



BAY AREA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH – IWW

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SFBAGMB Reports for April, 2007

Delegate Reports:

Adam- Two weeks ago I met with three Fresno SBX workers who had contacted the national campaign. They would like to start to organize and one has since joined online. I will continue to follow up with them and FW Heather will be down there in May and hopefully arrange a second meeting with them. I also made contact with a Verizon cell phone store worker in the San Jose region. We are still trying to arrange a face to face meeting.

Dean- I have been busy with the Sbus Organizing Committee, collected dues from myself and assessment stamps (including \$20 for the NYC Foodstuff Workers) from FW Waters.

Dirty Face- No Report Submitted

Slava- at the last meeting of Bound Together bookstore, we agreed to have a donation can for the NYC Warehouse workers for three months. There is also a small sheet there briefly explaining the situation. Our Spanish language newspaper Solidaridad is now on the free rack.

Harjit- No Report Submitted

Heather- I have been very busy this month with IWW business. I have been helping meet with workers from a lighting shop in Berkeley as well as the Briar Patch Community Market workers in Grass Valley. Workers in both shops have demonstrated great leadership ability and are well on their way to a worker-managed union. I've also participated in the education committee and participated in the May Day march in Oakland.

Oliver- The busy-ness of life has kept me from moving forward with organizing at my workplace as I was hoping to do. I will continue talking with my co-workers, and participating in informal workplace resistance, but I may not be able to commit to serious organizing for several months, as I will be all over the place during the summer. The feasibility of organizing may also depend on which direction Shattuck moves in...

Jefferson- No Written Report

Steve- I collected dues and a \$400 donation to the NYC iu460 campaign from FW Ocean. I have already submitted the \$400 to the IWW cash box in the IWW office. Other than FW Ocean, I have only collected an initiation fee from FW Joyce Guzman of curbside. I still need to collect her first two month's dues.

Bruce- No Written Report

Pavl- (Santa Cruz) A number of university students have taken an interest in radical unionism. Locally we did an informational tabling in front of local starbucks, complete with police interaction, generally civil. Slightly further afield several of us traveled to the Bay Area to support or FWs at the Shattuck Rally and partake of the anarchist bookfair. Spring break interrupts meetings somewhat. Planning to flyer the upcoming UCSC job fair.

Brendan- Have not done much this month. I'm graduating High School and need to focus on that.

Santa Cruz: I started writing bylaws for a Santa Cruz "General Membership Group" that would be subordinate to our branch. Considering I'm not quite sure what people want in Santa Cruz I was not able to finish the bylaws. I'm hoping that they will be able to either write their own or finish what I started.

Lars- No Written Report



Industrial Organizing Committee/Shop Committee Reports:

IOC 410-

Heather- Nothing to report. I am the primary organizer of this committee and have been focused on other projects this month. It is my intention to make this more of a priority in the coming months.

Stonemountain- Hannah- No Report

IOC 540- No Report

IOC 670- Steve

The Bay Area iu670 IOC has not met since the first Tuesday in April (April 3, 2007) due to scheduling conflicts (the first meeting of this month took place on May Day. I propose we meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8:30 PM following the next Grassroots House meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to the Bay Area iu670 list and are available upon request.

One thing we neglected to do was attempt to organize walkouts of the two Bay Area IWW iu670 shops (Curbside and Buyback recycling) for May Day. I'm not sure how realistic that expectation might have been, but we never actually attempted it.

Buy Back-

Bruce- After four months we will complete our grievance involving Silvia with a meeting at the East Bay Mediation Service. Takes place on 5/7/07 at 7pm. Myself and Herman will accompany Silvia. Buy Back workers who speak Spanish would like copies of Solidaridad.

Curb Side-

Steve- We have several new grievances in limbo. I am attempting to contact Shop Steward, FW Mike Hudgins to determine the next move for each of them.

Several members of the crew, FW John Reimann, and I met to discuss demands for the next contract. I will post a detailed report on these soon. John Reimann called me to evaluate that meeting, and I have neglected to return his call for various reasons, but I intend to do so before the meeting tomorrow, time permitting.

Another issue that keeps coming up is due to my busy schedule, I cannot consistently strictly enforce dues collection at Curbside as easily as FW Bruce Valde can at Buyback. I have suggested that members of the shop be delegated. FW Hudgins is interested, however, it would be helpful if another member of the IOC could help me with that (other than FW Valde who has enough on his plate). It would also be helpful if we could set up ACH dues and offer that option to the recyclers.

S-Bux -Dean

The SBUXOC launched the 8 Days of Barista Agitation from April 6 through April 14th, ending with a BBQ at the Grassroots house. About 10 people attended the BBQ, and maybe 10 people actually participated in the campaign. Although the campaign wasn't a failure, the SBUXOC is a little disappointed that more people didn't make the effort to stop by at least One or Two coffee chain locations (including Pete's, Tullies, etc.) during those 8 days. But, it is not too late to go out and do so.

More Sbox Outreach Cards will be made for distribution, and can be had at the next SBUXOC meeting this month. Also, FW Adam Welch met with 3 Sbox workers in Fresno, CA, from two different locations. One of which had contacted our office after having spoke with a wobbler at an anti-war demonstration here in SF. His contact was given to FW Dean, and Dean has been in regular contact with him over the phone. Could be in the beginning stages of a campaign. This Sbox worker is talking to his co-workers and essentially mapping out his workplace before any other steps are taken. Contact FW Dean or Adam Welch for more information. OR, come to our next meeting, Wednesday, May 16th, 7pm, at 222 Clinton Park, SF.

Shattuck Cinema-

Bruce- There will be an all shop meeting on May 8th to discuss how Shattuck workers can make shop floor and contract gains. Shattuck Union workers have continued to meet regularly to discuss strategy and organizing and are continuing to hold negotiating sessions w/ management attorney. The workers continue to publish a news letter which keeps the crew informed.

Briar Patch Job Branch 460- Kim, Branch Secretary

This has been a very powerful and intense month for the 66 Briar Patch Community CO-OP Market employees. Tired of being treated like expendable, low paid employees under an "at will" employment retail grocery store, employees decided to gather together in solidarity to discuss our issues. The Briar Patch is a member/owner cooperative started by local Quakers almost 30 years ago. The members elect a Board of Directors that sets the general guidelines for the store. Management reports to the Board of Directors, and staff reports to management. Open communication and respect had been lost between staff and management. It was time for employees to have a united voice. Thanks to some local IWW union activists, U Utah Phillips and Lars Ortegren, the Briar Patch employees were guided towards the IWW.

We have held weekly meetings for the last 4 weeks forming a Grievance Committee and an Outreach/Campaign Committee. There are 4 delegates, a secretary, and a treasurer elected. Our IWW membership under IU460 is currently 19 which is a solid count since the campaign really hasn't started yet. Our most pressing issue is to present our vision of a grievance council and procedures to management this week.

The delegates are beginning to utilize shop mapping techniques and I believe we will continue to trickle in new IWW members as we connect with more employees. The biggest hurdle has been to get beyond the fears of being fired by association with the union, help staff realize this union is employee democracy defined by us, and to convince management that we really want this to improve our relationship and communication with them.

Realistically our campaign won't really get in full swing until June when we are fully staffed in the beautiful new store with approximately 110 employees. We are all excited about working in an environmentally friendly, spacious store. By uniting for the better good of all we are much more prepared to be the best natural foods cooperative in the nation.

We are asking that Heather Gardener represent us at the General Branch meeting on May 3, 2007. The Briar Patch Job Branch moves to retain 1/2 of the branch dues share (1/4 of our overall dues). These funds will be kept in a bank account in Grass Valley and overseen by the Briar Patch Job Branch Treasurer.

We genuinely appreciate the support we have received from the IWW, and especially want to thank Heather Gardner, Jefferson Pierce and Oliver Lanti for coming to Grass Valley to educate us and inspire us with union wisdom.

Branch Committees:

Tabling- Bruce

Met once in April. Next meeting is scheduled for June 21st at GRH at 7pm. At the April meeting. We elected a chair – Bruce, adopted a fixed agenda, discussed a budget, and took inventory. There are minutes.

Education/Outreach- Oliver

Jefferson and I have planned a discussion at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library for June 17th at 10 am and is tentatively planned as a history of the IWW, albeit organized around important ideas that continue to play a role in our activity, rather than simply chronologically.

I have been busy with May Day and life, and have neglected various other Education Committee tasks, such as polling about a permanent meeting time, but I promise to take care of those soon.

Office- Steve

The Bay Area IWW Office Committee has not met since last November. I haven't had time to organize an office committee meeting, but now that the IWW Office Committee has a budget, it would be prudent for the committee to meet at some point in the near future. It's difficult for me to make a proposal, however, because my work schedule is currently in flux. I would like to tentatively propose meeting the 4th Tuesday, or the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of each month at the office at 7 PM. I would like feedback from other members of the branch who wish to remain part of or join the office committee on these suggestions.

The office committee's duties include:

- (1) Maintaining and improving the Bay Area IWW office;
- (2) Training new members how to perform office tasks (including data entry, answering phone calls, etc);
- (3) Maintaining and improving the Bay Area IWW library;
- (4) Staffing the IWW office to hold regular office hours.

If you are interested in any of these tasks, you should be a part of the Bay Area IWW office committee.

SF Working Group- Lindsay Introductions, Agenda Approved, Dean's Report: Starbux contact made with worker in Fresno. Lindsay's Report: Continued to talk with workers at Starbux. No big improvements. Slava's Report: BMA elections held. Some IWW members won office. Quicksilver workers waiting for fellow worker Mike's return to move forward. Gordon's Report: He is looking for a job that is SCIU. He is currently working in caretaking. Sarah's Report: She is going to Europe where she will investigate IWW affiliates. There is a food co-op in Grass Valley that is thinking of going IWW. Sparrow's Report: He is trying to get GMB up and running. IWW celebrating May Day at Dolores park and marching to Civic Center "The Wobs" won a singing contest.

General Defense Committee- No written report

Flag Making Working Group- Brian

We have sewed and hemmed a batch of 30+ flags which we will be finishing them in the month of May. The Rock Paper Scissors Collective (www.rpscollective.com) allowed us to sew in their space and taught us to use their industrial sewing machine. They offered to let us sew there in the future and while we will continue to work on Wednesdays at the Grassroots house we will let people know if we end up sewing at the Rock Paper Scissors space.

Please come help us on sewing nights every other Wednesday at 7:00p. If you or anyone you know would want to buy a flag, let us know by contacting the Bay Area Branch. Prices are \$25.00 for non-members, \$20.00 for members, \$15.00 for branches/organizing committees.

May Day Committee- Dean- No written report



Chronicle / Darryl Bush

(pictures from the Oakland March)

Other Reports:

Grassroots House Representative- Steve

At the previous Grassroots House (2nd Tuesday in April) meeting we held several lengthy discussions. Here is a summary of the more important discussions:

- (1) Ownership - the five owners (whose names are on the Grassroots House deed) have requested that members of the groups renting space at the Grassroots House, who have established the 501c3 non-profit organization called Grassroots House immediately begin the transfer of ownership from the current owners to the nonprofit organization, as the owners are all sympathetic to the organizations that currently use the space and are aging rapidly (one or more of them also have cancer). They suggest this to avoid potential estate related lawsuits should one or more of the owners suddenly die before the transfer of ownership takes place. Several members of other groups are working on this, and I am providing financial records to assist in the process. If all goes well, the transfer of ownership should be complete within a few months or less.
- (2) Remodelling the common meeting room - I presented a draft list of proposals to remodel and renovate the meeting room, with the stipulation that I am seeking feedback on the rough proposals to be finalized at the May Grassroots House meeting (May 8, 2007). That list was sent to this email list and is available upon request (or you can check the list archives -- ask me how if you are unsure on how to do this). So far, I have received no feedback. If there is none, I will make final proposals that include a timeline and budget at the May Grassroots House meeting.
- (3) Tenant Action Project - I drafted a letter in response to a letter from a member of TAP. My letter argues that TAP has not participated in Grassroots House and needs to demonstrate that they actually function as an organization (or they should at least trade their office with another organization, perhaps one of the two (NION and ISM) that currently rent a closet). I will post the letter on the TAP door on Thursday, May 3, 2007. A copy of this letter is available upon request.

Since the meeting, I also drafted a list of energy conservation/renewable energy generation proposals. A copy of that letter was sent to this email list and is available upon request (or you can check the list archives -- ask me how if you are unsure on how to do this).

Organizing Department Board Liason- Brendan

Fundraising- I have not heard anything more about a support event for Balazo. A fundraising event seems unlikely at the moment. No report from the ODB

Alameda Central Labor Council Representative- Harry-

No report on CLC meeting in April, as I didn't attend, since little official business to vote on was to be conducted.

NO-BAWC Representative- David

IWW.org- Steve

- (1) On Sunday, April 29, 2007, several IWW members, including myself and FW Janky held an IRC chat and discussed the current status of [iww.org](http://www.iww.org) and our plans for the future. The primary focus of the discussion was establishing structure, process, and accountability. These meetings will take place roughly once a month. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, May 27, at 2 PM PDT. Contact me if you are interested in participating.
- (2) I have set up a new email list for the Bay Area IWW, called <sfba-events@lists.iww.org>. It is a solidarity list for members and supporters of the IWW. It is moderated and strictly for announcing IWW organized and sponsored events to our members and supporters. Members may of course join, and please be sure to invite sympathetic friends, family members, fellow workers, and acquaintances.
- (3) I have also set up an email list called <gob-list@lists.iww.org>. It is intended as one solution to the IWW's current operating deficit. By subscribing to this email list, members agree to receive each monthly installment (other than issues that contain ballots) of the General Organizing Bulletin electronically as opposed to hard copy. Please consider joining this email list and helping the IWW fight it's operating deficit (you will also get your copy instantaneously this way).
- (4) I have not yet scheduled any [iww.org](http://www.iww.org) trainings. Please contact me if you are interested in a training on how to use [iww.org](http://www.iww.org) to publish news, photos, events, and blogs.
- (5) We will be upgrading [iww.org](http://www.iww.org) soon, and it will include many new features that will increase user friendliness.
- (6) [IWW.ORG](http://www.iww.org) needs donations. Please donate to [iww.org](http://www.iww.org). Details here: <http://www.iww.org/en/help/donate>

Myspace.org- Brendan

We now have 414 “friends” of the Bay Area GMB on our Myspace Page. Our top 8 friends section includes the Myspace profiles “The Labor Movement”, “Wobblies”, “Shattuck Union I.W.W.”, “IWW Starbucks Workers Union”, “Twin Cities IWW”, “Providence IWW”, “Gainesville IWW”, “Seattle IWW”, “Phoenix IWW”, “Wheatville Workers Action Campaign”, “Bicycle Mechanics Union” of the Chicago GMB and “Sabo’s”.

I have not been publishing all of the stories from iww.org in our blog section. I am now just going to announce new issues of “Solidaridad”, “Industrial Worker” and any Bay Area IWW GMB events. If people would like me to post news stories, call outs, post flyers, put up pictures of events, etc. please contact me at brendan@iww.org.

I now run the general union Myspace page and plan to make it accountable to the GEB.

Officer Reports:

Sys Admin- Steve

Since the April GMB, I have purchased (for the Bay Area IWW office) a new combination all-in-one color / black & white printer / fax machine / copier / document scanner / photo printer. I have delivered and set up the printer and it is fully functional. I have tested the printer, copier, and fax capabilities, and all of them work very nicely.

Due to spatial constraints, I had to locate that printer in the corner, next to the secondary computer and telephone, however, since that printer is connected to the main computer via our Local Area Network, it receives print commands from the main computer just as if it were hooked up to the main computer directly. Other computers on the network, including a lap-top (if it is plugged into the network hub) can use that printer, as long as the drivers are installed.

The unit also accepts flash / memory cards from digital cameras, etc.

We need more paper. I will obtain some tomorrow (Thursday) from the Ecology Center Bookstore.

The entire order, including the printer cost \$456.73. The order also included a cable (that cost 19.99 out of the \$456.73 total) which ultimately was not needed. I will try to return this, but if I cannot, I will offer to pay for it and keep it. Therefore, I will be proposing that I be recompensed (from the office committee / computer budget, whose budget is \$850, and as my purchase exceeds 10% of the budget, I need to make this proposal) \$437.74.

Please be careful using this unit. Parts of it are very fragile. If you are uncertain how to use it, a set of printed instructions are located in the cubbyhole beneath the printer and above the secondary computer.

I will attempt to find a buyer for the old scanner, printer, and fax machine, or we can offer to sell them to IWW members really cheap (e.g. \$25 for the printer and/or scanner, maybe \$10 for the fax machine, the money to be then deposited into the IWW account for use in the computer budget).

As for the secondary computer, it is clear that it doesn't work particularly well with UBUNTU Linux. I am going to temporarily reinstall Windows XP on that box, set up user accounts, freeware (such as open office, firefox, etc), and printer drivers, so that the secondary computer can also function as a useful machine, until we can figure out how to make that box work with Linux or replace that box with a better computer.

Communications Officer- Samantha- No Written Report

Treasurer- Ted

Financial Picture:

Expenses exceeded income this month by \$1,772.74. The largest expense for this month was tabling (\$635.18). Presumably this was due to replenishing after the Anarchist Book fare and the income from the Mayday is not reported as last months income as that was deposited on May 2nd. Next was Overhead (540.99) which was very expensive this month as we had a large phone bill and the P. O. Box annual fee.

Attached are our account balances.

Banking:

All of the IOC accounts are set up. The initial \$25 fee to open the account was paid by the general funds. Therefore if those accounts are closed (either by folding of the IOC or the creation of an IUB) the \$25 should be returned to the GMB's general fund.

Delegates: Please be sure to properly record a members IU as it may effect a committees income!

Tabling Committee Proposal:

As reported by the Tabling Committee in their minutes:

(2)Budget -(after much discussion) resolved that the Tabling Committee proposes the following budget to the Bay Area GMB: *The tabling committee shall retain 75% of all funds collected from tabling for the purposes of maintaining inventory, paying tabling and transportation fees, and providing tabling equipment. The remainder (25%) shall be remitted to the Bay Area GMB. Passed by V.V.*

I wanted to go on record as endorsing this proposal. It is fiscally responsible, and fair to all parties involved. I will be more than happy to assist in setting up the program.

Here are the remaining Balances:

Organizing	1142.64
Ed & Out	810.00
Travel	500.00
Overhead	1709.75
Office Committee	1597.12

Secretary- Heather

New Application form- I have been working with FW Janky to develop a new membership application form specific to our branch. It will include much more information and help facilitate new membership becoming involved more easily.

Recording Secretary's form- I have made up a recording secretary's form to be used at business meetings. FW Pierce is working with it for the first time and he and I will go over it, make improvements, and bring it to the next branch meeting for final approval from the branch. I hope that it will help to make the minutes more consistent and informative as well as simplify the job of recording secretaries.

Delegate Credentials and Reports- Delegates, if you have not yet renewed your credentials, you need to do it soon. The form is available online. I would also like to re-iterate GST Dameron's reminder that all delegates are required to report monthly either to their branch or to GHQ even if they have not collected any dues. Most of our delegates have been very good about this but we do have a few who have not reported in months. You can submit these reports via email if you like. It is easier for me as well.

I have issued 4 new delegate credentials this month to the briar patch workers. They have been given to FWs Tara Bratton, Kimberly Koons, Isadora Goldsneider and Marus Hegenaur. They will be joining Lars Ortegren as delegates from Grass Valley and Nevada City. This has left me temporarily out of delegate credentials so I have not been able to issue them to FW Denofrio (sp?). I have requested more from GHQ and they should be on their way.

The Office- I reorganized the office a bit, moving boxes around and making more room for the new printer. I have decreased the number of boxes to what I consider to be the bare essentials. I am certain that many of these boxes are not regularly used. So, if you would like to request a box in the office for mail or to keep paperwork that is in process in, please let me know and we can work something out.

Filing Cabinet- My project for the next month will be to go through the filing cabinet and learn the system that Steve has set up and update it with new files. I would like to have a folder for each committee where they can file their important documents and meeting minutes. I will present a more formal version of this plan at the next meeting.

Clean Office- I would also like to appeal to the membership to keep our office clean. Many times I enter the office and tabling supplies are stacked in the middle of the floor, or remainders of meals are on the desks. Please, leave the office clean so that when the next group of FWs come to have a meeting, it looks presentable and clean. Also, if you see the trash needs to be taken out, go ahead and do it. Often there is food in there and it needs to be taken out sooner rather than later.

PO Box- I also renewed the PO box this month. I am officially the only name on the PO box now (before it was FW Means) so we need to get the CO to come with me to the Post Office to get signed onto the account so that they can legally check the PO Box.

Database- Also, FW Oliver went through and entered all of the solidarity cards and lists gathered in the past year or so into a database called 'Solidarity List' in our computer. This list will be used to invite members onto our Solidarity Events email list as well as phone calling for rallies and other events (maybe fundraising as well?) Please, keep in mind that the events list is a public list for IWW and IWW sponsored events only. If you have an announcement about another group's event that you think is interesting, send it to sfgmb@lists.iww.org and it will go to our membership.

Another goal for next month is to clean up our membership database. There are many former FWs on the database who have either moved or lost interest. I am going to work with FW Pierce to call them and see if they are interested in getting back involved in the branch or if they might want to be put on our Solidarity list. Hopefully this work will be done by the end of the month and we will be left with two lists: one of active IWW members in good standing, and one of enthusiastic supporters who may someday become good wobblies.

Thanks for all of the great reports this month. If you need to report but have not submitted your written report to me, email it to me in the next day or so at heather@iww.org so that I can include it in the electronic report to the branch.