

OUR UNION'S INTERNAL DISCUSSION FORUM

# G B #3 2008

GENERAL ORGANIZATION BULLETIN OF THE  
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

**It is raining, and we have a bum umbrella!**



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**The General Executive Board** of the IWW is accessible to all members. You may write to Board members and request an explanation of their votes. You may also write to them and ask that they sponsor a motion on behalf of you, your group, or branch. Only the Board Chair's summary of motions and votes is reported in the GOB. If you would like to see a specific Board member's report, or receive a full set of all Board member's reports, please write to GHQ. We request that you include a few dollars for every month's reports you want.

Members are welcomed to subscribe to the e-mail list of the General Executive Board, and follow the Board's activities.

To subscribe:

<http://lists.iww.org/mailman/listinfo>

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMISSION

Communicate with all ISC members at once by  
e-mailing [solidarity@lists.iww.org](mailto:solidarity@lists.iww.org).

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# Official Notices

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## What's a GOB?

For some of you, this is your first ever *General Organization Bulletin* — familiarly known to most members as the GOB.

The GOB comes out a minimum of eight times a year. It is the union's internal newsletter, an open forum for members to discuss issues of concern to the union. It also serves as a window into the General Administration. Through the GOB you can follow the actions of the IWW's General Executive Board (GEB), and read our monthly (and annual) financial reports. The GOB also publishes notices from delegates and branches; news of elections, and discussion of the issues; as well as news or reflections on IWW campaigns and projects.

Submissions can be sent by e-mail to **mingoslim21@aol.com** with "*For the GOB*" as the subject line, or by postal mail to:

**General Headquarters - IWW**  
Post Office Box 23085  
Cincinnati, OH 45223 - U.S.A.

By long-standing IWW policy, submissions may not include personal attacks against other members, (except that members shall have complete freedom to criticize the conduct of union officials without censorship, subject to the provisions of By-Laws Article III, Section 6a). Submissions in violation of this policy will be returned to their authors by the GST.

Remember, the GOB is our medium for union democracy — our way of making sure that all members have access to the information they need to decide IWW policy. The IWW is the only union that we know of to issue this sort of uncensored forum for its members. So welcome to the GOB, and to the community of Wobblies!

- Mark Damron, General Secretary-Treasurer

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## Literature Sales & Merchandise

Inquiries regarding orders or payments should be addressed and sent to:

Literature Department c/o IWW  
4530 Baltimore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

## Industrial Worker Deadlines

The IWW's monthly newspaper deadline is the first Friday of every month, with the paper mailed usually by the third Friday of each month. IWW branches and groups are encouraged to report on their activities and send graphics and photos. Share your article and in-depth feature ideas with the editor by email or post before the deadline, please.

Send submissions to:

The Industrial Worker  
PO Box 52003,  
298 Dalhousie St,  
Ottawa, ON K1N 1S0 Canada

or by email to [iw@iww.org](mailto:iw@iww.org) as plain text within the message.

## Maintain Your Membership On-Line

If you visit <http://www.iww.org/dues.shtml>, you will find that you can pay your dues directly to GHQ via Paypal, an on-line secure transaction service. There's also an option to "subscribe" to your dues, so that every month the transaction is automatic. New members can also join through the internet.

## **[iww-list@iww.org](mailto:iww-list@iww.org)**

The iww-list is an e-mail list for Wobblies. The list is not moderated, but it is filtered for spam. I'd like to encourage folks with e-mail to subscribe. You'll get an interesting mix of news, ideas, and calls for action.

To subscribe, point your web browser to:

<http://lists.iww.org/mailman/listinfo/iww-list/>

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## **Good Standing**

The address label on your envelope tells the last month for which GHQ has a record of your dues. If you believe you have paid for additional months, please check the list of delegates reporting (in this GOB) and with your delegate to make sure your dues have been forwarded to GHQ.

# General Executive Board

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## GEB Chair's Report for February 2008

March 13, 2008

Fellow Workers:

At the winter meeting of the General Administration, the Board learned that the union has taken in more from dues than budgeted for by last year's GEB (more than 40% more). The GEB agreed (in motion number HG-01) to use this money to fund the Organizing Department with \$2000 to help cover costs for ODB members to plan and attend the upcoming Organizing Summit in Toronto and to help cover other expenses of that department. The motion to fund the OD was first agreed to unofficially at the winter meeting. Discussion of this is noted in the minutes from that meeting, which were published in GOB #2.

The Board made official our branch contact assignments. A few factors were involved when branches were assigned, namely geography, projects of branches, and needs of certain branches. At the winter meeting, GST Damron provided the Board members with a synopsis on the status of each branch. Reporting looks to have improved over the last few years, in part due to the General Administration having stepped up its efforts to contact branch officers. We saw last year how poor branch reporting may have resulted in members not receiving their ballots. With contacts now formalized, I expect Board members to check in regularly with branch officers and members to help ensure timely reporting.

In addition to formalizing our assignments, the GEB chartered a GMB and there is a motion pending to charter two more. In both instances, Board members raised concerns over jurisdictional issues. Motion number JK-05 was withdrawn in favor of AB-01, which changed the jurisdiction of the new GMB from the state of Montana to the area of the Twin Rivers in that state. The other motion to issue charters (HG-03) is being debated before the Board because members disagree on whether or not the Constitution allows Regional Organizing Committees (ROCs) to charter their own branches or if the GEB must charter each branch.

The GEB revised its working rules, not to be confused with the direct action strategy of work-to-rule. The policies and procedures of the GEB can be found below (EW-02). In addition to this revision, a motion passed that changed the web administrator system to a committee of 3, appointed by the GEB. Any member interested in serving should read the language (HG-04) and get in touch with your GEB contact.

In Solidarity,  
J. Krpan – x356510  
GEB Chair 2008

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*Clarification of Corporate Lingo - "Problem-solving skills a must": You're walking into a company in perpetual chaos.*

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*Board Reports received since previous report:*

AB	- Alexis Buss:	03/12/08
ND	- Nick Durie	02/12/08
HG	- Heather Gardner:	02/27/08
JK	- Jason Krpan:	02/26/08
AL	- Adam Lincoln:	
BR	- Bryan Roberts	02/19/08
EW	- Evan Wolfson:	02/20/08

**Motions & Votes:**

Y = Yes - N = No - A = Abstain - X = No Vote Yet

BIRT = abbreviation of "Be It Resolved That"

A date following a motion whose result is still pending indicates the date the motion expires. The text of motions previously published in the GOB is not included. I am counting votes issued after motions officially passed, failed, or expired, for the purposes of members seeing how Board members vote.

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**JK-1: Winter meeting of the General Administration**

Filed: 2008-01-03 Expires: 2008-03-03 Status: PASSED 2001-01-06

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – AL: Y – AM: N – JK: Y – EW: Y – 6-1-0

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**AL-01: GEB Chair 2008**

Filed: 2008-01-06 Expires: 2008-03-06 Status: PASSED 2008-01-08

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – AM: Y – EW: Y – 7-0-0

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**JK-02: Agenda for the Winter Meeting of the General Administration**

Filed: 2008-01-15 Expires: 2008-03-15 Status: PASSED 2008-01-31

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – AM: A – EW: Y – 6-0-1

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**EW-01: Letter to Branches on Violations of Article XI, Sec. 2 of By-laws**

Filed: 2008-01-21 Expires: 2008-03-21 Status: PASSED 2008-01-31

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 7-0-0

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**ND-01: Resolution to issue NBS voluntary assessment stamp**

Filed: 2008-01-23 Expires: 2008-03-23 Status: PASSED 2008-01-31

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: N – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: N – EW: Y – 5-2-0

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**ND-02: Internal & External Communications Strategy Review**

Filed: 2008-01-23 Expires: 2008-03-23 Status: PASSED 2008-02-19

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: A – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: N – 5-1-1

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**JK-03: Reimburse FW Chernow**

Filed: 2008-01-27 Expires: 2008-03-27 Status: PASSED 2008-01-31

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 7-0-0

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**HG-01: Motion to give the ODB a budget**

Filed: 2008-02-14 Expires: 2008-04-14 Status: PASSED 2008-02-14

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: A – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 6-1-0

Whereas the Organizing Department has no funding in the 2007-2008 budget; and

Whereas the Organizing Department Board (ODB) is putting on an Organizing Summit in Toronto in April which has had no funding from the General Administration; and

Whereas the ODB has operating costs such as phone calls, communication and travel; and

Whereas the work of the Organizing Department is important to the union and deserves the resources needed to develop and grow; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the GEB allot \$2000 to the Organizing Department from now until the end of this fiscal year (June). This money will be overseen by the ODB with funds disbursed from the General Administration.

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**JK-04: Minutes from the Winter Meeting of the General Administration**

Filed: 2008-02-15 Status: PASSED 2008-03-12

AB: Y – ND: X – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: A – EW: Y – 5-0-1

The Board hereby adopts as official the minutes submitted to the GEB list on 2/14/2008 by FW Krpan.

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**HG-02: Branch Contacts**

Filed: 2008-02-20 Status: PASSED 2008-02-27

AB: Y – ND: X – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 6-0-0

The branch contacts for the 2008 GEB shall be assigned as follows:

Alexis Buss: Boston GMB, Western Massachusetts GMB, Central New Jersey GMB, Northern New Jersey GMB, New York City GMB, Upstate New York GMB, Edmonton GMB, Ottawa GMB, Toronto GMB, Providence GMB, Washington DC GMB, Vermont Group

Adam Lincoln: Melbourn, Sydney, Leicestershire, London, Manchester, Norwich, Tyne and Wear GMB, West Midlands GMB

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Bryan Roberts:	Vancouver, Winnipeg GMB, Detroit GMB, Grand Rapids GMB, Moorehead/ Fargo Group, Lane County, Portland GMB, Olympia GMB, Seattle GMB, Tacoma, Windsor Group
Evan Wolfson:	Phoenix GMB, Baltimore, Denver/Boulder GMB, Eastern Iowa GMB, Chicago GMB, Charlotte, Ohio Valley GMB, Lancaster GMB, Philadelphia GMB, Madison GMB, Milwaukee GMB
Heather Gardner:	Fresno, Los Angeles GMB, North Coast GMB, SF Bay Area GMB, Santa Cruz, Briar Patch Job Shop IU 460, Frankfurt am Main, Goettingen, Koeln, Luxembourg, Munich, Switzerland
Jason Krpan:	Atlanta, Central Illinois GMB, Waukegan, Twin Cities GMB, Missoula, Pittsburgh
Nick Durie:	Aberdeen, Clydeside/Glasgow GMB, Dumfries GMB, Edinburgh, Gainesville GMB, Pensacola GMB, Albuquerque, Austin GMB, Dallas & Fort Worth

### **JK-05: Charter the Montana GMB**

Filed: 2008-02-20      Expires: 2008-04-20      Status: WITHDRAWN 2008-02-26

AB: X – ND: X – HG: N – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: X – EW: N –      2-2-0

Whereas the required number of members in good standing in Montana have petitioned for recognition as a General Membership Branch,

Whereas the group has elected officers, approved bylaws, reports to GHQ and is engaged in IWW activity,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the General Executive Board charts the Montana General Membership Branch as an official branch of the Industrial Workers of the World.

### **EW-02: Revision to GEB Working Rules**

Filed: 2008-02-20      Status: PASSED 2008-02-27

AB: Y – ND: X – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y –      6-0-0

### **IWW Manual of Policies and Procedures**

**Sec 1 – 1**

#### **Working Rules of the General Executive Board**

1. The General Executive Board shall elect its own Chair with all the rights and responsibilities as provided in the Constitution, rules, and regulations of this union being assigned to that person. In the event the Board does not elect a Chair, the member of the Board who received the highest number of votes in the last election shall assume the duties of the Board Chair. In the event of a declination, the duties of Chair shall pass to the recipient of the next highest number of votes.
2. A majority of the GEB may recall and select another Chair at any time.

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- 3. The Chair is responsible for making a report of the business of the GEB to the membership in each issue of the General Organization Bulletin. This report shall include all motions made since the previous report and their current status, the status of motions which were pending as of the prior report, and shall include how each member voted. The Chair shall record motions exactly as submitted, and refrain from using the report to express his or her personal opinions.
- 4. The Chair is expected to alert any GEB member who is approaching non-compliance with the working rules, no less than five and no more than ten days before such non-compliance could lead to suspension.
- 5. The Chair shall notify alternates immediately when procedures dictate that they assume a seat on the Board.
- 6. The Chair shall prepare a report on the activities of the Board for the General Assembly.
- 7. The GEB List shall serve as an ongoing meeting of the Board. As such, it will be used specifically to address the business of the union in an open and constructive manner.

GEB members are encouraged to refrain from responding to communications on this list, which contain insults or threats, but rather to post this working rule on the list as the only response to such communications.

- 8. All Board members shall be expected to make a formal report to the Board and to the membership at least once a month (every 30 days). Each member shall be expected to supply copies of his or her report to each Board member, the next alternate, and the GST. At least one hard copy of each report must be filed with General Headquarters.  
Board members shall also provide copies of their reports to any member of the union in good-standing who requests them at cost.

- 9. Any Member of the General Executive Board automatically vacates office in any of the following circumstances; if that officer ceases to be a member of the IWW in good standing; if that officer fails to file a report with the Board for more than one month, without prior leave of the Chair (provided such leave may not be unreasonably withheld) and that officer fails to file a report within ten (10) days of a direct request by the GEB Chair; if that officer resigns the office by written notice received by the Board, the Chair, or the General Secretary-Treasurer; or if that officer is recalled from office by a ballot of members in accordance with Article IX of the Constitution.

- 10. All formal Board business shall be conducted through written correspondence, which may be first-class post, international airmail, electronic mail, or fax. Formal Board business may also be conducted through in-person meetings or phone conference calls; however, votes on motions will not be given effect unless made in writing.

- 11. All GEB reports shall be made over e-mail, shall contain the member’s initials, date of report, and “Official GEB Report” in the subject line, and conform to the following format:

Name of Member	Votes on New Motions
Date of Report	Votes on Pending Motions
Date of Last Report	Discussion on Votes
GEB Reports Received	Proposed Motions
Branch Reports Received	Discussion on Proposed Motions
New Motions	General Activity



12. In the event that a member of the Board realizes due to travel or temporary emergency that they will not be able to fulfill their duties for a brief period of time, they may petition the Chair, in advance, for a 30-day extension or a temporary waiver.  
Should a member of the Board be temporarily unable to fulfill their duties for reasons beyond their control, the Chair should grant an emergency waiver or temporary extension.
13. All formal business and resolutions placed before the Board shall be made in the form of motions by individual members. Each motion will have a voting life of 60 days, or until such time that a majority of voting Board members has passed or defeated a motion. Vote changes will be allowed within the life of the motion.
14. It is strongly suggested that every motion be submitted to the Board for discussion at least 48 hours before it is formally proposed. Motions for discussion shall be initialed and numbered with an asterisk ‘\*’ by their sponsor.
15. All motions for messages of solidarity, support, or condemnation, must clearly state how these messages are to be disseminated (e.g., published in the GOB, in the IW, or through correspondence).  
Motions requiring messages or correspondence on the part of the GEB Chair or the GST should include addresses for where these messages are to be sent.
16. Each Board member shall be expected to record a vote of “Yes”, “No”, or “Abstain” on every motion. Votes may be reported directly to the Board and the Chair outside of the member’s regular report, so long as they are included in the Board member’s next regular report.
17. A majority of the existing GEB members must vote in the affirmative to pass a motion. Should the Board be reduced to below five members three Board members will be required to vote in the affirmative to pass any motion.
18. A motion need not be seconded to be considered by the Board.
19. Each motion shall be initialed and numbered by its sponsor.
20. Amendments to motions are not allowed. Members wishing to change provisions of motions may vote “no” and offer a substitute motion.
21. If two or more board members make an identical motion, those motions will be consolidated by the Chair as one motion, the votes consolidated, and credit given to all those making the motion.
22. A sponsor of a motion may withdraw that motion during its voting life.
23. Any Board member may make an explanation of any vote, and any IWW member in good standing may request an explanation of any vote to be published in the GOB.
24. Whenever any official communication takes place between four or more members of the GEB outside the standard forum of General Administration list (geb@lists.iww.org), a full report of that meeting should be published on the GEB list and made available to the general membership upon request.
25. Proposals from the GEB to be sent to referendum must be printed in the GOB immediately preceding the GOB with which the ballot is to be enclosed.
26. Proposals from the GEB to the General Assembly must be submitted 60 days before the Assembly, in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution.
27. The GEB working rules shall be published in the GOB every six months.

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### **HG-03: Issue Charters to Frankfurt and Koeln GMBs**

Filed: 2008-02-24

Status: PASSED 2008-03-18

AB: Y – ND: X – HG: Y – JK: N – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 5-1-0

Whereas the GLAMROC voted to approve the charters for the Frankfurt and Koeln GMBs at their annual meeting in December of 2007, having found that they met the requirements of the GLAMROC by-laws, be it

Resolved that the GEB instructs the GST to issue charters to the Frankfurt and Koeln GMBs.

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### **AB-01: Charter the “Two Rivers General Membership Branch” of Montana**

Filed: 2008-02-26

Expires: 2008-04-26

Status: PASSED 2008-02-28

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: X – BR: X – EW: X – 4-0-0

Charter the “Two Rivers General Membership Branch” of Montana.

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### **HG-04: IWW.ORG Administration Committee**

Filed: 2008-03-03

Status: PASSED 2008-03-09

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 7-0-0

The GEB hereby replaces the Job Duties and Requirements for the Administrator(s) of IWW.ORG adopted by AW-17 (2004), section 4-4 of the Manual of Policies and Procedures, with the following:

Policies and Procedures for the IWW.ORG Administration Committee

#### **I. Role and Purpose**

The IWW.ORG domain and network are the collective property of the IWW membership and shall serve the needs of the international membership. The IWW.ORG network, overseen by the IWW.ORG Administration Committee (IAC) shall serve as the primary Internet communications network for the IWW, including web sites, email lists, membership forums, email user accounts, email forwarding aliases and Internet sub domains.

#### **II. Structure**

The IWW.ORG network shall be overseen by a committee consisting of 3 members in good standing and shall be appointed by the GEB to serve a two-year term with no term limits. Each committee member shall be recallable by the GEB at any time.

At the GEB’s annual winter meeting the board shall evaluate the work of the IAC, review their appointments, discuss policy changes and may appoint representative of the Board to work with the IAC to give oversight and help set policies during the year.

#### **III. Working Rules of the IAC**

1. The IAC shall elect its own chair.
2. All committee business shall be conducted through either written correspondence, which will be sent by email on the sysadmin list, on-line chat, or phone conference calls.
3. Decisions shall be made by majority vote. If one member resigns or abstains on a motion and there is one vote for and one against, the Chair of the GEB shall break the tie.

4. All members of the IAC, the chair of the GEB and the GST shall have full administrative privileges to all areas of the network. Passwords and privileges shall be changed by the chair each time a new IAC takes office, or each time a member resigns or is recalled.

#### IV. Duties of the IAC

1. The IAC is responsible for ensuring that the IWW.ORG network is adequately maintained, that all expenses incurred by the network are paid in a timely fashion, and that all requests for service from the membership are answered in a timely fashion.
2. The IAC may designate certain sections of the network, including domains, sections of the web-site, email accounts, email lists, and forums, etc, as the responsibility of appropriate bodies of the IWW, including the General Administration, the GEB, Committees, Industrial Departments, Industrial Unions, Branches, Shops, Delegates and Members. At their discretion they may invite other members in good standing with necessary skills to assist in their duties.
3. The IAC chair is responsible for maintaining contact with the GEB and the membership, preparing an annual budget and annual reports for the GEB and the General Assembly, which will be printed in the GOB once a year minimum.
4. While content shall be the responsibility of the IAC or designated subsections, the GEB will maintain ultimate oversight over the network and its editorial policy and content (as per the IWW constitution).

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#### AB-02: Letter to Fairhaven Organic Flour Mill

Filed: 2008-03-12 Expires: 2008-05-11

Status: PENDING

AB: Y – ND: X – HG: X – JK: X – AL: X – BR: X – EW: X – 1-0-0

The GEB instructs FW Damron to send a letter to Fairhaven Organic Flour Mill in Bellingham, Washington, demanding they discontinue the use of the IWW union bug.

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# Gold and Black Enamel Membership Button

*Available through General Headquarters*

\$5.00 Each

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For Members Only . . . Postage Included.



**Send your order, along with check or money order to:**

**IWW-GHQ, P. O. Box 23085, Cincinnati, OH 45223**

# GEB Chair’s Report for March 2008

April 8, 2008

Fellow Workers:

The Board welcomed a couple new bodies into the union this month. Stemming from last month, the Board debated rationally on how the IWW can grow internationally. A motion was made (HG-03) to charter 2 new branches, both within the GLAM-ROC. There were mixed conclusions among Board members who debated whether the GLAM-ROC or the GEB was chartering these Branches. In the end, the motion passed, the branches received charters, and the further issue of who issues charters within Regional Organizing Committees remains unresolved.

Another body welcomed into the IWW is the IWW.ORG Administrative Committee (the by-laws can be found in last month’s GOB). HG-05 nominated and elected the 3 members who will serve on the IAC and who are charged with improving the website and electronic face of the union through communications with committee chairs and the rank-and-file. The current officers serve until December 31, 2009, but all IWWers interested in serving should familiarize themselves with the working rules of the IAC, should an IACer resign or be removed for non-compliance with the working rules.

Aside from working on the method the IWW operates electronically, the Board voted to send a letter (AB-02) to a store in the US state of Washington. The GEB is demanding that this store cease printing our union’s bug on merchandise that no IWW labor was involved in making. Should this letter prove insufficient, I’m confident that the Board will step up its efforts to ensure that only that produced by IWW labor be allowed to proudly wear our union’s badge of honor.

On other fronts, Board members made 4 motions over 4 days, 3 of which passed in that time, in attempts to deal with a motion passed by the General Defense Committee. The GDC voted to give financial support to a member who was arrested and charged for an alleged action, which may or not be class related. Should EW-03 pass, the GEB will, in effect, supercede the motion passed by the GDC. This issue temporarily postponed the mailing of the April Industrial Worker, which should have made its way to you by the time this GOB goes to print.

In Solidarity,  
J. Krpan – x356510  
GEB Chair 2008

*Clarification of Corporate Lingo - “Competitive Salary”:*  
We remain competitive by paying less than our competitors.

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*Board Reports received since previous report:*

AB	- Alexis Buss:	03/12/08
ND	- Nick Durie:	03/19/08
HG	- Heather Gardner:	03/28/08
JK	- Jason Krpan:	03/26/08
AL	- Adam Lincoln:	03/17/08
BR	- Bryan Roberts:	03/20/08
EW	- Evan Wolfson:	03/28/08

## Motions & Votes:

Y = Yes - N = No - A = Abstain - X = No Vote Yet

BIRT = abbreviation of "Be It Resolved That"

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### HG-05: Appoint IAC

Filed: 2008-03-17

Status: PASSED 2008-03-20

AB: Y – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: X – AL: X – BR: Y – EW: A – 4-0-1

Be it resolved that the GEB appoints FWs Alistair Davidson, Steve Ongerth and Walt Weber to serve as the [IWW.ORG](http://www.iww.org) Administration Committee for 2008 through 2009.

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### EW-03: Resolution Concerning GDC Support in the Case of FW Marie Mason

Filed: 2008-03-28 Expires: 2008-05-15

Status: PENDING

AB: X – ND: X – HG: Y – JK: X – AL: N – BR: X – EW: Y – 2-1-0

The General Executive Board notes the following:

1. Fellow Worker Marie Mason has been indicted and arrested on charges of arson for political purposes.
2. The General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World exists for the limited purpose of aiding the defense of those involved in legal trouble because of their direct involvement in the class war, and particularly for the defense of the Industrial Workers of the World against repression.
3. The action of which FW Mason has been accused does not have a direct relationship to the class war, and that this Board has no information to suggest that her indictment and arrest can be regarded as being a pretext for her labor activities, any more than any other indictment or arrest of any worker.
4. The GDC has issued a resolution, KM-01 in support of FW Mason and others indicted with her, in which it oversteps its mandate by: providing support for defense of activism not directly connected to class war or organized labor issues; offering financial support, in a manner not prescribed by its by-laws, to individuals who are neither members of the IWW and GDC; and by appearing to condone or excuse acts of violence or arson.

Therefore, the General Executive Board resolves as follows:

1. The General Defense Committee, its officers, committees, and locals, be, and they are hereby, instructed to cease activities in defense of FW Marie Mason, except to the extent of demanding humane treatment and a fair trial for her.
2. That all persons of good will, including all members of the Industrial Workers of the World, extend to FW Mason whatever comfort and encouragement may be in their interest to give.

*(Continued on the next page.)*

(Continued from the previous page.)

3. That the position of this Organization be affirmed, that aggressive violence, whether against persons or against things, is an ineffective tactic in the struggle for the liberation of our class, and one that generally harms, rather than helps, the cause in whose name it is committed, and that any statements to the contrary by a subordinate body of this Organization do not reflect the position of this Organization and are hereby disavowed.
4. That to the extent FW Mason may have relied upon promises of the GDC to make contributions towards her legal support, any funds promised her which existed at the time of passage of KM-01 and any funds which have been received specifically for legal support to FW Mason be transferred to her or her assigns, but hereafter, no further funds from the GDC General Fund or product of any Assessment, voluntary or otherwise, from the international GDC, shall be allocated towards FW Mason's defense, nor accepted by the GDC or General Administration to be held in trust for her.
5. That the General Defense Committee be reminded that its purpose according to this Organization's Constitution, and its own Preamble and By-laws, is to provide support to members of the IWW or GDC who become involved in legal trouble due to their involvement in the class war, including activities on behalf of the IWW and organized labor.
6. This motion may be modified by any motion calling for the restriction of publicity about the above-referenced case which is passed on or before the date of this motion's passage.

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#### **HG-06: Temporary Freeze on Public Statements Regarding the Case of FW Mason**

Filed: 2008-03-29

Status: PASSED 2008-03-30

AB: X – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: X – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 5-0-0

Resolved, that the GEB instructs all official external IWW or GDC publications (IW, iww.org, *Solidaridad* or any local external branch publications) to temporarily refrain from publishing anything related to the alleged crimes of FW Mason or her co-defendants until more information can be gathered. Be it further

Resolved, that the GDC shall temporarily refrain from issuing any public statements about this case to non-IWW media outlets until more information can be gathered. Be it further

Resolved, that no IWW or GDC members representing themselves as such in an official capacity should comment on the case publicly, especially to non-IWW media outlets, until more information can be gathered. Be it further

Resolved, that any appeals for funds for FW Mason's defense through the IWW or GDC shall be made through internal channels only.

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#### **EW-04: Delay Mailing of April Industrial Worker**

Filed: 2008-03-29

Status: PASSED 2008-03-30

AB: X – ND: Y – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: A – BR: Y – EW: Y – 5-0-1

The GMB hereby instructs the Philadelphia GMB and all other involved parties to postpone mailing and distribution of the April 2008 issue of the Industrial Worker until further notice.

## **BR-01: Mail the April IW**

Filed: 2008-03-31

Status: PASSED 2008-04-01

AB: Y – ND: X – HG: Y – JK: Y – AL: Y – BR: Y – EW: Y – 6-0-0

Whereas the GEB has had the chance to review the April IW and finding that the Article on FW Mason does not state the IWW endorses the actions she is accused of. Further noting that the IW explicitly states, “Articles not so designated do not reflect the IWW’s official position,” it is clear that the article does not reflect the position of the IWW.

Therefore the GEB instructs the Philadelphia GMB and all other involved parties to resume mailing and distribution of the April 2008 as soon as possible.

### **GEB Branch Contacts - 2008**

GEB members can assist your branch with projects you would like to do, help you navigate the administrative aspects of the union, and connect you with resources. This is a list which Board members are assigned to which branches. If your branch isn’t listed, please call Headquarters.

**Alexis Buss:** Amherst IU 650, Boston GMB, Central NJ GMB, Edmonton GMB, Northern NJ GMB, NYC GMB, Ottawa GMB, Providence GMB, Toronto GMB, Upstate NY GMB, Washington DC GMB & Western Mass GMB.

**Nick Durie:** Albuquerque IWW, BI-ROC- Aberdeen IWW Group, Clydeside/Glasgow GMB, Dumfries IWW Group, Edinburgh GMB, and the Austin GMB, DFW IWW, Gainesville GMB & Pensacola GMB.

**Heather Gardner:** GLAM-ROC, Bay Area GMB, Fresno IWW Group, Los Angeles GMB & North Coast GMB.

**Jason Krpan:** Atlanta IWW, Central Illinois GMB (Champaign/Urbana), Montana GMB, Pittsburgh GMB, Twin Cities GMB & Waukegan IWW.

**Adam Lincoln:** AUS-ROC, BI-ROC - Leicester GMB, London GMB, Northwest (Greater Manchester) GMB, Norwich IWW Group, Tyne and Wear GMB & West Midlands GMB.

**Evan Wolfson:** Baltimore GMB, Chicago GMB, Carolina IWW, Denver GMB, Eastern Iowa IWW, Lancaster GMB, Madison GMB, Milwaukee GMB, Ohio Valley GMB, Phoenix GMB & Philadelphia GMB.

**Bryan Roberts:** Detroit GMB, Grand Rapids GMB, Lane County (Eugene) GMB, Olympia GMB, Portland GMB, Seattle GMB, Tacoma GMB, Vancouver GMB, Windsor IWW & Winnipeg GMB.



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# International Solidarity Commission

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## March ISC GOB Report

Greetings Fellow Workers,

I am happy to announce that the first digest of the ISC's new monthly international newsletter is complete, and should (at time of writing) be hitting the inboxes of our allies and fellow workers around the world in a few days. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our allies around the world informed of our activities, solidarity campaigns, and relevant international labour struggles. The first digest includes news about ISC activities, solidarity statements, and campaigns and is available in both English and Spanish. A French-language version of the newsletter, and possibly others, will hopefully be forthcoming. It is our hope that this newsletter will contribute to building worker-to-worker solidarity through strengthened communications and exchanges of information. To subscribe to the monthly bulletin, visit <http://lists.iww.org/listinfo/isc-updates>

Organizing for the Haiti delegation is proceeding well. Housing, transportation, and itinerary have all been arranged. It also appears that we've been able to secure a video camera in order to document the trip and publicize information about Haiti widely. This documentation is all the more important given the dire position of the impoverished Haitian working class, and the recent waves of unrest in the country – most recently in mass protests and the storming of the presidential palace over skyrocketing food prices.

The ISC has received a great deal of positive feedback from our allies in response to solidarity statements. The Central Organization of Sweden's Workers (SAC) thanked us as "true comrades" feeling "encouraged and strengthened" by our statement regarding their dispute with Altra Plast (see statements below). Mohammed Aruri of the Independent Workers Union Federation in Ramallah thanked us for showing solidarity with Palestinian workers facing severe repression and offered to meet with the IWW. We also were pleased to hear that our Cambodia and Iran statements have been translated, circulated, and posted on the websites of allies in those countries.

This past month the ISC has continued dialogue with a number of international workers' organizations. The Japanese Freeters' Union, an independent union of precarious workers, sent us a solidarity statement introducing the organization and expressing an interest in forming closer ties. We've also been in contact with grassroots grocery workers' group in Chile who are initiating a nationwide organizing campaign, and with a group campaigning against a Canadian mining company operating in Argentina near the Chilean border. We have requested that one of the campaigners write an article on workers' health issues.

For the OBU,  
Saku Pinta  
ISC Chair

*solidarity@gmail.com*

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## ISC ASSESSMENT STAMPS



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### **SP-5: Solidarity with Jorge Perez Salvo and SAC**

Motion 24/03/08

Passed 24/04/08

SP – YES                      MP – YES                      DJ – YES

To: Arta Plast AB and associates

From: The International Solidarity Commission of the IWW

It has recently been brought to our attention that the *Sveriges Arbetares Centralorganisation* (Central Organization of Sweden's Workers or SAC) is engaged in a dispute with the Arta Plast (AP) company over the callous dismissal of SAC union member Jorge Perez Salvo. Salvo, a senior employee who has worked for AP for 11 years, has been informed of his redundancy beginning August 2008, only two years before his retirement and without any economic compensation.

The International Solidarity Commission (ISC) of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) – an international, self-managed labour union with branches in North America, Australia, the United Kingdom and continental Europe – joins the Central Organization of Sweden's Workers in demanding that Salvo either be reinstated or that AP recompense Salvo corresponding to two years wages. Furthermore, until this issue is resolved, the ISC will actively support Salvo and the SAC by publicizing Arta Plast's unfair employment practices with our members and international allies.

### **MP-28: Condemning the Recent Assault on Basra**

Motion 02/04/08

Passed 02/04/08

SP – YES                      MP – YES                      DJ – YES

The International Solidarity Commission of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), an international independent labor union, strongly condemns the recent assault on the Iraqi city of Basra led by British, American and Iraqi government forces. Residents of Basra report that coalition forces have cut off electricity supplies, food and water to this city of 1.5 million people. According to the General Union of Oil Employees in Basra (IFOU), hundreds of civilians were killed or injured by occupation forces in the first 48 hours of the siege, which begun at midnight on March 24th. The conflict is now escalating as people throughout Iraq demonstrate their solidarity with the people of Basra and are in turn attacked by occupation forces. Although the assault on Basra is ostensibly part of the authorities' efforts to wipe out the militias, IFOU spokespeople point to a more corrupt motive. A March 28th article published by the IFOU describes how Basra is the primary target for "new privatisation measures opposed by the port workers, who are supported by other trade unions and port management". The timing of the military assault on the city of Basra is uncanny and clearly serves to wrest control of the ports away from union workers and put it into the hands of the multi-national oil companies. In the context of strong worker and community opposition to privatization, such an overwhelming show of force should be seen as the last resort of the occupiers to subvert the will of the people and profit at the expense of life itself. This is not rhetoric—it is a brutal reality being played out minute by minute on the bloodstained streets of Basra.

The IFOU and other Iraqi unionists demand an immediate end to the siege of Basra. The International Solidarity Commission echoes these demands and calls for the immediate withdrawal of British and American forces from Basra. We wish to remind the perpetrators of these massacres that "the present puppet Iraqi government sentenced Saddam's Defence Minister to death few months ago for similar crimes of waging war on civilians", as the IFOU recall in their article.

*(Continued on the next page.)*

*(Continued from the previous page.)*

The actions being taken by the United States, Great Britain, the Iraqi government, and all of their collaborators are clear violations of basic human rights protected by international law. The ISC further demands the abandonment of any plans to privatize the ports of Basra or to take jobs or rights away from union workers. More specifically, we warn the aforementioned governments not to use the siege of Basra as an opportunity to take over the ports by force of arms or the implicit threat of violence and repression. Such an act of authoritarian control will be met with strong opposition not only in Iraq but around the world.

The ISC pledges to do its part to raise awareness about these human rights violations and encourage the public to demonstrate their support for the workers of Basra. We stand in solidarity with the IFOU and commend them for resisting grave injustices in a time of extreme hardship and chaos.

Sincerely,

The International Solidarity Commission of the IWW

**DJ-03: Condemning recent murders and violence against banana union in Guatemala**

Motion 03/04/08

Passed 03/04/08

SP – YES

MP – YES

DJ – YES

The International Solidarity Commission (ISC) of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), condemns the recent murder of Miguel Ángel Ramírez, a member of the banana workers' union Sindicato de Trabajadores Bananeros del Sur (SITRABANSUR), who was shot dead on March 2, 2008. His killing is one of a series of acts of increasing violence against trade unionists in Guatemala. Since SITRABANSUR was established in July 2007 on a Pacific coast plantation owned by Frutera Internacional Sociedad Anónima, members have been harassed and threatened by private security guards. Some were illegally detained and pressured into resigning their union membership; at the end of November they were sacked from their jobs. Miguel Ángel Ramírez was among those forced to sign a resignation letter.

On September 23, 2007, Marco Tulio Ramírez Portela of the IUF-affiliated banana worker unions SITRABI was shot dead as he was leaving his home for work on the main street of Finca Yuma, owned by the transnational corporation Del Monte Fresh. He was secretary of sports and culture of SITRABI, which organizes Del Monte workers, and today his brother, Noé Antonio Ramírez Portela, is the union general secretary. In July, the SITRABI headquarters was raided by uniformed soldiers using official vehicles, who demanded information on union officers and members. The union filed a full report with the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Special Unit for Crimes against Unionists and Journalists. The daughter of the General Secretary of SITRABANSUR was raped by armed men and the wife of Víctor Manuel Gómez, another SITRABANSUR leader, was threatened by armed men who told her that if they did not find her husband they would have no other option than to kill his family.

The killing of Miguel Ángel Ramírez follows just weeks after IUF and union leaders from around the world met with Guatemalan president Mr. Alvaro Colom to call on his government to do everything possible to stop violence against trade unionists and end the endemic impunity in Guatemala. These assassinations and premeditated violence follow a pattern of rising anti-union violence and institutional impunity in Guatemala. The International Solidarity Commission supports the workers' demands and supports the International Union of Food Workers in their call to the Guatemalan government to immediately undertake a full and open investigation into this latest union assassination.

Sincerely,

The International Solidarity Commission of the IWW

## *Solidarity Statement from Japan's Freeters' Union*

To the Comrades of IWW

We would like to introduce ourselves to you; we are the Freeters' Union. We are a Tokyo-based general union, established recently in the face of the out-of-control global situation that the neo-liberal capitalism is running rampant. As precarious workers suffering from working conditions that are becoming more and more fluid and amorphous, we are intensifying our struggles for freedom and survival.

At this moment one of our new campaigns is to organize the "Gas Station Union" to confront Kanto Toyu Co., LTD. – a Japanese member of the Shell Oil Group – that has begun to lay off an increasing number of part-time workers on the pretext of the rise of oil prices and financial instability. It is a necessity to fight gas station chain and the oil-driven conglomerate which forcibly lays off its employees in order to make even bigger profits. We will continue to inform you about this campaign, so please keep an eye on our efforts.

In the past few years, we have been organizing the "May Day of Freedom and Survival," a May Day by and for the "informal" workers, who are increasing not only in Japan but also the world over. This year's theme will be "The Precariats Expand and Connect," expressing the idea of making a network of various groups and the people working with various types of informal workers, outside our union. That is to say, many movements of the precariats are appearing across the country outside Tokyo. We will report on these lively movements as well.

We know the glorious history of IWW in North America. We feel the past and present struggles of yours very close to ours. We are seeking to share both your efforts and hardships, going beyond the barriers of ethnicity, gender, and historicity. We of the Freeters' Union send the warmest greetings of solidarity to all the comrades of IWW, who have been consistently fighting for workers' essential rights and social revolution beyond national borders.

Together let us fight against the aggression of neo-liberal capitalism by constructing a solidarity relation. Let us fight together for the liberation of the workers of the world beyond national borders!

Noiz

The General Freeters' Union

March 30th 2008

## **MP-29: Sign on to NYCLAW Statement on Gaza**

Motion 05/04/08

Passed 05/04/08

SP – YES

MP – YES

DJ – YES

*U.S. LABOR AND GAZA*

New York City Labor Against the War

March 23, 2008

New York City Labor Against the War joins the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions in denouncing Israel's recent massacres in Gaza, the victims of which include at least 130 Palestinians — half of them civilians, including dozens of women and children — since February 27.

## **WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS?**

Israel claims that it is fighting "terrorism" in Gaza. This is the same hollow excuse with which the U.S. seeks to justify war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the erosion of civil liberties and labor rights at home.

*(Continued on the next page.)*

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In fact, Israel's attacks are part of a relentless, U.S.-orchestrated campaign of collective punishment — with complicity of the corrupt Palestinian Authority — to overthrow the democratically-elected Hamas government.

Long before its latest massacres, Israel had turned Gaza into the world's "largest open air prison," assassinating activists and cutting-off essential goods and services to 1.5 million people. Only as a result did Hamas abandon a unilateral two-year truce.

Even now, Israel seeks to derail Hamas truce offers by escalating arrests, home demolitions, settlements and murder in the West Bank — from which no rockets have been fired. Despite media portrayals, this violence is overwhelmingly one-sided against Palestinians, who have no aircraft, artillery or tanks.

Thus, while only one Israeli has been killed by rockets launched from Gaza since May 2007, Israel's modern arsenal killed 60 Palestinians on March 1 alone.

On February 29, Israel's Deputy Defense Minister, Matan Valnai, threatened a bigger "Shoah" — a reference to the Nazi Holocaust.

As UN official John Dugard has pointed out, Palestinian rockets are not the cause, but the "inevitable consequence," of Israeli state terror in Gaza, the slow-motion genocide which human rights organizations describe as "worse than at any time since the beginning of the Israeli military occupation in 1967."

Following the latest attacks, a Council on Foreign Relations expert explained, "You have Palestinians who wouldn't necessarily support the violence but they are saying, 'Well, what choice do we have?'"

## SIXTY YEARS OF ETHNIC CLEANSING AND GENOCIDE

Israel's war on Gaza can only be understood as an attempt to stamp out all resistance — including nonviolent protest — to Israel's ongoing ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians. Indeed, most of Gaza's population are survivors of Zionist expulsions since the Nakba (Catastrophe) of 1948, when 13,000 Palestinians were massacred, 531 towns and villages erased, 11 urban neighbourhoods emptied, and more than 750,000 (85 percent) driven from 78 percent of their country.

In 1967, Israel seized the remaining 22 percent of Palestine — including East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza — which, in violation of UN resolutions, remains under Israeli military rule. Today, as a result of these policies, at least 70 percent of the 10 million Palestinians are refugees — the largest such population in the world. Despite other UN resolutions, Israel vows that it will never allow them to return.

Palestinians who managed to remain within the 1948 areas — today, 1.4 million (or 20 percent of the population in Israel) — are permanently separated from their families in exile, subject to more than 20 discriminatory laws, treated as a "demographic threat," and threatened with mass expulsion.

In East Jerusalem and the West Bank, 140 illegal, ever-expanding Jewish-only settlements and road systems dominate the water resources and control 40 percent of the land. Palestinians are confined, separated, denied medical treatment, and degraded by an 8-meter-high separation wall, pass laws, curfews and 600 military checkpoints.

From 2000-2007, 4,274 Palestinians in these 1967 territories were killed, compared with 1,024 Israelis. The military has seized 60,000 political prisoners; it still holds and tortures 11,000. All of these conditions have dramatically worsened since the Annapolis "peace conference" in November.

## U.S. SPONSORSHIP

Israel's war on Palestine depends completely on U.S. money, weapons and approval. Since 1948, Israel — the top foreign aid recipient — has received at least \$108 billion from the U.S. government. In the past ten years alone, U.S. military aid was \$17 billion; over the next decade, it will be \$30 billion.

Israel's recent assault on Gaza was endorsed by a Congressional vote of 404-1. Democratic and Republican presidential candidates fall over themselves to offer more of the same. On March 22, Dick Cheney reassured Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of "America's . . . commitment to Israel's right to defend itself always against terrorism, rocket attacks and other threats," and that the U.S. and Israel are "friends — special friends." This "special friendship" means that, as in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is U.S. aircraft, cluster bombs and bullets that kill and maim on behalf of the occupiers. Just one of many targets was the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions headquarters in Gaza City, destroyed by F-16s on February 28.

Such support bolsters Israel's longstanding role as watchdog and junior partner for U.S. domination over the oil-rich Middle East — and beyond. In that capacity, Israel was apartheid South Africa's closest ally.

After 9/11, it helped intensify the demonization of Arabs and Muslims. It has 200 nuclear weapons, but helped manufacture "evidence" of Iraqi WMD. With U.S. weapons and support, it invaded Lebanon in 2006.

Together, these wars and occupations have killed, maimed and displaced millions of people, thereby creating the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Now, Israel is the cutting edge of threats against Syria and Iran.

In other words, oppression and resistance in Palestine is the epicenter of U.S.-Israeli war throughout the Middle East. These stakes are reflected in the ferocity of Israel's attacks against Gaza.

## LABOR'S ROLE

In Palestine, South Africa, Britain, Canada and other countries, labor has condemned Israeli Apartheid.

Workers in the United States pay a staggering human and financial price, including deepening economic crisis, for U.S.-Israeli war and occupation.

But through a combination of intent, ignorance and/or expediency, much of labor officialdom in this country — often without the knowledge or consent of union members — is an accomplice of Israeli Apartheid.

Some 1,500 labor bodies have plowed at least \$5 billion of union pension funds and retirement plans into State of Israel Bonds.

In April 2002, while Israel butchered Palestinian refugees at Jenin in the West Bank, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney was a featured speaker at a belligerent "National Solidarity Rally for Israel." In 2006, leadership of the American Federation of Teachers embraced Israel's war on Lebanon.

These same leaders collaborate with attempts by the Jewish Labor Committee (JLC) to silence Apartheid Israel's opponents — many of whom are Jewish.

In July 2007, top officials of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win signed a JLC statement that condemned British unions for even considering the nonviolent campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel.

*(Continued on the next page.)*

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Just days ago, the JLC and the leadership of UNITE-HERE bullied a community organization in Boston into revoking space for a conference on “Zionism and the Repression of Anti-Colonial Movements.”

Even the leadership of U.S. Labor Against the War, which receives funding from several major unions, remains adamantly silent about U.S. government, corporate and labor support for Israeli Apartheid.

Labor leaders’ complicity parallels infamous “AFL-CIA” support for U.S. war and dictatorship in Vietnam, Latin America, Gulf War I, Afghanistan and elsewhere. It strengthens the U.S.-Israel war machine and labor’s corporate enemies, reinforces racism and Islamophobia, and makes a mockery of international solidarity.

### A NECESSARY STAND

More than forty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came under intense public attack for opposing the Vietnam war. Even within the Civil Rights Movement, some dismissed his position too “divisive” and “unpopular.”

In his famous speech at the Riverside Church in April 1967, Dr. King answered these critics by pointing out that “silence is betrayal,” and that “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today . . . [is] my own government.”

At the National Labor Leadership Assembly for Peace in November 1967, he reiterated the most basic principles of labor solidarity: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. . . . Ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.”

These principles are no less relevant today.

Yes, the Israel lobby seeks to silence opponents of Israeli Apartheid. All the more need for trade unionists to break that silence by speaking out against Israeli military occupation, for the right of Palestinian refugees to return, and for the elimination of apartheid throughout historic Palestine.

Therefore, we reaffirm our support for an immediate and total:

1. End to U.S. military and economic support for Israel.
2. Divestment of business and labor investments in Israel.
3. Withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces from the Middle East.

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Issued by NYCLAW Co-Conveners

Larry Adams                      Former President, NPMHU Local 300

Michael Letwin                Former President, UAW Local 2325/Assn. of Legal Aid Attorneys

Brenda Stokely                Former President, AFSCME DC 1707; Co-Chair, Million Worker March

### **SP-6: ISC International Workers’ Memorial Day Statement**

Motion 06/04/08

Passed 09/04/08

SP – YES

MP – YES

DJ – YES

The International Solidarity Commission of the Industrial Workers of the World – an international, independent labour union – sends its solemn and sincere condolences on this April 28th International Workers’ Memorial Day to the loved ones of workers killed on the job and solidarity with injured workers everywhere. In particular, we would like to send condolences to the friends and family of Fellow Worker Ryan Boudreau, a bike messenger and IWW Chicago Couriers Union member whose life was tragically cut short in a fatal collision on August 13, 2007.

We recognize that, according to statistics compiled by the International Labour Organization, each year more than two million men and women die as a result of work-related accidents and illnesses every year while occupational accidents claim over 270 million victims. Work kills more people than wars! Speed-ups, increased working hours, and shortcuts in safety procedures, designed to maximize production and profit, severely compromise the health and safety of the working class to the benefit of the boss class. Cutbacks and redtape in workers compensation and precarious employment conditions with little or no benefits often drive injured workers into a downward spiral of poverty and destitution. Factories and workplaces are outsourced globally to regions with lenient labour regulations while workers' rights are regarded as "barriers to trade".

We also recognize that the basic, minimal rights that workers have gained were not granted by enlightened bosses or politicians. Rather, they were won through courageous struggle and direct action. One significant instance of this was the massive wildcat strike by uranium miners in Elliot Lake, northern Ontario, Canada in 1974. The strike was prompted by the abnormally high rates of cancer in uranium miners and led to major improvements in workers health and safety throughout the country. Countless other workplace struggles have contributed to the implementation of health and safety measures worldwide, often through work stoppages, slowdowns, and independent shopfloor action.

Only the vigilance, organization, and international solidarity of the working class can preserve and extend these basic workers' rights against the bosses drive for growth, production, and profit at any expense. Ultimately, only the reorganization of economic life on the basis of production for use, and recognition of labour as a means towards the fulfilment of our collective needs and desires, will ensure the well being of workers everywhere.

**AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!**

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Fellow Workers,

I just wanted to take a moment and say hello and introduce myself. My name is Walt Weber, and I am the Chair of the recently created IWW.org Administration Committee, which replaces the previous position of IWW.org webmaster, a position held for some time by FW Steve Ongerth.

The new committee includes FW Ongerth, FW Alistair Davidson of the BI-ROC, and myself as the chair. We look forward to improving the website and developing more functions for the membership.

That said, we would like to have your input and participation in the development of the website. While we are the administration committee, we are looking to develop a group of people to collaborate on the development of the website, as well as input from members of the union into what they would like to see change or improve on the website.

Anyone with comments or questions, please direct them to me, and I will do my best to make sure that they are answered. Anyone who is a web programmer or developer or graphic designer is encouraged to join us on the sysadmin e-mail list, to participate in the conversation and implementation of new functions.

We look forward to hearing from you, and to serving the union for our term on the committee.

—  
Walt Weber  
Philadelphia IWW Branch Secretary  
Chair IWW.org Administration Committee (IAC)  
walt.weber.iww@gmail.com





# Organizing Department

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## Report on the 2006 Survey and Research Committee Surveys

Mike Pudd'nhead - Twin Cities GMB  
IU 640

### INTRODUCTION

The 2006 Survey and Research Committee of the Organizing Department spent a lot of time and energy writing and delivering and collecting these really long surveys to IWW branches around the world; or at least the continent.

The committee had a really hard time getting branch secretaries to fill out the surveys. Most of them didn't. But folks from 12 branches did.

Unfortunately, last years SRC never wrote a report on the surveys that they spent all year compiling. I don't really mind writing the report myself, but as a matter of accountability I think I'm obliged to call them out for not doing the job they were appointed to do. Also Nate said he didn't mind. The committee was Nate Holdren, Jim Crutchfield, and Paul Bocking.

Anyway, so only 12 branches filled out their surveys, and the margin of error on their own information is probably pretty monstrous. Still I think there's enough information of interest here to write a report. So I'm going to do it. It starts with a section on Membership.

Oh, and I tried to make this easily accessible. If you have an aversion to numbers, just read the bold text.

### *MEMBERSHIP*

This section of the survey is concerned with branch demographics and member retention.

### *DIVERSITY:*

The Bay Area was by far the largest branch with over 100 members in good standing. Boston, Chicago, and Madison were the next largest branches with 25-50 members in good standing. The other 8 branches were considerably smaller, with 15 or fewer members.

In general, the branches surveyed were not very diverse. Most branches are almost completely Anglo and have at least twice as many males as females.

Only Gainesville, Toronto, and UAW Amherst had an equal gender balance, while only Toronto's membership represented the ethnic diversity of the city where the branch was based.

Members in good standing:

Bay Area -	116
Boston -	26
Chicago -	32
Eastern Iowa -	8
Gainesville -	10
Lane County -	8
Madison -	49
Milwaukee -	11
Toronto -	9
Twin Cities -	15
Vancouver -	12
UAW Amherst -	5
<b>AVERAGE:</b>	<b>25</b>

*(Continued on the next page.)*

*(Continued from the previous page.)*

**Gender Ratio (Male to Female):**

Bay Area -	2 to 1
Boston -	5.5 to 1
Chicago -	N/A
Eastern Iowa -	7 to 1
Gainesville -	1 to 1
Lane County -	2 to 1
Madison -	2 to 1
Milwaukee -	4.5 to 1
Toronto -	1 to 1
Twin Cities -	4 to 1
Vancouver -	11 to 1
UAW Amherst -	2 to 3
AVERAGE:	3.5 to 1

**Ethnic Breakdown:**

Bay Area -	N/A
Boston -	100% Anglo
Chicago -	80% Anglo, 15% Hispanic, 5% African-American
Eastern Iowa -	100% Anglo
Gainesville -	80% Anglo, 10% African-American, 10% Asian
Lane County -	80% Anglo
Madison -	90% Anglo, 10% Latino
Milwaukee -	85% Anglo, 15% Latino
Toronto -	65% Anglo, 20% Latino, 15% South Asian
Twin Cities -	100% Anglo
Vancouver -	90% Anglo, 10% Francophone
UAW Amherst -	100% Anglo
AVERAGE:	Very Anglo

**INDUSTRIAL CONCENTRATION:**

Definitely more people in 620 (Education Workers) than any other IU, but those 620 workers probably include unemployed students. Most workers are in department 600 with some groups of workers in 400 and 500, while almost none were in 100, 200, or 300. This is I think representative of the general trend towards service jobs in the United States.

**IUs With Greatest Concentration of Members:**

Bay Area -	410, 460, 620, and 670
Boston -	330 and 620
Chicago -	N/A
Eastern Iowa -	N/A
Gainesville -	Dept. 600
Lane County -	N/A
Madison -	620 and 660
Milwaukee -	620 and 640
Toronto -	560, 620, 630, and 650
Twin Cities -	620 and 640
Vancouver -	N/A
UAW Amherst -	N/A

## Number and % of People Involved in IWW Organizing:

Bay Area -	N/A, more than 50%
Boston -	6, 25%
Chicago -	20, more than 50%
Eastern Iowa -	3, 30%
Gainesville -	1, 10%
Lane County-	3, 40%
Madison -	around 50%
Milwaukee -	5, around 50%
Toronto -	5, 33%
Twin Cities -	6, 25%
Vancouver -	0%
UAW Amherst -	0%

### *MEMBERSHIP RETENTION:*

The reasons respondents listed for folks falling into bad standing were varied but mostly had to deal with difficulties in getting delegates to track members down.

Most branches continue to at least send e-mail announcements to former or inactive members.

In Madison half of the members pay dues via ACH and the branch feels it has helped members stay in good standing. Chicago was transitioning to ACH and expected it to help with member retention.

### *CONCLUSIONS:*

There is a clear correlation between the % of members involved in organizing and the size of branches. The three branches who responded that more than half of their members involved in organizing drives (The Bay, Chicago, and Madison) were also the three largest branches.

This to me suggests that union organizing is how to build an IWW branch from say 10 to 100 members. This as opposed to whatever other activities a branch may engage in (movie nights, solidarity pickets, happy hour, etc.), which were omitted from this survey. Common sense maybe, but I think it's worth reiterating.

Maybe the most interesting statistical whatnot in the whole survey I think is that we see no correlation between organizing activity and gender balance. I have often heard that even if we're all guys, once we start bringing folks into the fold through organizing drives, the gender dynamics will balance out.

Of the branches who reported the most organizing activity (some of this information comes later) – The Bay Area, Chicago, Eastern Iowa, Madison, and the Twin Cities – none had a gender balance better than 2 males to 1 female. The branches that did have a good gender balance reported varying levels of organizing activity.

Likewise there was no correlation between organizing activity and ethnic diversity.

I'm not sure how to diversify the IWW, but I think this proves that we can't just go about our organizing and not worry about it.

I don't have a whole lot to say about member retention. I think ACH makes it easier for members stay in good standing, but dues check-off would probably help with that also. At any rate, these surveys don't add much to the debate.

*(Continued on the next page.)*

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**BRANCH ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES**

This section of the survey is concerned with administrative structures and branch finances.

*BRANCH ADMINISTRATION:*

Half of branches combine the Secretary and Treasurer officer positions, while the other half elect separate officers for two positions. This somewhat correlates to the size of branches. Most branches with at least 10 members in good standing do not combine the position.

In each branch, Secretaries and Treasurers are elected for one-year terms.

In each branch, delegates once elected/confirmed can serve as officers indefinitely.

No branch reported term limits regarding any branch officer positions.

A slight majority of branches use formal procedure in their meetings, and this is usually some form of Rusty’s Rules. Madison was the only branch that operated on consensus.

*Other Specific Items of Interest:*

The Bay Area has more delegates than fit on GHQ’s branch report forms. They also have had administrative problems dealing with members who pay dues online.

Chicago requested a “things every branch should know” pamphlet from the General Administration that would help branches track finances more like the General Administration. Chicago also requested that GHQ supply branches with blank delegate credentials.

Madison complained of GHQ’s tardiness in shipping credentials and literature, but noted that GHQ has become more timely since moving to Cincinnati.

*BRANCH FINANCES:*

The two largest accounts, the Bay Area and Chicago, had at least half of their available funds earmarked for organizing campaigns.

Boston and Twin Cities spent almost their entire budget on education and propaganda. Other branches either spent little to no money over the past year or did not maintain records of expenses.

Only Boston, Chicago, the Twin Cities, and UAW Amherst had records of how much money in dues they had retained over the last year. Only Chicago had complete detailed information of their entire income. They took in almost all their money through dues.

Only the Bay Area, Chicago, Twin Cities, and Vancouver audit their finances annually.

Only Chicago, Madison, and Vancouver have instituted ACH for dues payments.

*Total Branch Funds and Number of Accounts:*

Bay Area —————>	\$9215, 8
Boston —————>	\$3000, 1
Chicago —————>	\$4000, 2
Eastern Iowa —————>	\$0, 0
Gainesville —————>	\$700, 1
Lane County —————>	\$0, 0
Madison —————>	N/A
Milwaukee —————>	\$1500, 2
Toronto —————>	\$1800, 1
Twin Cities —————>	\$1425, 2
Vancouver —————>	\$2000, 2
UAW Amherst —————>	\$637, 2

CONCLUSIONS:

Rotation of officer positions at the branch level is poor and in some cases just doesn't happen. This to me is very disheartening, since rotating positions of power is one of the most important aspects of a democratic society. Many would I'm sure argue that delegates and BSTs have no more power than rank-and-file members, but I disagree.

The survey doesn't deal much with why these positions aren't being rotated, but some respondents did touch on it. It's pretty obvious anyway. In most cases, there just aren't enough people willing to do the work, which is pretty thankless. But I'm ideological enough about this that I don't think that's a good excuse. If we suddenly found ourselves in control of an industry and already had entrenched officers, I'd throw a tiffy.

Most branches have more money then they know what to do with, which is nice. But bookkeeping at the branch level is universally atrocious, with the exception of Chicago.

CURRENT ORGANIZING CAMPAIGNS

About half the branches surveyed had ongoing campaigns. A third of the branches had active shop committees.

Almost all campaigns were focused on a single shop, except in Chicago, where two campaigns involved a number of stores. Chicago was also the only branch involved in an industrial campaign.

The Bay Area was the only branch that had shops where management recognized the IWW, and it had 4 such shops. The Bay was also the only branch where the ongoing organizing drives had gained support from a majority of workers.

Madison had one collective job shop and was on the verge of certifying another.

Ongoing Organizing Campaigns:

Bay Area -	2	Madison -	1
Boston -	0	Milwaukee -	1
Chicago -	5	Toronto -	0
Eastern Iowa -	3	Twin Cities -	2
Gainesville -	1	Vancouver -	0
Lane County -	0	UAW Amherst -	0

Number of Members Working in Shops With an Ongoing Drive

Bay Area -	11	Madison -	0
Boston -	0	Milwaukee -	1
Chicago -	N/A	Toronto -	0
Eastern Iowa -	1	Twin Cities -	12
Gainesville -	1	Vancouver -	0
Lane County -	0	UAW Amherst -	0

shops with a Functioning Shop Committee:

Bay Area -	2	Madison -	0
Boston -	0	Milwaukee -	0
Chicago -	3	Toronto -	0
Eastern Iowa -	1	Twin Cities -	3
Gainesville -	0	Vancouver -	0
Lane County -	0	UAW Amherst -	0

(Continued on the next page.)

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### **CONCLUSIONS:**

There is quite a bit of organizing going on in the IWW. These surveys only reflect the North American Wobblies, and about ¾ of the North American branches did not fill out a survey. I think it's reasonable to believe that about ½ of all chartered branches are engaged in some type of organizing, as the surveys suggest.

Most of our organizing campaigns are small-scale, involving single shops. Where they involve more than one shop, they typically follow a corporate model (different stores in a corporate chain - Bay Area, Chicago, Milwaukee, Twin Cities) rather than an industrial model (different shops in an industry - Chicago) or a geographic model (Madison).

Organizing drives are the juicy stuff that keeps me in the union. This is maybe outside the realm of these surveys, but I personally had heard little to nothing about the campaigns in Eastern Iowa and Gainesville. I still don't know anything about the four Bay Area shops with union contracts.

I'd like to learn more about the sweet organizing going on around the IWW. Which is why I'm excited to be an Organizing Department Liaison. Encourage your branches to report to the Organizing Department! And encourage your Organizing Department Liaison to report back to your branch!

Sorry I don't have much of a zinger to close on. The last 9 questions of the survey were pretty boring and mostly pointless.

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# **Gold and Black Enamel Membership Button**

*Available through General Headquarters*

**Be the first on your block . . .**

**Or in your Branch.**

**\$5.00 Each**

**3 for \$12.00 . . . .**

**For Members Only . . . Postage Included.**



**Send your order, along with check or money order to:**

**IWW-GHQ, P. O. Box 23085, Cincinnati, OH 45223**

# Committee Reports

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## Constitution and Bylaws Maintenance Committee

Quarterly Report  
4/9/08

Fellow Workers,

The CBMC deliberated over our mandated three articles to submit to this year's assembly. We have not formulated proposals in constitutional language to offer at this time, however this work is underway. I have summarized the three sections that we are focused upon this term of our committee below.

- 1(a) *Article VIII, Section 2(a) - Wording in contradiction with Article VIII, Section 2(i). Section 2(a) sets maximum dues and initiations at 15\$, where Section 2(i) sets max dues at \$18.*

The Committee is discussing language to increase the maximum allowable dues rate to either a set monetary amount or an amount equating to hours wages. For example, setting the limit to either \$30, or equivalent to four hour's wages.

- 1(b) *Article VIII, Sections 2(b) and 2(c). - Repeal.*

The wording in Sections 2(b) and 2(c) are redundant with 2(a). Also, 2(d) is similarly redundant, however was not proposed by this committee. It is possible that this and a reworded 2(a) [to include non-redundant language] may be proposed by the committee.

- 2) Delete repealed General Bylaws Article VIII from further editions of Constitution and re-number succeeding bylaws accordingly.

The headline of "Intoxication", and body of "Repealed" makes it seem as if the IWW is pro-intoxication. Seeing as it has been repealed, it is only logical to remove it from the official Constitution.

- 3) Adopt Resolution on Political Parties and Discipline as last Bylaw. This resolution has been with us for almost a century, and it is probably the most controversial of the committee's proposals.

The committee has a number of openings (3) and we invite all interested IWW's to join us so they may participate in final deliberations before a final proposal is submitted for deliberation at General Assembly. Applicants will be accepted as first-come, first-serve and may email Name, Phone, Email, x#, Industrial Union, and Standing to galleani@riseup.net

Please admire the hard work of a number of our Fellow Workers in a website that features past constitutions and bylaws at

***<http://www.workerseducation.org/crutch/constitutions.html>***

For the OBU  
FW Zito

# General Assembly 2008

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Again, it may seem a bit unusual, as we normally do not begin discussing General Assembly this early, but this year, with Assembly held outside of North America for the first time, there are a number of issues which Branches and members planning to attend need to consider in advance.

*Passports:* Under new federal guidelines Passport applications can take months to process, and are mandatory if you are planning to travel to London for Assembly. For that reason, if you do not have a valid passport, and you even think that you might attend, it is not too early to begin the process immediately.

*Travel:* Flights overseas can be very expensive, and rumor has it that prices are going to rise. If you are planning on attending GA, it might also behoove you to begin looking for deals or specials now. You have four months . . . and that time will fly by.

*Issues:* Because of the need to make travel arrangements sooner, we are going to need to actively consider issues and agenda items we wish to consider at this Assembly ***now***. Your branch might want to start meeting and considering drafting proposals now, so that there will be plenty of time for discussion.

*Proxies and Branch Delegates:* Branches need to begin considering whether or not they are going to send a delegate to the convention, and if so, how they are going to choose that delegate and pay expenses. You also need to make sure that proxies are in order, and ready to go, so that votes can be properly registered at Assembly.

## The SATO FUND

A tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working people, Charlene “Charlie” Sato taught at the University of Hawai’i until her death in 1996, and was an active member of the O’ahu General Membership Branch of the IWW.

The **Charlene Sato Memorial Fund** was established in her honor to support women members’ participation in the IWW.

In the last two years over \$3,000 in financial aid as been laid out by the Sato Fund so that women in our union could take part in General Assembly and other union-related activities. In that same time, virtually no donations have come in to keep the fund viable.

### *DONATIONS ARE NEEDED.*

Those wishing to do so may donate to the Charlene Sato Memorial Fund. Checks should be made payable to “IWW” (mentioning the Sato Fund in the memo line), and sent to

General Headquarters - IWW  
P.O. Box 23085  
Cincinnati, OH 45223.

*Those wishing to apply for a grant from the Sato Fund to attend the 2008 General Assembly in London should send a request to GHQ, including the amount needed and what the funds will be used for, no later than June 1st.*



# General Headquarters

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For the second month in a row the GOB is already oversized, so again I will keep my comments short and to the point . . .

As stated last month, 2007 Year-End reports went out to each and every branch in February. Included in that mailing was a letter from the GEB regarding contact language, and shop contracts, and a Branch worksheet/questionnaire, so that we have the most up-to-date information on file as to your branch contacts, delegates and shops. So far only about 1/3 of all branches have returned their worksheet to GHQ . . . we need EVERY BRANCH to respond by MAY 15th.

Likewise, several branches that are currently representing workers on the job have failed to file copies of their contracts with GHQ . . . please send in copies of any current (or past) contracts.

Finally, delegate clearance forms went out in February as well. While we have heard from many, there are still many delegates who have not cleared their credentials. A list of delinquent delegates will be posted in the next GOB . . . If you do not want to see you name on that list, fill out a clearance form, and get it in the mail!!



Peace Like a River,  
In Solidarity,  
Mark Damron

## Financial Report

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February 29, 2008

### ASSETS

#### Checking/Savings

1014 • Fifth Third Bank checking 22,058.66

1015 • Fifth Third Bank Money Market 39,918.83

1030 • Petty Cash 132.49

Total Checking/Savings 62,109.98

#### Accounts Receivable

1200 • Literature Department A/R 36,267.90

Total Accounts Receivable 36,267.90

#### Other Current Assets

1110 • Inventory - Lit Dept. 8,000.00

1120 • Loan - NY GMB 3,000.00

1130 • Int'l Solidarity Commission 219.35

Total Other Current Assets 12,119.25

Total Current Assets 112,497.13

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Equity

3000 • Opening Bal Equity 82,772.77

Net Income 29,724.36

Total Equity 112,497.13

Total Liabilities and Equity 112,497.13

## Profit and Loss - February 2008

### Income

Fundraising Income	544.35
Dues	5,970.56
Assessments	37.00
Organizing Fund	9.00
Donations to IW	19.55
ISC	209.00
Interest Income	11.05
IW	719.20
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,519.71</b>

### Expense

<b>Labor Costs</b>	
Admin Wages	2,492.24
Benefits	400.00
Payroll Taxes	619.96
Professional Services	80.81
<b>Total Labor Costs</b>	<b>3,593.01</b>
<b>Rent and Facilities</b>	
Rent	700.00
Maintenance	30.00
Admin phone/fax/email	394.57
Cellular	80.75
Utilities	405.09
<b>Total Rent and Facilities</b>	<b>1,610.41</b>
<b>Bank Charges</b>	<b>6.00</b>
<b>Office &amp; Membership Supplies</b>	<b>698.29</b>
<b>Postage Accounts</b>	
Admin Postage	235.77
GOB Postage	230.32
<b>Total Postage Accounts</b>	<b>466.09</b>
<b>Copier Lease</b>	<b>828.77</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>	
Audit Committee	497.10
GEB	173.07
<b>Total Postage Accounts</b>	<b>670.17</b>
<b>Organizing Drives</b>	<b>353.50</b>
<b>Lit Expense</b>	<b>614.00</b>
<b>IW Expense</b>	
IW Mailing Stipend	736.00
IW postage	290.04
IW Expense - Other	1,000.00
<b>Total IW Expense</b>	<b>2,026.04</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>9,012.22</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-1,492.51</b>

# Delegate Reports Received

This report shows which delegate reports have come in to General Headquarters since the last GOB was published. The date listed is the date the delegate put on his or her report, most usually the last day they collected dues on the report. The delegate number's prefix (the two-digit number) tells you the year the delegate last cleared his or her credentials.

It is a good idea to check your mailing label on this GOB, where you will find the last dues that Headquarters has recorded for you. If the label doesn't match your membership card, you can look and see if your delegate sent in his or her report. If the report is listed, but the date of the last dues paid on your label isn't correct, please contact Headquarters.

Branch	Date	Delegate	Del#	Init	Max	Reg	Min	Sub	Asst	IW	Org
	01/03	Seth Dietz	07-1822	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
	02/07	John MacLean	07-1874	2	0	2	13	0	1	0	0
	02/12	Cullen Brown	07-1856	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	01/14	Josh Keogh	07-1872	0	6	0	21	2	0	0	0
Boston	01/28	Matt Andrews	07-1719	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Boston	02/10	Steve Kellerman	07-1008	0	2	2	13	1	1	0	0
Central Illinois	02/10	David Johnson	07-1624	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0
Gainesville	02/03	J. N. Richard	07-1765	4	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
Grand Rapids	01/27	Gerard Akkerhuis	07-1843	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	12/15	Bruce Mark Nevin	07-1061	0	0	0	14	0	1	0	2
Lancaster	01/10	Bruce Mark Nevin	07-1061	0	8	15	7	0	1	0	1
Philadelphia	11/14	Michael Pesa	07-1784	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	11/24	Jon Bekken	07-1034	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	12/12	Michael Pesa	07-1784	0	12	8	3	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	11/24	Jon Bekken	07-1034	0	0	0	12	18	0	0	0
Phoenix	02/07	Terry Hughes	07-1834	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	0
Phoenix	02/08	Bill Krist	07-1429	0	0	6	8	12	0	0	0
Portland	01/30	Matt Jones	07-1716	3	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Portland	01/30	Nick Neumann	07-1669	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Portland	01/31	Ryan Gaughan	07-1789	1	5	23	8	0	0	0	0
Twin Cities	01/05	Erik Forman	07-1815	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Twin Cities	01/06	Jeff Pilacinski	07-1735	1	4	0	12	0	0	0	0
Twin Cities	01/08	Brendan Rogers	07-1885	2	0	1	5	0	0	1	0
Twin Cities	01/28	Maria Athanasselis	07-1909	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Two Rivers	02/10	Jay Bostrom	07-1665	0	0	6	1	2	0	0	0
Upstate NY	01/21	Greg Georgio	07-1027	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0

## Foodstuff Workers I.U.460 Organizing Voluntary Assessment Stamp

Simply mail \$10.00, earmarked for the  
I.U. 460 campaign , to:

**IWW**  
**P. O. Box 23085**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio 45223**



***Support your Fellow Workers in their Organizing efforts!***

# Notes From Delegates

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**Baltimore GMB:** Although we have had to postpone our organizer training, we are currently planning a Baltimore May Day event, and continue to work on a proposed teacher's conference. (Josh Keogh, Januaryr 2008)

**Central Illinois GMB:** We continue to work on the branch web-site, and have had 2 recent organizing leads, including a Starbucks in a nearby town. (David Johnson, February 2008)

**Gainesville GMB:** Organizing continues at a local grocery, and we have signed up several new members at the store . . . We just keep on putting the "red" back in "redneck". (J. N. Richard, February 2008)

**Portland GMB:** Organizing activity in the restaurant industry is underway. The union is actively participating in a recently-formed group, the Portland Restaurant Workers' Association, which is beginning to address grievances from several shops in town. Many people in the branch have been putting energy into supporting workers at a local bagel bakery who are preparing to present their employer with a list of workplace demands. Organizing also continues in IU650, as we endeavor to facilitate a meeting between Worker's at our shops in that IU. Workers in these shops have been building their union from the ground up, and we are preparing to go into wage re-opener negotiations in July. (Ryan Gaughan, February 2008)

## A Report from Labor Notes

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The Wobbly presence at the Labor Notes Conference (April) was a definite success. We had literature and merchandise sales throughout the weekend, a Wobbly Social on Saturday evening, and an IWW informational meeting on Sunday morning. We also had an opportunity to spend some time with the striking American Axle workers at the Hamtramck plant.

There were scores of people in attendance at the Wobbly Social due in large part to FW Ron Kaminkow's organizational expertise.

The Sunday IWW meeting was a huge success, the only problem being that the room was too small. There were twenty Wobblies and ten non-Wobblies in attendance. We gave a brief overview of the IWW for the non-Wobs, and talked a little about dual-card issues. All Wobblies then joined in to help answer questions and to fill in some of the gaps we had missed. We signed up one new member and had two others requesting additional information. We also had a UAW worker who is looking to start a branch in Toledo.

There were about twenty-five Wobblies from ten different branches in attendance, and virtually all of them contributed to the effort. I think it's important to specifically thank many of those involved: Thanks to my FW Knutson for helping with the planning; and to FW Jenny Peshut from Milwaukee for coming up with an educational and fun way of illustrating the power of direct action organizing. Thanks to FW Buss for getting literature to Baltimore on short notice, and to the Baltimore GMB for getting the materials to Detroit. Thanks to the Detroit, Baltimore, and Twin Cities branches for underwriting the cost of the literature table. In addition; thanks to the Madison and Upstate NY branches, a well as to Anne Feeney for helping to staff and/or provide merchandise.

My apologies if I missed thanking anyone.

All in all, we had a visible and well-received presence throughout the conference. And, to the best of my knowledge, no Wobbly was ideologically perverted by coming into contact with "organized" labor.

In Solidarity,  
Bob Adams

Twin Cities GMB

## WORKERS OF THE WORLD!!!! TRANSLATORS NEEDED!

Rhiannon Edwards of the Edmonton GMB is coordinating a brand new Translation Committee . . . (so brand new that most of you have probably not even heard of it yet). Members interested in translating documents should contact her at: [rhiaedwards@gmail.com](mailto:rhiaedwards@gmail.com)

Anyone who wants a document translated into Spanish now needs to simply email it to [espanol@iww.org](mailto:espanol@iww.org) . Using an email list of translators, Rhiannon will then assign it to an interested translator.

## A SOON-TO-BE COLLECTOR'S ITEM!!!

### The 2005 Centenary Edition of The Little Red Songbook

Produced for distribution at the Centenary Celebration last summer, this edition of the Songbook was a very limited edition, and has never been offered for sale . . . until now.

While they last, we are offering them for sale to members and Branches direct from GHQ, for \$5.00 a piece.

Send your order to:

IWW  
P.O. Box 23085  
Cincinnati, OH 45223

**I.W.W.  
SONGS**  
TO FAN THE FLAMES OF  
DISCONTENT



## IWW Documentary Now Available

The Upstate New York Regional GMB's newly edited IWW History Mini-documentary is completed . . .

If you are interested in owning a copy or hosting a screening, please enquire of:

Greg Georgio

[gblackcat27@yahoo.com](mailto:gblackcat27@yahoo.com)

(518) 861-5627

# ISC NEWS BULLETIN . . .

The IWW's International Solidarity Commission has created an e-mail list for our soon-to-be-initiated monthly News Bulletin.

To subscribe to the monthly bulletin, visit

***<http://lists.iww.org/listinfo/isc-updates>***

The News Bulletin will be a way of keeping in communication with our allies around the world, but it should also be useful for IWW members.

The first bulletin will be sent out in less than a month.

The list is designed solely for distribution of the Bulletin, so if you subscribe to this list you will only receive one email per month. The list is not set up for discussion.

If you want to join our discussion list, go to ***<http://lists.iww.org/listinfo/isc>*** .

In Solidarity,  
Mike Pesa

International Solidarity Commission



# SOLID

## The Manual of Processes and Procedures

The Manual of Processes and Procedures was created by order of the General Executive Board of the IWW to help codify organizational procedures and methods.

The goal of this Manual will be to effect continuity from Administration to Administration. It is also to provide organization in the methods and procedures of day to day business, improve the current system, increase efficiency, and reduce the need for continual constitutional revision.

This Manual affords new officers and members of the union with clear guidelines for their conduct in key areas, and set forward clear standards as to what is expected of them while serving the union. Ideally this manual will provide that our decision-making can become policy-based, rather than arbitrary, and each administration could build upon our union's rich past rather than scramble about for a means of meeting the future.

The contents of each section of this manual have been approved by vote of the General Executive Board. Future additions or changes may be made by vote of the General Executive Board, the General Assembly, or by Referendum vote by the membership.

No item within the Manual of Policies and Procedures shall be in conflict with or supercede the Constitution of the IWW. Any disagreement regarding the adjudication of such a conflict may be submitted to the General Assembly or for Referendum vote by the membership.

*Any member may request a copy of the MPP from General Headquarters.  
The cost is \$5 to cover postage and printing costs . . .*

# **Tacoma Wobblyfest 2008:**

## **A Poor and Working People's Gathering**

A Public Gathering of Education and Music

May 24, 2008

9 AM to 5 PM at:

Evergreen State College-Tacoma Campus: 1210 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA

6 PM to 9 PM at:

Pitchpipe Infoshop, 621 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA

### **ALL PEOPLE ARE WELCOMED!**

Workshops 9 AM to 12 Noon: Evergreen State College-Tacoma Campus

1. Immigrant Workers
2. Working Class Environmentalism
3. Joe Hill and IWW Music

### **FANNING THE FLAMES OF DISCONTENT**

Spoken Word and Music-

1 PM to 5 PM: Evergreen State College -Tacoma Campus

MC:

Marilyn Kimmerling

THE IWW, IDEAS, STRUCTURE AND TACTICS:

Arthur J. Miller

TACOMA IWW:

Leah Coakley

MUSIC FOR REBEL WORKERS:

Patrick Edelbacher

(More musicians to be announced)

### **TACOMA, LET US ORGANIZE!**

#### **Workplace Organizing**

Workshops 6 PM to 9 PM at:

Pitchpipe Infoshop, 621 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA

This event is organized by:

Tacoma General Membership Branch  
Industrial Workers of the World  
P.O. Box 5464  
Tacoma, WA 98415-0464

E-Mail: [TacIWW@iww.org](mailto:TacIWW@iww.org)  
Web Site: <http://tacoma.iww.org/>



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