

Industrial Workers of the World

D.C. General Membership Branch Bylaws

Adopted June 4, 2013

Quick Link: [<http://tinyurl.com/lqrokdd>]

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

Section 1.

The D.C. IWW constitutes a General Membership Branch with all the rights and responsibilities entitled by the IWW Constitution. Membership shall be by voluntary association of IWW members in good standing (as defined in Article IV of the IWW Constitution). A copy of these bylaws shall be made available to any IWW member upon request.

Section 2.

It is the aim of the D.C. GMB to build local and regional working-class solidarity as a Branch of the IWW. The D.C. GMB therefore actively opposes discrimination on and off the job. No wage or salaried worker shall be excluded from the D.C. GMB because of race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, creed, disability, sexual orientation, age, or gender identity.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS

Section 1 - Monthly Meetings

A general membership branch meeting will be held monthly. Special meetings may be called by any member in good standing. The Secretary upon receiving such a call, shall notify each GMB member by either face to face contact, phone call, or email within 48 hours.

Section 2 - Rusty's Rules

Rusty's Rules of Order, as described in the pamphlet published by IWW GHQ, shall be used to organize decision making. Unless otherwise specified, all motions are to be handled in accordance with its procedure. A copy of Rusty's Rules of Order shall be made available to all D.C. members on request.

Section 3 - Meeting Chairs

A chair and alternate chair for the next official business meeting shall be determined by vote before each meeting has been adjourned. The chair will be responsible for setting the agenda of the next meeting based on input from the membership and attendees. Members may move to adjust the order in which agenda items are addressed when the chair presents their ordering at the commencement of a meeting. It is the chair's

responsibility to ensure each member is contacted in advance of the meeting.

Section 4 - Majorities

All decisions by D.C. GMB must be made by a vote of 50% + 1 of members present at a meeting which has achieved quorum, as defined in Article IV. While decision making is formally majoritarian, it is expected that every effort will be made to achieve consensus, as described in Rusty's Rules, and in so doing further the effectiveness of the branch in the pursuit of its aims.

Section 5 - Meeting Openness

Meetings shall be open to any working class person (defined as those eligible for IWW membership in the constitution) though non-members can be excluded from any meeting by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of members in good standing. Voting privileges shall be reserved for those meeting the requirements in Article IV Section 1.

Section 6 - Dues at meetings

GMB Members attending branch meetings shall be eligible to take part in the business of the meeting if they are in good standing as defined by the IWW Constitution. If members wish to pay dues at the meeting, they should do so before the meeting is called to order or after adjournment.

Section 7 - Delegates' Committee Meeting

Monthly Delegates' Committee meeting shall be held for the purpose of submitting reports & dues, planning local organizer trainings, sharing information & organizing any other activity as directed by the GMB. The Delegates Committee has no power to make or overturn policy and/or decisions made by the GMB.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1 - Officer Positions

The D.C. GMB shall elect a Secretary, a Treasurer, and Branch Delegate(s) with all the rights and responsibilities defined by the IWW constitution. The branch shall retain the right to combine the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer, into a single office.

Section 2 - Secretary

Secretary: Maintains a record of meeting minutes. Keeps a record of Delegates Reports. Maintains a current list of members (the "branch membership rolls") – their "X" numbers, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses – and makes this contact list available to the Branch Treasurer, delegates, the communications officer, D.C. GMB committee chairs, and any other officer of the Branch. The Secretary may, at their discretion, provisionally add members in good standing, as defined by the IWW constitution, to the branch membership rolls for one month in anticipation of their paying dues through the branch before any dues have been paid. The secretary shall: send a copy of branch meeting minutes to General Headquarters every month, attend monthly business meetings of the GMB (or, failing that, assigns another member as alternate), report to the Branch Treasurer by the 15th of every month.

Section 3 - Treasurer

Treasurer: Keeps a regular accounting of all D.C. GMB funds. Collects Secretary and

Delegates reports with per capita and submits them to General Headquarters every month. Keeps a record of Delegates reports. Produces a monthly Treasurer's report, to be posted to the members mailing list before each monthly meeting, and made available to members on demand. Retains the ability to sign checks and allocate funds as directed by the D.C. GMB. Attends monthly GMB business meetings whenever possible. The treasurer may maintain a petty cash account of up to \$75, which may be replenished monthly to no more than \$75.

Section 4 - Delegates

Delegate: Signs up new members, takes dues, maintains regular contact with members and other fellow workers, distributes union publications and literature. Reports by the 2nd Wednesday of every month to the Branch Secretary. All delegates shall be required to reapply for delegate status at the March meeting each year. Delegates who wish to continue as such must be re-elected by the membership of the GMB. Delegates may be elected at any time during the year, but their term expires on March 31.

Section 5 - Communications Officer

Communications Officer: Responsible for coordinating any official communications that must be made between branch meetings such as responses to e-mails, voice mail messages, discussion/mailling list maintenance and postal communication. Additionally responsible for outreach through social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) and curation of content for these outlets by members and supporters. Mandated to post on and moderate social media outlets at their discretion with the interests of the branch and union at heart, designating as official only those statements approved at a business meeting by majority vote. Reports to GMB meetings regularly. If the branch has access to the necessary equipment, the communications officer shall provide video chat for business meetings whenever a member has indicated they won't be able to attend in person.

Section 6 - Organizing Department Liaison

Joins the email list of the IWW Organizing Department Board (ODB). Provides a monthly report on branch organizing activities to the ODB in accordance with the ODB's 'Expectations and Purpose'. Provides a separate monthly report to the branch on the activities of the ODB and organizing activity around the IWW received from the ODB.

Section 7 - Creation of Official Positions

The D.C. GMB may create and elect any other officers by proposal and vote, and each additional officer shall be subject to the provisions of this article.

Section 8 - Officer Terms

All officers shall serve one year terms. Delegates' terms will begin on April 1. All other officers' terms will begin on May 1st. Officers tenures end on election of their successors.

Section 9 - Officer Recall

Officers may be recalled by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote (rounded to lowest integer) of members in good standing at a meeting that has achieved quorum. A recall vote must be held on the presentation, at such a meeting, of a petition signed by 5 members in good standing.

Section 10 - Officer Resignation

Any elected officer may resign at any time. A verbal announcement made by the resigning official at a GMB meeting or a written statement signed by that officer and one other IWW member in good standing shall be required to constitute an official resignation. If any officer resigns or is recalled, nominations to replace that officer shall take place at the next meeting and elections will take place at the following meeting.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS, VOTING

Section 1 - Voting Eligibility

Those eligible to vote shall be IWW members in good standing, who are on the membership rolls maintained by the branch Secretary (as described in Article III Section 2), present at a formal business meeting. Any consent threshold defined in this document is defined relative to the set of voters defined in this section. Secret balloting is permissible only for officer elections.

Section 2 - Quorum

Not less than five members or 20% (rounded down to nearest integer) of the member rolls, whichever is larger, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the GMB and its recognized committee(s). The transaction of business includes official motions and the disbursement of branch funds. Any paid official of the IWW shall not count as a member for the purposes of quorum, in keeping with the IWW constitution. Members attending via any mechanism (including Video chat, Telephone, or live transcription) that enables participation in the deliberative process may vote.

Section 3 - Nomination Process

Nominations for officers shall take place one business meeting prior to the actual election. All members shall be notified of nominees by the GMB Secretary or other delegate by face to face contact, phone call, postal or electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the election of any officer.

Section 4 - Officer Election Balloting Procedure

All elections will be by secret ballot at a GMB regular or special meeting. Each member in good standing has one vote. Members may also vote for officers absentee by submitting a signed ballot to a delegate or officer in a sealed envelope. The branch Secretary will be responsible for counting ballots and determining the outcome. Any eligible voter may nominate a member to verify the outcome of a secret ballot. If the nominee secures 50% of the vote (by show of hands), the branch secretary will make available to them the ballots and member rolls, with the expectation that the secrecy of ballots will be maintained.

Section 5 - Multiple Choice Balloting

When more than two members have been nominated for an office, voters will rank the options in order of preference and the winner will be chosen by Instant Runoff Voting.

Section 6 - Annual Elections

Delegates: Annual elections for delegates will be held at the March business meeting of the GMB.

All Other Officers: Annual elections for all other officers will be held at the April business meeting of the GMB.

Section 7- Online Voting

Online voting may be used for resolutions that are time-sensitive, in situations where it is not practical to wait until the next business meeting to vote (e.g.: allied organization requests the branch's support in signing onto a petition); Online resolutions pass by a vote of 50% +1 of members in good standing. The resolution will be active for a seven day period, after which the resolution shall expire.

Online voting may not be used for resolutions requesting funds or those that in any way affect the internal structure or organization of the branch.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section 1.

The D.C. GMB may establish committees, and these committees may establish their own bylaws provided that these bylaws do not contradict the GMB bylaws or the IWW Constitution.

Section 2.

Branch members classified in the same Industrial Union are encouraged to form Industrial Organizing Committees (IOCs) for the purpose of developing strategy for organizing their specific industry and laying structural groundwork for new Industrial Union Branches (IUBs) as defined in the IWW Constitution. To that end, IOCs are encouraged to elect a Secretary and Treasurer, to establish separate funds from the GMB and to write their own bylaws.

Section 3.

Official statements issued by a subordinate committee of the D.C. GMB shall not bear the name of the branch as a whole without approval by the branch at a meeting.

Section 4.

Any committee which fails to report for three consecutive branch meetings shall be subject to a motion to dissolve the committee.

Section 5 - Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will be empowered to assist the treasurer in their duties. This includes, but is not limited to, entering financial transactions as recorded in the relevant documents (receipts, delegate reports, check stubs, etc.) and will identify the account (i.e. member dues, assessments, sale of merchandise, strike support, etc.) associated with each transaction. During this process, they will accompany transactions with sufficiently detailed information such as the purpose of each payment and any corresponding resolution for expenditures. The Finance Committee may also prepare a budget to suggest to the membership, which will retain final authority to approve or reject said budget. Finance Committee meetings will be open to all members in good standing, and will be held monthly at the same time as the Secretary's and Treasurer's administrative meeting.

Section 5.1 - Audit Committee

An Audit Committee may be convened by resolution of the GMB. The Audit Committee will check each financial transaction and ensure all financial reports are accurate and all

checks and payments made from the branch's accounts are accompanied with sufficiently detailed documentation, including the purpose of each payment and any corresponding resolution for expenditures over \$75.00 requiring approval from GMB.

1. Composition: The Audit Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members, two thirds of whom (rounded to the lowest integer) have not been delegates within the DC GMB in the previous year whenever membership composition makes this possible. The secretary and treasurer shall not serve on the audit committee.

2. Electing Committee Members: Nominations for members shall be opened at the meeting in which the resolution to form an audit committee has passed.

3. Reporting: The Audit Committee shall report their findings at or before the second GMB meeting following the formation of an audit committee and make recommendations for improving the accuracy and transparency of the branches finances. Copies of the Audit Committee reports and supporting financial documentation must be retained by the GMB for at least seven years and should be made available to any member in good standing upon request.

ARTICLE VI HANDLING OF FUNDS

Section 1.

Any and all voluntary assessments collected by the D.C. GMB shall be promptly allocated to the projects for which they are intended, unless the committees responsible for such projects are found to be acting in a manner contradictory to the IWW Constitution or these bylaws, or unless those committees request that the funds be held by the D.C. GMB.

Section 2.

All branch members who retain the ability to sign checks shall only do so in the event that the Treasurer is unavailable for signing, or if a check requires two signatories.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These bylaws may be amended by a vote of 50% + 1 of eligible voters as defined in Article IV. Members must be given at least one month notice prior to a meeting at which a vote to amend these bylaws will be held. Members may also vote in absentia by submitting a signed ballot to a delegate or officer in a sealed envelope.

Bylaws adopted: June 4, 2013

Last Revision: December 20, 2018

D.C. GMB Officers for the term of: May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

Secretary: X383841

Treasurer: X384559

Communications: X390151 (As of December 2018)

ODL: X363556 (As of October 2018)

Selected Resolutions:

Resolution Requiring A Three-Day Reading Period for New Resolutions #AS-01-0417:

Whereas, the IWW DC General Membership Branch has grown its membership over the last year, and as such seeks to maintain a fair, and democratic process that ensures full participation by all of its members.

Whereas, given a wide-range of work schedules, access to a computer or the internet, free-time, as well as institutional memory, the DC IWW General Membership Branch seeks to provide a reasonable amount of time for members to consider pending resolutions on which they will be expected to vote.

Therefore, be it resolved, the DC GMB hereby approves a three-day reading period for new resolutions.

Moreover, the aforementioned reading period must comply with the following:

1. The resolution must be emailed to the DC GMB listserv [dc_iww_members@lists.riseup.net] by no later than 9 pm EST three days prior to the upcoming DC GMB meeting.
2. The resolution must be complete, and in the form intended to be presented at the GMB Meeting.
3. The sponsor of the resolution must-- to the best of their ability-- provide brief context and rationale behind the proposed resolution.

A sponsor of a proposed resolution will be exempt from the three-day rule if:

1. They provide an explanation as to why their resolution should be exempt and should be considered at the GMB meeting.

In order to ensure a robust democratic process and healthy debate Fellow Workers/the sponsor of the resolution are expected to answer questions concerning resolutions publically via email.

- a. The above section cannot be interpreted to limit debate at regularly scheduled DC GMB meetings.

This body has determined that the procedures and guidelines included in this resolution will enhance transparency and participation by the DC GMB.

Manual of Process and Procedures for the DC General Membership Branch #KY-01-0314

Whereas, the DC GMB and its elected officers have spent the past year refining the in's and out's of branch and its administrative offices, and;

Whereas, a foundation has been laid on which future officers and union members can build on, and;

Whereas, any transition from one role or office to another should be as seamless as possible, Therefore, be it;

Resolved, that the DC GMB adopt the following guidelines, found here [<http://tinyurl.com/zuy7qob>], outlining the roles and responsibilities, insofar that they do not conflict with the GMB resolutions or Bylaws, for:

- Communication's Officer
- GMB Secretary
- GMB Treasurer
- Delegate
- International Solidarity Commission Liaison
- Organizing Department Liaison
- GMB Meeting Chair / Co-Chair
- GMB Meeting Notetaker/Recorder

Be it further resolved, that the GMB shall be made aware, of any and all changes made to the 'Manual for Process & Procedures' (MPP) at the following GMB meeting via the 'officer reports' portion of the meeting.