

Literature Committee Policies

General Overview:

The Literature Committee was established by the 1998 General Assembly in Portland, Oregon as on-going, voluntary committee to act on behalf of the General Assembly as a clearing-house for all literature by, for, and of interest to the IWW. The Committee is headed by a Chairperson who is appointed/elected each year by the General Assembly, and any member of the union in good standing who is interested in working with this Committee may join.

The Committee is charged with making recommendations to the General Executive Board as to the adoption or deletion of “official” literature for the union. However, it is the GEB that actually moves to make any pamphlet, book, poster, etc. as official literature of the union.

The Literature Committee has also been assigned the duty of establishing and maintaining a central index of all extant literature, and developing a working relationship with all interested parties to better facilitate the distribution of literature to the membership at large. In this capacity the committee will coordinate with all branches, groups, cooperatives and individuals producing literature to provide for the most accurate information available regarding IWW literature. It will act as a clearing-house of said information and aid in increasing awareness of available resources.

The Committee is also tasked with developing and commissioning new literature . . . Specifically, a motion in 2000 moved that General Executive Board recognizes the need for Industry-Specific Literature among the following groups: Service Industry, Printing Industry, High Tech Industries, Casual/Temporary Labor, Student Workers, and Building Construction.

Membership and Meetings of the Committee:

The Committee should convene a member of all interested members of the union at each General Assembly. Between Assemblies, to help improve communications, and provide members of the committee with a more immediate means of conducting business an “e-mail” list has been set up for the Literature Committee. Any union member interested in joining the discussion may subscribe to this list by contacting request@iww.org.

Likewise, since the Literature Committee is voluntary, any member of the union in good standing may join the committee at any time. To volunteer a member need only petition the Chair of the Committee.

Specific Goals:

To deal with these concerns two resolutions were passed by the Literature Committee in 1998:

- 1) An index of all literature being produced by and for the IWW needs to be organized. This index would list resources for literature no longer in print, as well as what literature is being produced by individual branches, groups, cooperatives and members, what the availability of this literature is, and what costs are associated with it. This index would provide every member with one central location where s/he could find pamphlets available for job action, membership drives, boycotts, and other activities. It would also help every group producing literature to be aware of needless duplication, allow them to work together for better dissemination and distribution, and provide a means of gauging cost of literature.
- 2) A clearinghouse needs to be set up where the information needed to produce such an index can be deposited, and where the membership can access said index in pursuit of available literature. Such a clearinghouse would not be a distribution center of literature, nor would it warehouse available literature; in stead it would provide information on where said literature is, and how it might be obtained.

Official Literature

The following items were adopted, through motions of the General Executive Board, as the official literature of the industrial Workers of the World. No pamphlet, booklet, or other literature not listed herein may be considered “official” literature of the union.

The list includes the date each item was officially adopted as official literature, the title, and the author (when known).

5/1/00	One Big Union	(2000 Edition J. Korber)
5/1/00	The Little Red Songbook	
5/1/00	The IWW Organizing Manual	
5/1/00	The IWW: What Everyone Should Know	
5/1/00	Solidarity: The IWW and Industrial Unionism in America	
5/1/00	A New Union Vision	by Arthur Miller
5/1/00	The IWW: Its History, Structure and Methods	by Vincent St. John (2000ed)
5/15/00	The General Strike	by Ralph Chaplin
5/15/00	You Are The Union	by John Persak
6/1/00	The ABC's of Radical Unionism	by Morgan Miller
4/1/04	Dual Carders and The IWW	by Joshua Freeze
5/1/04	Think It Over	by Tim Acott
4/4/06	What Is The IWW	by Jim Crutchfield

The GEB also recognized the following publications as “official” publications for their respective regions in 2001 . . .

The Industrial Worker	- North America
Bread and Roses	- The United Kingdom
Direct Action	- Australia

This list supercedes all others, and no other publication may be called official literature of the IWW without first being added to this list by an act of the General Executive Board, or a referenda vote of the membership.

Any works that were previously deemed “official” literature of the IWW are no longer so, unless they appear on this list. Any works that are adopted in the future by motion of the general Executive board shall be added to this list.

Further the GST of the union is charged with making sure that copies of these booklets are available through the GHQ, and to put into production new editions where no current edition is readily available.