegate Entitlement Listing: Affiliate presidents will receive the delegate entitlement based on the membership numbers as provided to the NSO Financial Adviser as of March 31. Those affiliates made up of both professional and associate staff would be entitled to delegates based on the number of members as if the associate and professional members were in separate unions.

Seating of Delegates: NSO requires that dues must be paid in full before an affiliate is seated with voting privileges. Affiliate presidents will receive a "Membership/Dues Transmittal Statement" showing the dues status of each affiliate as of March 31, 2005. Questions should be directed to NSO Financial Adviser Vera Stafford at 269-521-4341. NSO also requires that Charlie Love Crisis Fund payments be made in full before being seated with voting privileges. Questions about those payments should also go to Stafford. In compliance with Landrum-Griffin and NSO policies, a section of the RA floor is reserved for voting delegates only. Observers, alternates, and delegates without voting credentials will be provided seating to the rear of the RA floor. Delegates are reminded the entire floor of the RA is designated as a "no-smoking" area.

Election of 2005 RA Delegates: Affiliate presidents will be directed to have their "2005 Delegate Name Form" to Henson no later than Friday, May 13, 2005. Failure to meet the deadline date for submission of entitled delegates will result in the non-credentialing of said delegates. Henson urges early notification of delegates, as well as alternates,

to speed up registration. In accordance with the LMRDA, all information on the delegates and alternates need to be home information - not business. As a reminder, the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA or Landrum-Griffin) requires that affiliate delegates be elected by secret ballot because officers of NSO are elected at the Representative Assembly. Additionally, the NSO Constitution requires in Article IX, Section 4, that "Delegates and alternates to the Representative Assembly shall be elected by a majority secret ballot vote of their state association membership casting ballots." Affiliate presidents or other appropriate representatives must sign the "Delegate Name Form" certifying that affiliates and alternates are elected in accordance with the NSO Constitution and the Landrum-Griffin Act. No delegate or alternate will be seated unless elected in accordance with these provisions. Under no circumstances can delegates be appointed.

NSO Campaign and Election Rules: NSO has established Campaign and Elections rules that govern how elections for NSO officers are conducted. Any member running for office shall abide by these campaign and election rules. Copies of those rules will be sent to affiliate presidents. They are encouraged to share those rules with any member who will be running for an NSO office.

Any active NSO member is eligible to run for the elected positions shown on page 1. In accordance with the NSO Constitution and Bylaws, a candidate must submit a petition signed by at least three NSO members and submit such petition to the NSO Secretary no later than June 10, 2005, 10 a.m. (Article VIII, Section 1). See your Affiliate President, or contact the NSO Secretary, to receive a copy of the Candidate's Petition.

Furthermore, any member may be nominated from the floor at the annual Representative Assembly, accompanied by a petition with the signature of three (3) members, for any officer to be so elected, provided the nominees are members in good standing of this Organization. (Article VIII, Section 2)

A copy of NSO Campaign Rules and Elections Regulations can be secured from NSO Secretary Mary Henson. Her e-mail address is EsthersBaby@msn.com.

'Affiliates Face Adversity'

"Sometimes you feel like you're drinking from a firehose!" NSO President Chuck Agerstrand told the 2005 NSO National Bargaining Conference. "So

many of our affiliates face tremendous adversity." Over 120 NSO affiliates presidents and negotiators met in Denver April 14-15 for the NSO National Bargaining Conference. "Nevertheless, there is light at the end of the tunnel," Agerstrand stressed. "We can accomplish so much through the Coordinated Bargaining Councils, our legal and retirement consultants like Leonard Page, Rob Day and Mort Reinhart, and our other affiliate assistance programs." Participants navigated through concurrent sessions over a wide range of topics. Prior to the Bargaining Conference, affiliate presidents met with members of the NSO Merger-Organizing Committee for further update on the new NSO "Organizing Modules."



Former UAW and NLRB chief counsel Leonard Page (left), NSO legal counsel Rob Day (center) and NSO retirement consultant Mort Reinhart provided a lunch presentation on retirement trends and litigation during the National Bargaining Conference. All stressed the importance of taking great care bargaining pension and retiree health care benefits. Recent action by the Ohio Education Association to sue the Professional and Association staff unions over pension and retiree health coverage shocked the panel members.



NSO Executive Committee member Butch Santicola (right) offered a spirited challenge for presidents and bargainers at the conclusion of the Bargaining Conference.

2004-2005 NSO Calendar

Below is the current calendar for NSO events during the 2004-2005 year. Be sure to check the NSO Web page for calendar updates.

NSO-NEA Labor-Management Summit
May 10, 2005
Chicago, IL

NSO Representative Assembly
June 10-11, 2005
San Diego, CA

Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

We truly apologize if we missed anyone. Please contact us if we missed a state because we really do want to recognize as many as possible.

Many thanks from a grateful state.

Steve Fischer
President, Florida Staff Organization

Headline Mania II

Back by popular demand! If you have a good one, send it to Editor Bob Mullins at:

RobertM109@aol.com. (No fair using headlines from CONTACT!)

Florida Staff Union Says 'Thanks'



The Florida Staff Organization would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and publicly thank all of the nearly eight hundred (800)

contributors to the FEA Hurricane Fund. Because of the generosity of members, affiliates, and staff organizations around the country a total of three hundred fifty five (355) Florida Education Association members or staff received \$500 each to offset the incredible losses sustained by the four hurricanes of 2004.

Because many of our NSO affiliates and members contributed through their state education associations it is impossible to thank everyone. In an attempt to thank as many as possible, listed below are the states from which we received contributions from either the staff organizations and/or education associations:

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois (retired), Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington D.C.

Additionally, individual members, local associations, schools, citizens and companies from the following states also contributed:

Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee,

From the Bolder, CO *Sunday Camera*:

How We feel About Ourselves is the Core of Self-Esteem, Says Author

Check Out Member Specials



Members with their new NSO "Access" membership cards can save 15-30 percent at Days Inn. Xplore offers NSO "Access"

members seven percent off escorted tours to places that include Hawaii, Washington DC, Costa Rica, and Hong Kong.

**Be Sure to Check
the NSO Web page at
www.nationalstaff.org**

NSO Contact is edited by Bob Mullins.



Comments and suggestions are welcome, and should be sent to Mullins at:

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NSO Web Page

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Treasurer: Evelyn Smith, (217) 968-5348
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Region 3: Emmitt Jimmar, (256) 446-8117
Region 4: John Stephens, (209) 478-6091

Region 5: Ed Helvey, (614) 895-1041
Region 6: Ron Goldenstein, (402) 475-7611
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At-Large B: Pat Chavez, (505) 982-1916

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