



BAY AREA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH – IWW
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SFBA GMB August Reports

Delegate Reports:

Heather- I went to GA and many good things happened there. One of the things I was most excited about was that we have started a new recording of IWW songs at a Starbucks worker's recording studio in Chicago. Several different bands/musicians laid down tracks and I think its going to be a very diverse and fun-to-listen to CD. Hopefully it will come out by next GA. Pat Brenner and I may also be working on the next addition of the Little Red Songbook!

Also, Oliver and I met with a restaurant worker in Fresno who recently joined and he is going to work on starting a branch in Fresno. We will be holding an OT there at the end of September.

I've also been working on developing the 6-week class with the education committee.

I was elected to the audit committee during GA, and was also nominated for GEB. I have not decided yet whether to accept the nomination or not.

Oliver-

--I have not signed up nor taken dues from anyone during the month of August. (I will, however, be staffing a delegate table before the GMB meeting). I have been talking to a friend of mine in San Diego, who is likely to join soon.

--During labor day weekend, I attended the IWW General Assembly (with financial assistance from the Branch). One of the most important aspects was that there were breakout sessions to discuss foodstuffs workers organizing. I was pre-occupied and unable to attend either of the two breakouts; however, there is a lot of exciting organizing happening. I personally think that we as a branch should orient ourselves to focus on foodstuffs organizing for the time being, and hopefully help to organize industrially on a national/international scale. Additionally, I noticed that several branches have specific delegates assigned to members (with members generally choosing their delegate and job branches electing delegates). I think this could help us in many ways, including member retention/involvement, and is worth considering. Also, a committee to update and maintain the by-laws and constitution was formed, which I am going to try to serve on.

Pavl- (Santa Cruz) The local members tabled a Utah Phillips concert. I went out to Colorado and paid a visit to the Bread and Roses IWW workers Cultural Center and the local members are working on some new silk screens for shirts and patches.

Jefferson- I have been helping out the Metro Lighting workers who are now currently locked out. They are planning a strategy right now. The bosses have committed numerous ULPs but the workers are in a difficult situation economically and its tough to keep morale high. Nevertheless, we are in a very strong position in several ways. The two remaining front staff have committed to join the IWW. This would make five total IWW members. The boss, however, has several scabs working currently.

I committed to raise funds to send Bay Area IWWs to GA. I made a few phone calls but got distracted with other things. Thanks to those who donated money to help send a few people to GA. There were SEVEN Bay Area IWWs at GA and we were all very proud to be there rep'n the Bay.

I took some dues from the FWs who mailed in there dues to the PO box.

I'm on the IU 670 committee which has some very exciting things coming up. I haven't done much with the Recycling Workers newsletter that I've been sitting on nor the other important projects. Still, more contacts and ideas getting coming into the picture so the Recycling Workers multi-shop campaign looks very promising.

Industrial Organizing Committee/Shop Committee Reports:

IOC 410- Heather- I spent some time talking with Tom Kappas from Cincinnati who is also organizing in 410. We talked about forming a news letter that we could both use to grow our garment/textile networks. I also spoke with Lauren Anzaldo from the ISC about starting to help with the Bangladeshi garment workers campaign. I brought back a poster which is in the office and also assessment stamps to raise money for them to hire an organizer.

Stonemountain- Heather- I have cut down to 1 day a week and have been out of town most of the month. I am counting on some other members stepping up to help with the union. I will be back on Saturday for the first time in several weeks and I will be scheduling a meeting to start talking about many of the issues that have been floating around.

Briar Patch Job Branch (460)- Kim- It has really been a struggle at the Briar Patch. IWW members are not coming to meetings or paying their dues except for a small core group. We need to find a more effective way to get employees involved. Management and the board are very corrupt and devisive. We do seem to have members' attention directed towards watching the board more closely. The saying it is darkest before the dawn may apply here! Tara Bratton, our treasurer has dropped out and moved to Las Vegas. She took \$36 of our dues. Oh well, what can we do. We elected a new treasurer, Robbyn Nunes, X360852. She is much more stable and organized.

IOC 670- Steve- I will type of the minutes from the last ioc meeting and circulate them at tonight's meeting (or email them later).

MK reports: "Ted and I attended the (first?) contract discussion meeting a Curbside. The majority of workers attended. Demands are clear, with especial heat around the issue of the insurance policy of two accidents and your out. Mike has to step down as the steward, and I would like to see a committee of stewards develop in his absence." (Correction: FW Mike Hudgins has decided to remain shop steward for now).

John Reimann Reports: "A major issue for the next contract at Buy Back is the issue of working out of class. Evidently, what's happened is that as higher classification workers have left, they have not been replaced and management has, instead, gotten lower classification workers to perform their work, while still paying them at the lower rate. While the workers don't have to wait until the next contract to start dealing with this, it's also useful to see how it's dealt with in contracts at other work places. I have gotten the contract language for workers at East Bay Municipal Utilities District regarding this and we are preparing a little leaflet in English and Spanish with this contract language so that Buy Back workers can see this language. Also, at Curbside evidently there is a real issue over discipline, including the potential for being fired, for having one or two accidents. Reportedly this includes even accidents while driving one's own vehicle out of work hours. This was one of the key issues in the recent Waste Management lock-out and evidently the union there maintained their old language which is significantly better than the conditions at Curbside. I will try to get that contract language for Curbside workers to see.

Curb Side- Steve

(1) Most of the members are current in their dues. At least one or two new recyclers have passed their probation and need to join the union.

(2) The City of Berkeley adjusted their waste pickup routes, and apparently Curbside is supposed to pick up recycling in the same areas the city collects waste. Curbside management increased the number (from 7 to 8) and size of daily routes by making some of the duo routes solo routes. This has resulted in a substantially increased workload and lengthened workday for everyone. The crew is very unhappy about this and plans to take action.

(3) The Curbside recyslers will meet this Saturday (September 8, 2007) at 9 AM at the Emeryville cafe (near the Wooddfin Hotel and Dennys) to discuss strategy for fighting the route changes and increased workloads. Fws Ted nebus and John Reimann have agreed to meet there with them.

Buyback-

FW Valde reports: "BuyBack workers met to make a list of demands. Better wages, higher pay for work in higher classifications, eight hours pay for four hours work on "partial" holidays, health care, training based on seniority, safety. New machinery at BB is causing problems and they are trying to fix."

Branch Committees:

Education/Outreach- Oliver-

--There will be a 6-week "Organizing Skills" class starting on September 25th (finishing on October 30th). There are flyers available; please take some and distribute them. Note that although the flyer says "\$10 for members/\$20 for non-members", there are scholarships available for any who request them. Talk to Heather or myself if you're interested in coming or you know someone who might be.

--Jonathan S., Janky, and myself have been working on details for a combination "CNT" newspaper reading group and Spanish language conversation group. If this is something that interests you, let me know.

--The next education committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 22nd at 3 pm. I will be sending an e-mail out about this shortly.

Other Reports:

Grassroots House Representative- Steve-

I can continue to attend Grassroots House meetings (since I now have Tuesdays off until November)

The transfer of Grassroots House Ownership is in progress as is the formation of the Grassroots House nonprofit.

TAP may be amenable to switching their office with ISM's closet.

We still need to set a date for an IWW meeting room work party.

I met with several solar installers / experts at SolarFest in Hopland the weekend of August 18 & 19. They estimate the cost of solar installation will be roughly \$20,000. Several energy conservation and waste reduction projects will probably cost around an additional \$10,000 - \$15,000, but these are worth the cost and will make the building a more pleasant place to meet and work.

IWW.org- Steve- I will meet with those interested in an [iww.org](http://www.iww.org) training after tonight's meeting.

Report from General Assembly-

Oliver- Here is a brief overview of some of the other decisions made during GA:

-The expulsion of Joshua Frieze was upheld, in part because many FWs felt that he had clearly been sexually harassing FW Alexis Buss in addition to his other offenses.

-Two different charges reform proposals were sent to referendum;

-The motion to increase the ceilings for each dues category was defeated;

-A motion to have instructions for random ordering of candidates in the constitution was sent to referendum;

-A resolution regarding the needs of visually impaired FWs was passed;

-A resolution urging the GEB to continue to fund the Industrial Worker at a minimum of 10 issues/year, and adequately fund the OD and ISC was passed;

-The previously-inactive Literature Committee was abolished;

-The constitutional maintenance committee was created;

-A resolution that the Portland and Madison GMBs would create educational material regarding Automatic Clearing House dues-collection was passed.



Officer Reports:

Sys Admin- Steve

There are several annoying problems with both office computers that need fixing, including printer and scanner interface and some lax security. FW Heather Gardner (et. al.,) have suggested switching to Linux. I know of a volunteer named Christian Einfieldt who may be willing to help us with the switch and provide us with needed computer parts.

Please make a list of problems you have experienced and email them to me, call me, or talk to me in person and I will attempt to fix them.

Communications Officer- Jefferson- I took on the responsibility of Communications Officer at the last branch meeting and have fulfilled this role only in the most basic requirements. I have checked the PO box twice, responded to a handful of routine phone calls, and received a bunch of spam emails. I will at the very least execute these responsibilities diligently.

Treasurer- Ted

Financial Picture.

Income exceeded expenses by \$189.05.20. Our largest income was from Tabling Committee 92.10(net). Our largest expense was dues shares to HQ (299.00) followed by GA travel (\$250) and finally to Utilities (\$188.25). Due to the Metro Picket some dues will not be reported until September's report – don't worry. The Metro Fundraiser raised \$492.00 Those funds are in the general account, and are available to Metro workers who are in need.

Banking:

Nothing to Report as there have been no changes.

Here are the remaining Balances:

Organizing	1079.92
Ed & Out	842.00
Travel	250.00
Overhead	411.15
Office Committee	1002.83
Sex-Workers Fund	146.00
Tabling committee	396.60

Secretary- Heather

I spoke with Mark Damron, our GST while at GA about delegate reporting. He emphasized to me the importance of delegates reporting more than just numbers, but actually having a written description of their union activities for each month. I am concerned that delegates in our branch don't take this seriously and I hope that more delegates will start to give good descriptive reports so that our branch and union as a whole can be aware of union activity. So, if you gave a report but did not submit it in writing, please email it to me asap so that I can include it in our branch's monthly pdf of reports.

I would like for us to start to consider a system for staying in touch with our membership. Many branches that I spoke with have set up systems where their delegates divide up the membership and are responsible for 10 or so members. I'd like us to talk about ways that we could do this as well because it could go a long way to retaining membership and getting the membership that we have more active.

I have brought back many assessment stamps and some merch. Please check out the table that Oliver has set up in the kitchen and spend some money for good causes. There are Metro Lighting Lock-Out assessments, assessments from Providence, RI where a FW was beaten badly by the police, assessments for the ISC, for Bangladeshi Garment Workers, for the Madison Downtown Worker's Union and also for our own office's library. There are also Starbucks Workers Union T-shirts!

I ordered 2000 business cards. They are a little more expensive because we added the fax number and changed the web address to bayarea.iww.org. Next time we order them they will be less expensive.

I have not started the Policies and Procedures Manual. I will do my best to start it this month.

I spoke with the Branch Secretary in Portland, FW Ryan G, about holding a regional organizing summit. We talked about doing it in Portland since they have a large hall. I'd like feedback about the idea in general if anyone has any.