



BAY AREA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH – IWW
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SFBAGMB June Reports

Delegate Reports

Heather- I haven't taken many dues this month, but trying to keep Stonemountain workers up to date. I have been working with the education committee, the Stonemountain and Daughter shop and busy as usual doing Branch Secretary stuff. Also, I went with Slava and Sarah to Freydown's (sp?) and laid down some tracks for his reggae/IWW album.

Oliver- I have taken no dues this month. (Though I will be staffing a delegate table during the meeting and may take dues). I will be in San Diego until August, and plan to meet with IWWs there (though I am told there are few).

Steve- My job is keeping me very busy this summer. I continue to promote the IWW whenever possible. Handing out business cards and engaging in one-on-one face-to-face conversations is usually the best method. So far, it has not generated any organizing activity.

Bruce- The buy Back has gone through some changes lately. A manager has cleaned up his act and the next few months leading up to contract could be more productive union wise.

Continue to work on Shattuck campaign. All 25 workers have signed a petition demanding their union be respected by manager.

Sbux is picking up.

Mike- Continued work on Sbux and Quicksilver campaign.

Dirtyface- Nothing to report. I was invited by the California Nurses Association as a healthcare activist to view and attend the Sacramento hearing on SB 840- single payer and no insurance company healthcare- and see Sicko by Michael Moore.

Jefferson- I have been assisting our fellow workers at Metro Lighting in pressing their demands with their bosses. Three of seven workers have joined the IWW. Three non-members are pursuing a pay raise and, although hesitant to join the IWW formally, are in good communication with IWW members and are increasingly active in improving the workplace. The union at Metro Lighting is taking a "non-contractual" method for the time being and desires paid lunch breaks, back pay for age discrimination, and pay raises for the front workers, among other issues. Personality conflicts play a role in preventing full unity so our task is to help them develop a unifying strategy with the most effective tactics.

I have also been assisting workers at Briar Patch Co-op in Grass Valley. Recently an IWW member was fired and workers are striving to respond appropriately. Another IWW member apparently quit in protest. On the plus side however, management has entered into quasi-negotiations and reports from IWW members are that some gains are in sight through this negotiation. We have approximately 14 IWW members out of 110 (to the best of my knowledge.)

I am also drafting our new bi-lingual 'Recycled Worker' newsletter that will be a tool for the up-coming recycling workers contract campaigns and a new multi-shop organizing effort in the planning stages. It is still in the works but not far off.

FW Oliver and I lead a presentation on the IWW for the Education Committee. It was a great class with about 20 participants but very few IWW members. Another similar class will be held on Wednesday July 25 hosted by myself, Gifford and hopefully Louis. A must see!!! I would like to make this class a regular thing for a more 'in depth' understanding of the IWW, its aims, and its origins.

I also intend to go to General Assembly and help fundraise for others to attend.

Lars- no report

Cory- no report

Slava- no written report

Brendan- no report

Pavl- no report

Sparrow- no report

Dean- I have collected no dues for the month of June, 2007.

While visiting in NYC, I trained an intern for the NYC GMB on how to do Sbux outreach and how to talk to Baristas. The NYC Branch has an amazing internship program, and while I was there I met over 5 interns who provided translations (Spanish, Chinese, more?), leg-work, copying, phone calls, administrative help, errands, and much more. NYC GMB is our sister branch, and we have no reason not to strike a committee to realize the efficiency of an internship program. It is something FW Sarah and I were working toward in the beginning of the Sbux Organizing Committee, but after a few class presentations, we lost interest. I think we should focus more on accredited internship than class presentations. We could double our productivity.

I also attended the going-public rally and picket for HWH Trading Corp, the latest to join the IWW Food and Allied Workers Union. The workers that have joined the union are Latino, the others are Asian and have not joined the union. HWH is a slave shop. These workers are working 48 hour shifts, and 100-120 hour work weeks. They're getting paid less than minimum wage. This is not uncommon in New York, especially among workplaces with undocumented immigrants. NYC GMB is doing good work.

Fellow Worker and SBUX Barista Jason in the Fresno area is still working at Sbux, after having withdrew his two-week notice. He is still agitating and I am in regular contact with him. Fellow Worker and Sbux Barista Christina Rosevear in the Marin area has not been in contact with me. I'll try to get in touch again with her soon, especially regarding her story for the new national Barista Newsletter which is being made by the Sbux workers in NYC. A more detailed report on the Sbux Organizing Committee should be submitted by FW Mike Donofrio.

I attended a Phoenix GMB meeting. They're not doing a whole lot, but there were two workers who also attended the meeting from the same shop who want to organize.

Harjit- no report

Industrial Organizing Committee/Shop Committee Reports:

IOC 410 Garment and Textile Workers

Heather- Nothing to report. Sorry.

Stonemountain- Heather- Suzan has agreed to fix the moldy wall and flooring! It is supposed to have been completed while we were closed on July 4th. This is something we have been trying to get to happen for some time now and we consider it a victory for the union!

Suzan is hiring a manager, which is weird because the shop. We aren't sure whether we like it or not so we will have to continue to talk about it as the situation progresses.

Lots of turnover. A new employee who was starting to get active and help out with stuff just quit after only a few weeks. Its frustrating, but I suppose inevitable in retail.

IOC 670 Municipal and Utility Service- Steve- I have been unable to meet with the iu670 committee due to my work schedule. We are attempting to organize a meeting soon. The rest of the committee can fill in what I left out.

Curb Side- - We have instituted collecting dues on the first Thursday of each month. I will collect dues next Tuesday and gave each member I collected dues from a copy of the latest contract proposal (I will elaborate more after this takes place, since this was a preliminary projection of my activities when this was written).

Briar Patch- Kim- June was full of changes, controversy and some positive direction at the BriarPatch Community Market. We began tabling at the sidewalk edge of the store with a shoppers petition to gain support from the store member/owners, employees, and the general public. We were denied permission by management to table next to the store in the shade. It was hot out in the baking sun, but we did have some shoppers, employees and Briarpatch Board members coming by to speak with us. We have approximately 80 signatures for a few hours work. Most are afraid to table as they will then be labeled by the boss.

The tabling had a big impact, not all positive for forming a union. Many employees and the bosses were outraged that we would jeopardize the stores profits by showing any internal struggle. The truth is that veteran members already felt the tension and changes in the store but the 83 new employees didn't understand that.

Our newly hired customer service manager began to right anti union letters and challenged us to our right to represent anyone. He recommended a NLRB vote and told us we had the cart before the horse in our approach to unionizing. His next letter "The Usual Process for Starting a Union with the NLRB." The latest letter was "My Concerns about an Affiliation with the IWW." He does not like the word bosses and a focus on a class struggle. "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common... between these two classes so a struggle must go on." In his opinion it only creates fear and an enemy that creating an us and them attitude. He can not see this struggle applying to the BriarPatch. I met him for breakfast at this house and we both found common ground and respect. He was not aware of the specific history and disciplinary actions by management or their unwillingness to share their wage scales with us.

Four Board members and U. Utah Phillip attended our June 18th meeting. They witnessed Scott Pfallmer telling us he had been fired that day. This was a great opportunity to reach out to Board members who had not heard our story. We requested a unity meeting with the board, management and all employees. The Board President and the General Manager are trying to control the agenda through a hand picked steering committee for the unity meeting. We want volunteer employees who want to contribute on the committee, not 2 IWW and 2 management's choice.

Utah Phillips was critical of our efforts to petition the store shoppers and giving the boss a list of demands. He said our focus should be on the shop floor with gaining support from our co-workers. He is right if we could get them to step outside of fear for their job. 83 of them are still in the 90 day probationary period.

The best news is that management invited all interested employees to review the Employee Personnel Policy. Many new and old employees attended. There was listening and compromise on both sides. It was agreed that an Employee Council would be formed to bring discussion to management monthly. We want them to serve as the Grievance Council as well. This was not well received by the General Manager. He was adamant that fired employees can not use the grievance procedure. We held strong to their rights to appeal wrongful termination.

I think the unionization of the BriarPatch will be a real struggle, but if the employees want a better workplace and are willing to stand in solidarity it will happen. To build union interest and get prevailing wages of grocery workers in our area, I contacted the UFCW8 that represents workers in our area. They are paid more and get regular pay increases. The contract is stiff and has corporate all over it. The dues are \$30 to \$50 per month.

Branch Committees:

Education/Outreach- Oliver- Heather is organizing a six-week introductory class which will combine aspects of Jefferson's "Intro to the IWW", the Organizer Training, and several other elements (such as how to hold a good meeting). The first run of the class will start the second half of September. Janky and Heather have designed a new application form.

Janky and others held a working meeting to start cataloguing the library. He has also made assessment stamps which are available from delegates for purchasing new materials for the library. They cost \$5 each.

The next meeting will likely be in early August. I will announce it to the sfgmb list.

Office- Steve- Office Committee - I have resumed checking the IWW voice mail and fax messages. I check these regularly and forward the relevant information to the rest of the Bay Area IWW officers. After checking the messages, I will save any potential organizing. I will continue doing this until we elect a new Branch Communications Officer. I have also reacquired the PO Box and office keys originally held by the previous Communications Officer.

Other Reports:

Grassroots House Representative- Steve- Grassroots House Report - I prepared an extensive report for Grassroots House for FW Means to read in my absence. Even though I left him a phone message, he did not get the message in time and failed to attend. The IWW owes Grassroots House an additional \$30 as a result. I will /again/ require a substitute for the next meeting, which shall be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 7 PM. I will prepare an updated report. I will have purchased supplies, including toilet paper by the beginning of the meeting.

Alameda Central Labor Council Representative- Harry- None, as July Delegate Mtg. Was cancelled.

IWW.org- Steve- The Electronic GOB now has over 115 subscribers. I will continue to encourage members to substitute E-Gobs for paper GOBs to save the union money. This is especially important now that the proposed dues increases were defeated by referendum. We can begin collecting online dues and initiations using PayPal and other methods if there is no objection from the GMB. I shall volunteer to serve as the delegate for online dues, since I have easy access to the system and I do not currently collect much in the way of dues outside of iu670 these days.

Officer Reports

Sys Admin- Steve- Bay Area Computer Systems Administration - I will conduct diagnostic tests on the IWW office computer and continue installation of free ware on the second IWW office computer.

Communications Officer- Vacant

Treasurer- Ted

Financial Picture- Income exceeded expenses by \$63.54. Our largest income was from dues which after dues share we \$549.50 (net). Our largest expenses were Overhead (Rent/Phone) 277.38. We made \$126 of solidarity donations to the NYC GMB. I am very proud to say we have send the 460/640 campaign a total of \$1154. We took in a total of \$1,184 in dues and initiations 634.50 of which went to Headquarters-- this number includes our IW bundle. This month was much slower than last month. .

Banking: Nothing to report as there have been no changes.

Here are the remaining Balances:

Organizing	1102.64
Ed & Out	810.00
Travel	500.00
Overhead	1154.99
Office Committee	1082.62
Sex-Workers Fund	146.00

Here are fund's balances:

IU 670	604.84
IU 670 6 Month CD	3031.75 (available September 17th)
IOC 540	4.50
IOC 410	185.36

Please note except for the 670 fund there was a 25 dollar 'start up' money required to open the account at the end of this year I will be returning that 25 dollars to general funds.

I apologize for the shortness of this report. I just received the minutes from the meeting in which the GMB decided to open an account for the tabling committee. I will attend to that matter as soon as possible. I have prepared all the required documents to open an account at Bank of the Bay, which will allow us to being the ACH dues withdraw system. Though I do advocate that the GMB as a whole hold a discussion regarding the roll of delegates under ACH. I have also set up Auto-Pay with AT&T—However on July 3rd we received an email stating that it was not paid. I will attend to this within the week.

There is one pending request for disbursement. Please find the enclosed motion.

Secretary- Heather

I've been working on developing an organizer training class that will meet once a week for six weeks. It will start in mid September and I'm hoping that more FWs who work weekends will be able to attend.

The database project is coming along. I am hoping that the new Communications officer can oversee this project and in doing so, help to stay in contact with members who might otherwise be lost.

I have started writing a Policies and Procedures Manual which I will keep next to the computer in the office. I am hoping that each officer and committee will contribute to it.