

DETROIT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH BYLAWS

Enacted: 27 January 2016

Amended: 22 February 2023

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

Section 1. The Detroit IWW constitutes a General Membership Branch with all the rights and responsibilities entitled by the IWW Constitution. Membership shall be by voluntary association of IWW members in good standing. A copy of these bylaws shall be made available to all Detroit IWW members upon joining and request, as well as any other IWW members upon request.

ARTICLE II JURISDICTION

Section 1. The Detroit GMB shall have jurisdiction within the area of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and Wayne Counties in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. All IWW members who work or live in these counties, including those who work remotely for a company based in these counties, are eligible for membership in the Detroit GMB. IWW Members shall also be permitted to join the Detroit GMB if they are within 50 miles of these counties and are not closer to another GMB or to an IUB matching their industrial union. Additionally, IWW members shall be eligible for GMB membership if they are part of a workplace organizing campaign supported by the Detroit GMB. Finally, IWW Members shall be permitted to join the Detroit GMB if they are part of a group that IWW General Headquarters has identified for a potential future GMB and GHQ has identified the Detroit GMB as an appropriate branch to assist in this effort.

Section 2. If another GMB of the IWW should form within the boundaries described in Section 1 of this Article, then this article of these bylaws shall be modified by mutual agreement of both branches. Such an agreement shall be accepted by a simple majority vote at a regular or special meeting of the Detroit GMB, as well as the rules of the other branch. An Agreement, once ratified by both branches, shall automatically amend this Article to come into compliance with the agreed upon terms.

Section 3. Regular rules of amending the Detroit GMB bylaws shall not apply in circumstances described in Section 2 of this Article. All amendments to this Article outside of circumstances described in Section 2 shall follow the regular Amendments process so described within these bylaws.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 1. The Detroit GMB shall meet on a date, time and place to be determined by the membership by majority vote, attempting to finish all Branch business within 1.5 hours. Meeting time may be extended by means of a two-thirds vote by the membership for the specified meeting. Special meetings may be called by notifying GMB members by face to face contact, phone call, or e-mail. Additional GMB meetings may be rescheduled by a majority vote reaching a quorum of no less than 5 members.

Section 2. Meetings shall be open to all workers, though non-members can be excluded from any meeting by a majority vote of members in good standing. Voting privileges shall be reserved for IWW members in good standing, as defined by the IWW constitution.

Section 3. GMB Members attending Branch meetings shall be eligible to take part in the business of the meeting if they are in good standing as defined by the IWW Constitution. If members wish to pay dues at the meeting, they should do so before the meeting is called to order or after adjournment. A General Member Branch meeting requires five IWW members to meet minimum quorum, as specified in the IWW Constitution.

Section 4. All decisions of the Detroit GMB must be made by majority vote, unless otherwise specified in the by-laws or within the IWW Constitution.

Section 5. During the New Business section of each monthly business meeting, present members in good standing shall nominate and elect a Chair and Minute Taker for the following month's business meeting by majority vote.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. The Detroit GMB shall elect a Branch Secretary-Treasurer, with all the rights and responsibilities as spelled out by the IWW constitution. In doing so the Branch shall combine the offices of Secretary and Correspondence Secretary into a single office.

(A.) Should the Branch decide that the office of Branch Secretary-Treasurer should be broken up into two separate positions, it may do so for that year following the election process and ending at the beginning of the next voting cycle.

Section 2. DUTIES of OFFICERS

(A.)(1) Branch Secretary-Treasurer: Keeps a regular accounting of all Detroit GMB funds. Collects delegate reports with dues and submits them to General Headquarters every month. Keeps a record of delegate reports. Produces a monthly finance report. Retains the ability to sign checks and allocate funds as directed by the Detroit GMB. All disbursements over 500 dollars must be endorsed by both the Secretary-Treasurer and the member assigned as the second signatory by the members of the Detroit GMB. Maintain a current list of members—their “X” numbers, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses—and makes this contact list available to delegates and the Detroit GMB Organizing Dept. Liaison. Attends monthly GMB business meetings whenever possible. Keeps a yearly archive of all proposals which have passed in current year to be made available digitally and as paper copies during GMB union Meetings.

(A.)(2) As per Sec. 1 (A.), the responsibilities of the Branch Secretary-Treasurer may be divided amongst the two positions of Branch Secretary & Branch Treasurer.

(B.) Organizing Dept. Liaison: Maintains contact with other IWW Branches, as well as regional coordinator from the IWW Organizing Dept.

Section 3. The Detroit GMB may create and elect any other officers by proposal and vote, and each additional officer shall be subject to the provisions of this article.

Section 4. All officers shall serve terms to begin on May 1st (or whenever elected) and end on April 30th.

Section 5. Officers may be recalled by a majority vote of the membership. A recall vote may be held whenever 5 or more members of the GMB submit a petition for recall at a monthly and/or special Branch meeting. The recall vote during the next scheduled official Branch meeting.

Section 6. Any elected officer may resign at any time. A verbal announcement made by the resigning official at a GMB meeting or a written statement signed by that officer and one other IWW member in good standing shall be required to constitute an official resignation. If any officer resigns or is recalled, nominations to replace that officer shall take place at the next meeting and elections will take place at the following meeting. These special elections will cover the remaining period of time left to the resigning officer's position (the following April 30th).

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS

Section 1. Eligible voters shall include all Detroit GMB members in good standing as defined by the IWW constitution.

Section 2. Nominations shall be made at the regular March Branch meeting. If a meeting does not take place in March, nominations will take place at the next meeting. Further nominations and elections shall be made at the meeting following the nominations meeting.

Section 3. All elections will be by secret ballot at a GMB regular or special meeting. Each member in good standing has one vote. Members can also vote in absentia by submitting a ballot to a delegate or officer in a sealed envelope.

Section 4. To be eligible for nomination a member must be in good standing and have joined the union at least **6 months** prior to nomination.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Detroit GMB may establish standing committees provided that set committees be required to report once a month to the local GMB. Committees may establish their own bylaws provided that these bylaws do not contradict the GMB bylaws or the IWW constitution.

(A) Standing Committees of the Detroit GMB will be allowed an allocation of resources to cover basic printing or other miscellaneous costs, no greater than 50.00 USD a month. All other funding must be requested by vote of the Detroit GMB's general membership at a regular or special Branch meeting that meets the minimum quorum specified by the IWW Constitution.

(B) Ad-Hoc Committees may be established for the limited scope with which the Detroit GMB has agreed to by majority vote, and no longer. No monthly financial support is assigned to ad-hoc committees.

(C.) CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

Agit-Prop
Wobbly Kitchen

Strategic Organizing
Solidarity
General Defense

Section 2. Branch members classified in the same Industrial Union are encouraged to form Industrial Union Branches (IUB's) as defined in the IWW Constitution.

Section 3: All official statements issued by subordinate committees of the Detroit GMB bearing the name Industrial Workers of the World shall be subject to the formal approval of the Detroit GMB.

ARTICLE VII ORGANIZING

Section 1: The Detroit GMB must maintain a standing Strategic Organizing Committee for the purpose of coordinating workplace organizing in the branch. The Strategic Organizing Committee consists of at least one but no more than two chairs, the branch ODL, and up to three additional members, all of whom must be duly elected by the general membership of the branch in elections held at least once a year.

(A) To be eligible for election to the Strategic Organizing Committee, members must have completed an OT101 and have been in continuous good standing for no less than six months prior to the election.

(B) Committee members may be removed, added, or replaced throughout the year via a majority vote at a GMB meeting. Missing two or more committee meetings without coordinating with the committee will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the committee.

Section 2: The primary responsibilities of the Strategic Organizing Committee are coordinating the intake of all organizing leads, delegating external organizers to campaigns and job branches, acting as an advisory body for campaigns, and tracking the progress and development of campaigns.

Section 3: The members of the Strategic Organizing Committee will meet no less frequently than once a month to conduct business, which shall be reported on to membership by the committee chairs. In all communications and reports from the Strategic Organizing Committee, the identity of workplaces will be protected by referring to non-public campaigns only by code names.

Section 4: The Strategic Organizing Committee will maintain a list of external organizers within the branch and delegate them to handle all organizing leads, and to support existing campaigns and job branches.

(A) The Strategic Organizing Committee will define the process through which branch members become external organizers. This process will be open to any interested branch member, and will include completing an OT101.

(B) The Strategic Organizing Committee will coordinate with external organizers to make appropriate assignments to leads, campaigns, and job branches.

(C) In handling leads and advising campaigns, external organizers will consult and be guided by the External Organizer Manual and curriculum prepared by the NARA Education Department Board.

ARTICLE VIII HANDLING OF FUNDS

Section 1. Any and all voluntary assessments collected by the Detroit GMB shall be promptly allocated to the projects for which they are intended, unless the committees responsible for such projects are found to be acting in a manner contradictory to the IWW constitution or these bylaws, or unless those committees request that the funds be held by the Detroit GMB.

Section 2. All Branch members who retain the ability to sign checks shall only do so in the event that the Secretary or Treasurer is unavailable for endorsement, or if a check requires two signatories (such as any check over 500.00 USD).

Section 3. The Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer shall be empowered to conduct the Necessary Business of the Branch, using Union funds. Receipts shall be kept for Membership inspection and expenses shall not exceed 100.00 USD per month without Branch approval.

(A) Necessary Business is defined as postage, office supplies, printing and copying, regular or recurring payments ("use of facilities" for meetings), necessary bills (such as utilities and rent if the Branch has a hall or other permanent office), required government payments (taxes, fees, fines), ect.

(B) All expenses under Necessary Business are subject to a vote of the Branch if they are deemed to be frivolous or unreasonable. If the vote goes against the expenditures then those expenditures of Union funds become subject to a reimbursement by the person who spent them, to be paid within one (1) month from the date of the vote of the Membership. The Membership has the right to ask for any amount up to a maximum of the total cost of the incurred expense, but not more than the total cost of Union funds spent.

Section 4. Any Branch officer or member that spends Union funds and fails to maintain a reasonable accounting of how those funds were spent, shall be required to reimburse the Branch the full costs of those expenses within a one month timeframe.

Section 5. Any member that is allocated Union funds to be spent for a specific purpose, shall spend those funds exclusively for that specific purpose or refund them to the Union. Failure to spend the allocated funds as intended will result in the member being required to reimburse the Union the full cost of any funds issued to them within a one month timeframe.

Section 6. No member of the Detroit GMB that is empowered to spend Union funds or entrusted with Union property shall make any loan, gift or donation of funds or property belonging to the Union to any person, organization, group or entity whatsoever, including themselves, in any way, shape, form or capacity, without explicit Branch approval.

ARTICLE IX FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The Detroit GMB Fiscal Year shall begin on July 1st and end on the following June 30th.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of eligible voters as defined in Article V Section 1.

Section 2. All bylaws changes will be proposed a minimum of one month in advance of the date of the vote to allow time for consideration and review. If any amendments are made to the proposal before or at the time of the vote, an additional consideration period of one month will elapse before a final vote is taken.