

## Standards for Committees of the IWW

Each Committee of the IWW is chartered to fill a particular need, and members of these Committees should take their obligations to the union seriously.

The following guidelines and processes are required of every appointed committee of the IWW, unless superseded by Constitutional provisions, in the case of mandated committees.

### General Rules Governing Committees:

1. All regular committees of the IWW shall be chartered by action of the General Assembly or General Executive Board, or by referendum initiative and vote of the Membership. Each committee is considered to be representing the interests of the union and is granted the necessary rights and privileges as such.
2. No Committee should be chartered without a formal motion outlining the plans and goals of that Committee, and stating whether the Committee shall be a Standing Committee of the union, or shall work within a prescribed timeline.
3. No Committee should be chartered without the naming of a formal *Facilitator* or *Chair* who is responsible for seeing that said Committee carries out its charter and that an informal quarterly report is filed with the GEB and the membership outlining said Committees activities. In the case of Standing Committees the facilitator or chair should be confirmed at each General Assembly, except in cases where the means for appointing or electing the Chair of said Committee is clearly outlined in the Constitution.
4. Committee membership can be opened to the union as a whole or be specified in the motion creating the Committee; but it is a responsibility of the Facilitator of the Committee to keep a current Directory of all members of the Committee, and supply the GEB and Assembly with said directory.
5. Each Committee should have a liaison on the GEB to better facilitate communications between the General Administration and the Committee.
6. Each Committee should establish an e-mail list and consider said list as an ongoing meeting of said Committee; the Facilitator of the Committee to act as moderator of said list.
7. Each Standing Committee should submit basic guidelines for inclusion in the Manual of Policies and Procedures of the Union.
8. Each Standing Committee is also responsible for preparing a formal report to be submitted each year to the membership at the General Assembly.
9. Each Committee shall expedite their business promptly and responsibly. Should a Committee fail to carry out its obligations or fail to report, the GEB may nominate members to replace current inactive members, or to suspend or revoke the charter of said Committee.
10. All Committees have the right to place items for discussion on the Agenda of the General Assembly, and to propose formal resolutions to the Assembly as a constituted body of the union.
11. No Committee may enact any binding rules, regulations, or standards, or in any way set policy for the union without a direct motion from the General Executive Board, a motion of the General Assembly, or approval of the membership through referenda.
12. No member of the union should serve as Chair of more than one regular committee.
13. Delegates may not use proxy votes while conducting business in committee.

## Types of Committees of the IWW

**Mandated Committees** are those Committees established by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Industrial Workers of the World to perform specific business for the Union.

These committees may be special committees with a limited time frame to complete their work, or standing committees, but all have only the power granted them by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Union.

The membership, structure and tasks of these Committees are to be described in the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the IWW individually . . . Where no process is outlined these Committees should govern themselves according to processes and procedures established here in the MPP.

**Standing Committees** are elected/appointed by the General Executive Board or the General Assembly to continue/perform the business of the Union.

These Committees have only the power granted them by the Board or Assembly, and are required to submit a formal report of their activities at each Assembly, as well as report at least quarterly to the GEB and the membership.

The charter of each standing Committee should be confirmed or disbanded at each General Assembly. If confirmed, a facilitator must be named and new members should be appointed.

No Standing Committee may be created, unless the motion creating said Committee clearly states the expectations for that Committee, to whom and when that Committee shall be responsible for reporting, who shall Chair that Committee and how new Chairs will be appointed, and who is considered a member of that Committee and how new members may join or be appointed.

Any Standing Committee that does not report to the General Assembly, or does not have any activity between Assemblies should be considered as “non-operational” and the reasons and needs for said committee should be an Agenda item to debated by the Assembly; after which it should be formally disbanded, or a new Committee should be confirmed.

**Special Committees** are elected/appointed by the General Executive Board or General Assembly, generally for a specific task or are created to do advance preparation on key issues for the Assembly.

Because of the nature of their tasks, they are given a specific time frame in which to complete their assignments. This period may be limited within the term of a single administration, or may be carried on for a period of years, over the course of several administrations.

These committees may be turned into standing committees to continue their work by a vote of the Assembly. In this case, new members should be appointed from amongst the delegates attending the Assembly.

**Caucuses** are informal Committees and may be created by any body of members within the union regarding any issues or special considerations that they feel need to be addressed.

Caucuses are informal groupings, and do not owe a formal report to General Assembly. However, an opportunity should be made at every General Assembly for caucuses to meet, and caucuses should be given an opportunity to report their actions and make recommendations to the Assembly based upon their deliberations and activities.

However, caucuses are not official committees or bodies of the union . . . They have no requirements or restrictions placed upon them, aside from the general requirements and restrictions placed upon every member of the union by the Constitution. Nor do they have any special powers or authority conferred upon them.