



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ORGANIZING DEPT OF THE IWW
Issue Five: Winter 2011: odb@lists.iww.org

ORGANIZER'S NOTEBOOK

Inside this Issue

- *The IWW Seattle GMB and Seasol
(building experience, confidence and membership)
...pages 10 & 11*
- *Branches are rockin' the house in
organizing efforts*
- *Hear how two major Industrial Organizing
Committees are turning things around
pages 17 & 18*
- *Read about the launch of the Nebraska Worker
Page 19*

WOBBLIES!

One Big Union

From the Editor



Welcome to issue six of the Organizer's Notebook. Not too much to report that's not covered inside the issue. However, we should do an update on the campaign, launched in the last issue, to secure 100 donors to the Organizer Training Fund. First there's the good news. We've raised \$1,290 and the average donation is nearly \$45! That is some impressive generosity. However, we've only had 28 donors. Fellow Workers, we can do better than that. We all know how important the organizer trainings have been in building the union (just ask the Jimmy John's workers). It's imperative that every member of the union be trained up and organizing at work. That takes funds.

We're an organization with 2,000 members. If even just 10% of us gave \$10, that would raise \$2,000. The Organizer's Notebook has faith in the rank-and-file. Fellow Workers, please consider making a donation of whatever you can. Then ask all the Wobblies you know and any sympathetic friends and fellow travelers to do the same. You have the thanks of the Organizing Department and the thanks of all the new workers who will be reached once all IWWs have been through the full training program.

Finally, the Organizer's Notebook is looking for some volunteers. First, we need help proofreading each new issue. It shouldn't take more than an hour or two every couple of months, so if you've got the skills and inclination, please send an e-mail to redandblack83@gmail.com. Likewise, if you're an artistic type of Wob, we're always looking for IWW, radical, or labor graphics and cartoons. Or, if you're handy with a camera, send in a snapshot of your branch. For graphics and photos, the contributing artist and/or persons in the pics will be sourced if requested.

For a class struggle 2011,

Tom Levy
Text Editor, Organizer's Notebook
London, UK

ODB Shake-Up!

We've had a lot of action in the Organizing Department over the past few months, not the least of which includes three resignations from OD. In the Survey and Research Committee, English Fellow Worker Ant Ince has stepped down. After three years on the SRC, Ant's dedication and innovations cannot be commended enough. Ant, the Organizer's Notebook has no doubt you'll continue to be a successful and important part of the OBU. We wish you the best of luck in your upcoming nuptials!



Since Ant's departure the GEB has already appointed FW Allison M to SRC. Allison, the Notebook congratulates you and looks forward to working with you!

On the Organizing Department Board itself, both FWs Bryan Robert and Mike Wilklow have stepped down. The Organizing Department has expressed its gratitude to FW Roberts for his service to the IWW and the Notebook would like to echo those sentiments. The ODB is still in the process of selecting a replacement and the Notebook will report more in the next issue.

For FW Wilklow, his organizing activities outside of the OD have become prohibitive. From FW Wilklow's letter of resignation:

"When I ran for ODB a year ago I was planning on quitting my job at Jimmy John's and stepping back from workplace organizing. I thought the ODB would be a good way for me to continue contributing to the union.

Long story short - I didn't quit and Jimmy John's totally consumed my life these last several months.

...I appreciate all the work my fellow board members have done and continue to do in the support of the Organizing Department. I still believe the ODB is the best list-serve in the union and somewhere down the line I'll try to weasel my way into a liaison position or something so I can justify my continued presence [on the list]."

The Organizer's Notebook as well as the larger union are in a debt of gratitude for Mike's hard work in the Jimmy John's Workers Union and hope he enjoys a much needed break. Mike, the Notebook is glad you're sticking around as an ODL and will look forward to hearing your first report.

The ODB has provisionally appointed Wob Jeff Pilanski to the board to fill Mike's position. Jeff, we're sure your experience and dedication will be a welcome addition to the Board.

In other ODB news, motion MJ-O1, which requests the GEB appoint an ODB bookkeeper, has passed. This means that the OD will now have an individual whose responsibility it is to keep accounts in order, sort out donations, and liaise with the General Executive Board regarding financial matters. When a bookkeeper is selected, the Notebook will make sure our readers know.

Board Member's Reports



Nick Driedger (Chair)

spacequixote@hotmail.com

Nick's most recent report contains, as always, updates from around the union. We'll just list some highlights here, with a focus on the Canadian branches:

Vancouver Island: As Nick records, "the branch is really moving along". Although small, they have good retention and an "incredible" diversity in age. The branch will also be getting trained up by the Seattle Solidarity Network "in order to cut their teeth on some direct action." Nick then offers a bit of advice to Notebook readers: "I would encourage any small branch or branch with limited resources that is looking to make some first steps into organizing to talk to the Seattle GMB about hosting a SeaSol training."

Edmonton: There's been a lot of activity in Nick's home branch of Edmonton. The big news is the involvement of Wobblies in the recent Canadian postal wildcat strike. There's more than can be covered in a short write-up so the Notebook highly recommends all Fellow Workers go over the [iww.org](http://www.iww.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=352/) boards and read a discussion that's been led by Nick on the exciting struggle in the Canadian Post: <http://www.iww.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=352/>



Edmonton also has an active campaign at a prominent corporate chain. Workers there "have had two actions and two victories and are working very well at 'acting like a union before you call yourself a union'" Edmonton is planning a second OT 102 training this Winter and the Notebook looks forward to hearing how the advanced training affects IWW organizing efforts in the city.

Toronto: The Toronto GMB should be commended for recently making a donation to the Organizing Department. These funds will "help massively" with cash-strapped campaigns and Nick expressed how "sincerely grateful" the Board was for the money.

Board Member's Reports cont.

J Pierce

pierce1905@gmail.com

J's most recent reports gave the union some insight into various campaigns and branches J's in contact with. In Denver, the GMB has picked up five new members recently and there's a few other FWs who will be moving to the Mile High City. In transportation news, the Freight Truckers Organizing Committee (IU 530) has slowed considerably as of late. FWs Pat B. and Jay K, both of whom sit on the FTOC, are looking to put their funds into GHQ, although they are not looking to shut down the committee.



The proposed Education Workers Industrial Organizing Committee (IU 620), a project which began at the last Organizing Summit, has stalled a bit as well. J writes:

"There are still some stirrings but I have not put much effort into finding FWs for a Committee or a chair. This can be done, I believe, before our target date of Jan 1. I do feel like there is much potential for EWIU once we find a chair with the proper enthusiasm. In Phoenix, for example, we have a lot of education worker contacts so in the near future we could be done some great work in this area. Many branches are similar so when it gets going, it could be awesome."

Finally, J is "advocating an OD Salt Program to be modeled off of the best practices of the SWU and JJWU." The Notebook expects more information to be forthcoming and when J let's us know, we'll let our readers know.

Matt Jones

mjonesiu460@gmail.com

Matt's most recent report speaks for itself:

"Overall I am really impressed with how the IWW is building itself. The GEB and GHQ are both functioning at a high level, getting work done that is in the interest of IWW. I would not say yet that we are fully functioning, but we are one more step closer to being an organizing machine."

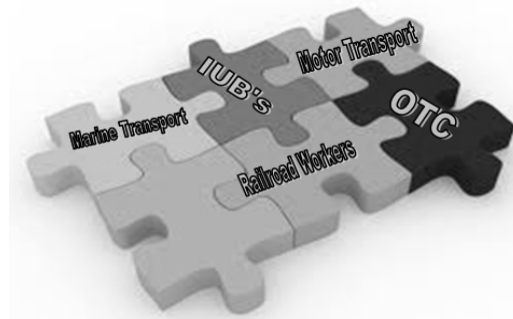


Committee Reports

Survey & Research Committee

Chair: J. Pierce (pierce1905@gmail.com)

The SRC has kept busy over the past few months. They spent much time helping to research a construction company at the request of the Construction Workers Organizing Committee. They've also helped out with research for the Jimmy John's Workers Union. On a branch level, the SRC has begun to collect materials for a Branch Research Manual.



Organizer Training Committee

Chair: Matt Jones (mjonesiu460@gmail.com)

Over the past months, the OT 102, or "The Committee in Action" has continued to be the main focus of the OTC, but there has been activity around translating the 101 into Spanish and fundraising. Fellow Worker Erik F. was also approved to do a series of training around the Great Lakes area. Finally, the OTC is looking for some volunteers who are experienced at "designing and layout to help us customize our 101 member packets." If you fit the bill (or your branch or workplace would like a training!), the OTC can be contacted at jbwob@yahoo.com



GMB Reports



Chicago GMB

ODL: John S. (jwslavin@gmail.com)

2010 has been a very busy year for Fellow Workers in Chicago. One of their most ambitious projects has been a public campaign to create the worker-run "31st Street Transit Cooperative" that will re-employ many of the transportation workers whose jobs have been lost to public service cuts. The co-op will also be responsive to the needs of residents who lost vital bus services in their neighborhoods. Although not without hiccups along the way, the project is moving along and there's been lots of public support. As things develop, the Notebook will ensure our readers stay updated.



Chicago Wobblies have also been actively working with graduate students at a local university. While the branch is already offering "material support" to grad students, the question of affiliating the existing graduate student association to the IWW has yet to be settled. Many student-workers are in favor turning this explicitly into an IWW campaign and the branch has already held numerous open meeting to explain the benefits of solidarity unionism.

Inspired by the successes of the Starbucks Workers Union and the Jimmy John's Workers Union, Wobs have gained traction in a local Chicago coffee chain. While previous momentum at the chain fell due to a FW being fired and concern over immigration status, the campaign still has members at two out of four shops in the city and "is looking like it will be coming back towards the upswing soon."

In two other innovative developments, Chicago is looking to build a "Worker Self-Managed Union" while also coming into stewardship of the "Lucy Parsons Workers' Center". The Self-Managed Union will be designed to attract the self-employed and workers in co-ops. As the report didn't contain a huge number of details (the inaugural meeting hadn't been held yet), once the Notebook knows more about the Self-Managed Union, we'll be updating our readers. The Lucy Parsons Workers Center was originally a joint project of the Four Star Anarchist Organization and Bring the Ruckus "geared towards doing direct action casework a la Seattle Solidarity and the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty," but has since passed on to the Chicago IWW. The LPWC already has three potential cases on their proverbial plate—one dealing with an absentee landlord and the other two regarding wage theft—and the Notebook looks forward to hearing the outcomes. Finally, the Chicago GMB itself has taken on a wage theft case. Two workers at a non-profit arts center contacted the IWW which helped them to craft a demand letter. Both workers now hold red cards and have presented the letter to the owner.



GMB Reports cont...



Grand Rapids GMB

ODL: Cole Dorsey

grandrapidsstarbucksunion@yahoo.com

Wobblies in Grand Rapids have a lot of potential in their branch. First, the call center:

We now have 6 card carrying members out of 13 in a call center. We meet every other week for a couple of hours and a lot is getting accomplished. A few of them attended a class I gave on "Rights in the Workplace." They have a rough draft of a demand letter. We've discussed "worst case scenarios" and compiled possible responses, i.e. ULPs, 10(j) injunction, work stoppage, publicity event, leafleting and picketing the owner's neighborhood, call-ins to the job and the owner. [We've] discussed ways to approach and have one-on-ones with the remaining workers and a plan was formulated with responsibilities divvied up equally. A member was nominated and elected to serve as a delegate. This is a very strong OC and I have very high hopes for this campaign.

Then, there's the meatpacking factory. Although the workers there have also been in contact with the Teamsters, they've been disappointed with their business union approach. As the Grand Rapids ODL records: *The Teamsters have] allowed them (up to 30 workers at one point) to use their union hall for meetings, but not offering much in the way of assistance. They continue to tell them they can't constitute as an OC until they have at least 100 workers meeting (800 work in the factory). Then they tell them to start handing out flyers to their co-workers and publicly letting the company know they wanted the Teamsters as their union. Rightfully upset about the lack of support and strategy, the factory workers have invited an IWW organizer to their next meeting to discuss what the IWW and direct action can offer them.*



GMB Reports cont...

Portland GMB

ODL: Chris A

chrisagenda@gmail.com

Portland continues to be one of the most active and dedicated branches in the union. Besides holding the first 102 training anywhere in the union, the Portland GMB is active in various capacities in a number of shops around the city. Internally, Portland's "Education and Outreach Committee" has finished its branch survey and submitted its findings to the GMB. The branch has also just found a new editor for their monthly newsletter, the "Stumptown Wobbly" and has begun a print run of the "Think it Over" pamphlet to offer potential new members. Finally, the Portland GMB has rolled out their own official blog, so go check it out:

<http://portlandiww.org>

Portland Women's Crisis Line

Contract negotiations have been ongoing, but things have been on the up. Although high turnover means that many workers are new to the shop, "nearly all of the eligible workers at PWCL have signed up as dues paying IWW members which is a great relief. With such a long period of a lack of staff and lack of membership, it's great to have workers at our office back up and running, and engaged."

Streetlight/Porchlight Youth Shelters

Contract negotiations also continue at the Portland youth shelters under IWW contract. Although "proceeding fairly smoothly and quickly," management is seeking to break with previous arrangements and include more management-friendly terms in the contract language. In particular, management want a binding arbitration instead of an employee review panel as the last step of the disciplinary procedure. This would be more expensive for the union and be less likely to bring a satisfactory outcome to any worker whose job may be in question. Management has threatened not to sign the contract if they don't get their way. Management has also offered a wage freeze until May, blaming uncertainty regarding finances, but workers have balked and expressed a willingness to "turn up the heat" if needed.



this article Continued on page 12

Seattle Solidarity Network (SeaSol)

...interview



1) Tell us a little about SeaSol. What groups influenced your formation? What's the structure, in brief?

Seattle Solidarity Network (SeaSol for short) is a mutual support group for workers and tenants that focuses on winning small fights against bosses and landlords around issues such as unpaid wages, stolen deposits, lack of repairs, and so on, using direct action. Someone contacts us with an issue, we meet them and explain how we work. If they like it, they join, and agree to support other workers and tenants in their struggles. We then start a campaign against the boss or landlord, using pickets to turn away customers, posters and leaflets to cause public embarrassment or slow down business, and various other tactics, gradually increasing the pressure until they give in to our demands.

We've been around since late 2007 and have won around 25 of these small fights. We were influenced by the IWW's concept of solidarity unionism and groups such as Ontario Coalition Against Poverty's idea of "direct action case-work". Our structure is based around directly democratic weekly meetings, and an organizing team, which all members are invited to join, which does most of the day-to-day work such as answering calls and meeting new people.

2) What's the relationship between SeaSol and the IWW/Seattle GMB?

SeaSol was started by the Seattle IWW GMB, and many SeaSol members are in the IWW. Participating in SeaSol builds the kind of organizing skills needed to form a successful IWW workplace branch—something that we hope will come out of future SeaSol organizing, when we build up enough to have a concentration of members in a particular industry, such as restaurants.

... SeaSol Interview cont.

3) How do you feel about all the new Solidarity Networks popping recently? What's the relationship between SeaSol and these new Networks?

It's great! Starting a Solidarity Network is a great way for, say, a new IWW branch to start building up experience, confidence and membership. We have been reaching out to other cities and trying to help new solidarity networks by offering trainings, resources and advice.



4) What's your favorite success/SeaSol action?

It's been amusing to see bosses' anguish when things don't go their way. They are often quite disappointed when a quick call to the police doesn't result in our disappearance, since we are doing nothing illegal. I like seeing the look of confusion and panic when a large group of people suddenly invades their private domain.

5) Can you talk about how/whether there's been political development with with workers and tenants after their experience with SeaSol?

There has certainly been some significant change in thinking amongst people who get involved—positive changes in attitudes to immigrant workers, for example, and certainly a more positive to concepts such as direct action, solidarity, and anarchism. Winning these small fights and supporting each other really creates a sense of power and the idea that we really can change things, for everyone involved.

6) Finally, who's the person to contact to see about setting up a Solidarity Network or getting trained up by SeaSol?

Email info@seasol.net and we will send you information and advice, and we'll try to set up a training if logistics allow it...

Editors Note: This interview was completed with Matt from Seattle, a longer interview can be found here: <http://libcom.org/library/seasol-interview>

Streetlight/Porchlight Youth Shelters cont...

On a more positive note, steps have been taken to establish some degree of pattern bargaining at IWW shelters in the city. Janus, which manages Streetlight/Porchlight as well as Harry's Mother have "signaled that they might be willing to consider bargaining with the shelters and Harry's Mother at the same table over similar parts of their different contracts the next time bargaining occurs, something they were unwilling to consider three years ago." Furthermore, workers at the two shelters "recently revived union meetings outside of contract negotiations, with about half of the shelter workers showing up to a meeting. Workers hope to continue these meetings once a month."

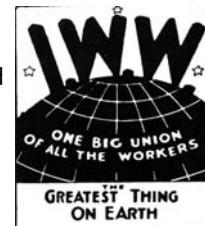


Harry's Mother

Also still in contract negotiations, the workers at Harry's Mother face many of the same issues faced by workers at streetlight/Porchlight, not the least of which includes the binding arbitration request by management. On the union side, the IWW has been making efforts to unify workers at the house where the youth are housed and at the office. Plus, there have been some new hires coming into the shop that have expressed interest in the negotiations and have brought some new energy into the shop floor organizing that has been occurring at the Janus-managed shelters.

Non-Profit Hot Shop

Workers from a non-profit located in Portland (but which has worksites on two continents) have been in contact with the Portland IWW interested in unionizing their workplace. The campaign is relatively complex and reasonably well-developed. One worker has already taken out a red card and attended an OT 101 and prior to contacting the IWW, a group of 10 (out of 40 total workers) had been meeting informally to discuss grievances—which mostly revolve around a dictatorial founder/head of the managing board and a spate of upcoming layoffs. The budding organization had met some roadblocks as workers had taken actions that relied on 'official channels' and had not been prepared for the inevitable backlash. However, IWW organizers have come in and advised a more long-term A.E.I.O.U approach that will build sustained organization and build the skills and capacities of a direct-action oriented organizing committee. The IWW has also stepped in to link organizers at this branch of the non-profit with workers another branch in another city that also has an active and experienced GMB.





Portland GMB Foodworkers IU 460/640 Organizing Committee

Portland has an active and growing joint IU 460/640 foodworkers organizing committee known as the “Food Chain Workers Organizing Project” which has organizers in shops throughout the city.

October alone saw the organizing committee conduct two organizer trainings. According to one Portland organizer, “These trainings should prove beneficial to the organizing committees and organizers involved in the six campaigns the 460/640 are engaged in.” Financially, the OC has printed 500 business cards and has commissioned an “IOC 460/640” assessment to raise further funds to support their important work. Contact ODL Chris A at chrisagenda@gmail.com to see about getting one for yourself!

In one especially interesting development, the workers at a shop that employs six IWWs have overwhelmingly voted in favor of a “collective management” initiative that will see the shop turned into a co-operative. Members of the IWW organizing committee at that shop are taking a “well deserved break” as “a celebration is being planned for the victory!” Congrats Fellow Workers, the Notebook looks forward to hearing how this plays out so please keep us updated!

In another shop, an IWW organizer—already aggressively pursuing his one-on-ones—has used two recent incidents to agitate his co-workers. Active in a government-mandated safety committee, our Fellow Worker has used a surprise OSHA visit to raise various safety issues around the shop. Secondly, management favoritism and the owner's refusal to fix faulty equipment has presented a “potential opportunity to demonstrate some collective action.”

In three other Portland food shops, all owned by different companies, workers are putting their experience in the OT 101 and 102 into action. Links have been made with shops within their respective corporate chains as organizers have been honing one-on-one skills and successfully identifying social leaders in their own shops.



Another shop is seeing two IWWs organize around transgender issues. Workers have already met with company representatives to demand “inclusive transgender healthcare”. However, managers have responded “by being openly antagonistic to certain workers and openly friendly to others” and bullying a worker who was distributing fliers on the healthcare issue. Management agreed to a change in the pharmaceutical policy and organizers are “spreading the message the new changes are a result of workers organizing and not the company's altruistic intentions.”

Finally, an experienced organizer has been assisting three coffee shop workers looking to build the union in their shop. Two of the three have attended the OT 101 and have already begun building contacts.

Doggie Daycare



Wage theft issues are (unfortunately) becoming an organizing opportunity for IWW branches around the union. In Portland, an employee at a doggie daycare contacted the Wobblies after becoming fed up with a boss who required workers to clock in 10-15 minutes prior to their shifts and then neglected to pay them for this time. Management quickly clocked on that grievances were on the rise in the workplace and began a counter-offensive. The worker who contacted the union was targeted and written up for 'excessive tardiness'; or, in other words, clocking in on time! Management then upped the ante by baking the staff cookies, holding a captive audience meeting, and then firing the Fellow Worker in question. The Portland IWW quickly responded with a two-week informational picket. On the second day of the picket, management threatened to call the landlord of the fired worker and inform them she was housing a dog (which she'd rescued from work) in her apartment. They ultimately followed through and she was evicted. Wobblies then responded with a "house visit" protest to the boss's home. Management then sought an injunction against the picketing and government agencies have since become involved to "mediate" between the two sides. Inside the shop, workers, "likely galvanized when they saw former workers from the shop demanding back pay," began to demand back pay as well. Portland's report to the ODB sums up this short but intense struggle as follows:

At this point it looks like management will make back payments to all workers and has hired an outside accounting firm to figure out what amount of money is owed. A good combination over all of direct action, legal threats, and off-the cuff organizing.

Plus, the events have seen the Portland GMB get some press coverage. Have a look:

<http://blogs.wweek.com/news/2010/08/18/why-theres-a-protest-outside-dogs-dig-it/>

<http://www.portlandmercury.com/portland/dogged-protest/Content?oid=2798759>



Spokane

Fellow Workers in Portland have been in contact with a worker from Spokane, Washington who “works for a nationally franchised cleaning company and [is] dealing with a racist and sexist boss.” Portland Wobblies are hoping “to get the worker from Spokane down to Portland with some of her coworkers for an abbreviated training.”

Bay Area GMB

ODL: A.M.H unlockwarrior@gmail.com

There is a lot of interesting organizing going on in the Bay Area and the branch has been making efforts to link up, develop, and coordinate these campaigns. In the first instance, a coffee shop (not Starbucks) worker has contacted GMB looking to form a union at their chain. Said worker has already applied for a red card (with the application to be reviewed at a GMB meeting) and organizers have discussed the issues in the shop and “advised her on initial nuts and bolts of forming a committee.”

In another industry, an IWW organizer recently worked at a chain Bike rental/retail shop and, according to him, “Conditions at these shops are f**ked.” The company cheats workers out of pay and overtime, there's issues around breaks and scheduling, workplace safety, a “sexist division of labor”, and “constant chastisement and harrassment of workers by management.” Besides identifying potential labor violations, the organizer has developed a rapport with a handful of workers and has established contact with a previous employee who was fired because she raised issues to management.



As the Bay Area ODL puts it,

Aside from the potential at these specific shops, they're part of industries we're already doing serious organizing in in the Bay Area (theaters and other service/entertainment jobs). So another potential we have here is a large-scale corridor-style industrial campaign; we're working with two sizeable chains in the Bay Area alone, on top of the other shops we've been organizing in. ...This could be a very significant opening for the IWW here, and I think we have the best approach for this type of precarious, low-wage labor organizing.

To accomplish this, the Bay Area IWW has constructed a five point plan to “develop more substantial IWW presence throughout industries we’re organizing in. Starting with the job shops and organizing committees that exist, bore out further to connect these bodies to new kindred shops/workers.” The plans revolve primarily around building industrial, corridor, and supply-chain organizing capacity and targeting particular shops for organization. Finally, if other shops in an industry have a union presence, the IWW will “strive to build alliances with the rank and file.”



Edmonton GMB

ODL: Braden C

kronstadt.flunky@gmail.com

In the most recent report from Edmonton, we learned that come January Edmonton will have a new ODL. Braden, the Organizer's Notebook has appreciated your service and we wish you well in whatever new role you may pick up in the Edmonton GMB.

Non-public campaign

As the Notebook has covered previously, Edmonton has not-yet-public campaign at a high profile corporate chain. With Wobs at two different shops in the city, "small gains have been won at the two shops through concerted action and they're getting ready to approach co-workers about getting in on the committee." Organizers in Edmonton have also implemented a novel system that can be used to gain contacts and network between workers at different shops. On top of all that, salts are about to enter two new locations in the city.



Hot Shops/Solidarity Efforts

The past few months have seen the Edmonton GMB be involved with two hot shop situations. In the first a Goodwill worker was fired and didn't receive his required record of employment. As ODL Braden records, "We leaned on Goodwill with a phone campaign and the worker in question immediately received his record of employment. Impressed with the action (and not really wanting to go any farther with it), he has decided to join the IWW" and will become one of the salts mentioned above.

In the second hot shop, a group of disgruntled bar workers approached the IWW. Organizers agreed to meet said workers at a public location. Unfortunately, "the workers' boss happened to show up at the same location and overheard what was going on before the workers saw him." Consequences were immediate and the workers were fired. The Edmonton GMB rapidly responded with pickets and a boycott campaign. According to ODL Braden, "The fired workers have been very impressed and one of them has already joined the IWW. We have delivered a list of demands and are fighting to win. Furthermore, one of the fired workers is going to salt [in the aforementioned non-public campaign]."

Hot Shops/Solidarity Efforts cont...

Summing up his report, Braden finished on this inspiring note:

The above shows that solidarity actions, either a simple phone campaign to a full-blown picket, can bolster the capacity of the IWW by bringing in more members, honing logistical skills, raising our profile, and funneling new members and energy into other organizing campaigns.

Dual Card subcommittee

Internally, the GMB has established a dual-card subcommittee. For the time being, “the emphasis is on the postal service because the biggest single contingent of dual-carders in our GMB are posties.” As outlined previously in this issue of the Notebook, the Canadian postal service has seen wildcat strike activity and self-organized direct action. Wobs “are very active in these efforts and make a conscious effort to bring Wobbly tactics and ideas to CUPW,” the union which represents many Canadian postal workers. All Wobblies should make sure they have an iww.org account and then go read this thread: <http://www.iww.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=352>

Industrial Organizing Committees

Foodstuffs Workers Organizing Committee (IU 460)

IC: Matt J. mjonesiu460@gmail.com

Much of the activity in IU 460 has been either in Portland with their joint 460/640 “Food Chain Workers Organizing Project” or the Jimmy John's Workers Union. Keep tuned to the Organizer's Notebook to hear more about food workers organizing as it continues to develop.

North American Organizing Committee (IU 540)

IC: FW A.M.H. ulockwarrior@gmail.com



IU 540's industrial organizing committee, NorAm, has been building up its internal infrastructure. They are working on the third issue of their newsletter, the Dispatch. Work on messengersunion.org, however, has stalled. The OC is looking for volunteers to help out with the site. If you've got the skill, please drop an e-mail to ulockwarrior@gmail.com posthaste!

In terms of organizing, there's “budding potential for a campaign” at a shop with 12-15 workers. Plans are being put into effect to establish a shop committee and the Notebook will keep readers updated as action progresses.



Industrial Organizing Committees Cont...



Construction Workers Organizing Committee (I.U. 330)

IC: Mike Bell redbell3@gmail.com

The big news to come out of IU 330 regards a groups of workers in Alabama. In mid-August, Fellow Worker Mike B was contacted by a Fellow Worker who had "had enough of the trade unions" and was interested in the IWW program. FW Bell went over the steps to creating a committee and as time progressed "things seemed to go in the right direction." On the ground, workers created a five member committee, were meeting outside work, mapping their workplace, conducting one-on-ones and employing the "be the best employee" tactic. The CWOC even began to secure the funding and arrange a date for a proper organizer training.

However, by mid-October, FW Bell had lost communication with the Alabama construction workers. When contact was re-established, the CWOC was informed "Things have went to sh*t. We've all been laid off..." And, unfortunately, this promising campaign came to an end. However, the main organizer on the ground has signed up to the union and expressed his thanks and respect for FW Bell, the CWOC, and the IWW. According to FW Bell, the laid off FW who first contacted the IWW "seemed to have learned a lot from this and he is eager to get involved with the IWW working with the CWOC."

Internally, the CWOC has been active as well. One of their main objective continues to be getting all IWW construction workers, especially those who are at-large, trained up. They've also put forward a proposal to the GEB for dues retention. According to industrial contact Mike Bell, the committee believes "that this will not only invest in our membership but will give the CWOC the much needed resources for organizing. Much of our membership is at-large thus dues retention would have a profound effect on how our membership views its industry in relation to the IWW."

The next issue of the IU 330 newsletter, Hit the Bricks, is still in the works. So if you work in construction, please contact FW Bell at redbell3@gmail.com to get a copy and see about submitting some articles yourself!





Around the Union

“Around the Union” is a new addition to the Organizer's Notebook that will cover events around the union that do not specifically come through the ODB-list, but are worthy of coverage.

In this issue, we're going to focus on a new IWW newsletter out of Nebraska, but if you've got organizing news you'd like to share in the Notebook, please don't hesitate to e-mail redandblack83@gmail.com.

The Nebraska Worker

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/45178850/Nebraska-worker>

Wobblies in Nebraska have launched their own newsletter, the Nebraska Worker, and the Organizer's Notebook likes it! In the first issue, the lead story reflects on the Jimmy John's Workers Union recent workplace elections and examines the problem of individualism inherent to the NLRB. Other sections include “What is the IWW?”, bit of labor history, and an analysis of the role of immigration in Fremont, Nebraska.

Nebraska Wobs, keep up the good work! For any other Wobs interested in having a peek at issue one of the Nebraska worker either go to the website listed above, or drop an e-mail to nebraska.iww@hotmail.com.





ORGANIZER'S NOTEBOOK

Alphabet Soup

Here are some key ODB terms that you'll see in this bulletin and what they mean:

Industrial Contact (IC): A volunteer who helps build member-to-member contact in a specific IU and who tries to get more members in their IU to be active in the union. In the US, ICs can be reached at:

IU 330: Mike B.
redbell3@gmail.com
 IU 460: Matt J
mjonesIU460@gmail.com
 IU 530: Pat B
industriaworker@gmail.com
 IU 540: Myke H
ulockwarrior@gmail.com

Organizing Committee (OC): A committee of IWW members who are coordinating organizing efforts in their workplace, their city, or their industry. Industrial organizing committees are directly accountable to the ODB.

Organizing Department (OD): see "What is the OD?" that appeared in issue one of the Notebook.

Organizing Department Board (ODB): The five-member board that oversees the activities of the OD. Three members of the board are directly elected by union-wide referendum and the other two stand as representatives of the SRC and OTC.

Organizing Department Liaison (ODL): Officer position elected by the GMB to report back and forth between the OD and the branch. In this capacity, an ODL both reports to the ODB and is responsible for reporting to his or her branch about OD activities. An ODL has access to the ODB e-mail lists and, through it, maintains contact with other ODLs.

Organizer Training Committee (OTC): Responsible for coordinating Organizer Trainings (OTs) when IWW branches request to "get trained up."

Survey and Research Committee (SRC): A sub-committee of the OD responsible for conducting membership surveys as well as undertaking industrial and company research.



Your OD

ODB:

Nick Driedger (Chair) - spacequixote@hotmail.com
 Jeff Pilanski (pending) - pilac002@umn.edu
 Jefferson Pierce (rep from the SRC) - pierce1905@gmail.com
 Matt Jones (rep from the OTC) - mjonesiu460@gmail.com
 5th member pending

OTC:

Matt Jones (chair) - mjonesiu460@gmail.com
 Jon Baranski - jbwob@yahoo.com
 Jake Bell - jake.b.bell@gmail.com

OCCO:

Jon Baranski - jbwob@yahoo.com

SRC:

Jefferson Pierce (chair) - pierce1905@gmail.com
 Allison Magnon - allison.magnon@gmail.com
 3rd Member pending

ORGANIZER'S NOTEBOOK

Editor: Tom Levy - Graphics Editor: Ildi Sipos

Production: X366179 for the ODB

P&P: IWW General Headquarters, PO Box 180195
 Chicago, IL 60618, USA