

**RICHMOND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BRANCH BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

Section 1. The Richmond, Virginia 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. A copy of these bylaws shall be made available to all Richmond, Virginia IWW members, and any other IWW members upon request.

Section 2. It is the aim of the Richmond, Virginia GMB to build local and regional working-class solidarity as a Branch of the IWW. The Richmond, Virginia GMB therefore actively opposes discrimination on and off the job. No wage or salaried worker shall be excluded from the Richmond GMB because of race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, creed, disability, sexual orientation, age, or gender identity.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Richmond, Virginia GMB shall meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Special meetings may be called by notifying GMB members by face to face contact, phone call, or e-mail.

Section 2. Rusty's Rules of Order shall be used to organize decision-making. A copy of Rusty's Rules of Order shall be made available to all Richmond, Virginia members.

Section 3. A chair and alternate chair for the next official business meeting shall be determined before meeting in session has been adjourned.

Section 4. All decisions by Richmond, Virginia GMB must be made by a vote of 50% + 1 of members in good standing

Section 5. Meetings shall be open to all workers, though non-members can be excluded from any meeting by a ¾ majority vote of members in good standing. Voting privileges shall be reserved for IWW members in good standing, in accordance with the IWW constitution.

Section 6. 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. Not less than five members 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.

Section 8. 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. The Richmond, Virginia GMB shall elect a Secretary, a Treasurer, and Branch Delegate(s) with all the rights and responsibilities as spelled out 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:** Maintains a record of meeting minutes. Keeps a record of Delegates Reports. Maintains a current list of members – their “X” numbers, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses – and makes this contact list available to the Branch Treasurer, delegates, the editor of the newsletter, Richmond, Virginia GMB committee chairs, and any other officer of the Branch. All other GMB members who wish to obtain a GMB contact list must have the permission of the GMB at a formal business meeting. Sends a copy of branch meeting minutes to General Headquarters every month. Attends monthly business meetings of the GMB or finds an alternate. Reports to the Branch Treasurer by the 15th of every month.

Section 3. **Treasurer:** Keeps a regular accounting of all Richmond, Virginia 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. Retains the ability to sign checks and allocate funds as directed by the Richmond, Virginia GMB. Attends monthly GMB business meetings whenever possible. The treasurer may make reimbursement expenditures of up to \$25.00 between branch meetings at his or her discretion.

Section 4. **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 April 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 April 30th.

Section 5. **Communications Officer:** Responsible for any official communications that must be made between branch meetings such as responses to e-mails, voice mail messages, website, discussion/ mailing list maintenance and postal communication. Checks e-mail account and voice mail on a weekly basis. Ensures that mail is retrieved from the post office box at least once a month. Reports regularly at all GMB meetings.

Section 6. **Literature Department:** Responsible within the Richmond, Virginia GMB, for the acquisition and distribution of Industrial Workers of the World and related materials for fund-raising and educational purposes. Keeping inventory. Coordinating and/or printing materials and volunteers to table events. Determining locations for, and distributing the Industrial Worker Newspaper on a monthly basis. Produces a monthly financial report to be submitted to the GMB Treasurer on a monthly basis. Reports regularly at all GMB meetings.

Section 7. **General Organizing Committee:** Responsible for developing analysis of organizing strategies and tactics, and supporting local campaigns in their research needs. A Secretary shall be elected

by the General Membership Branch. The Secretary shall serve a term of one year as defined in Article III Section 9. The GOC shall meet at least once a month and be open to all workers, though non-members can be excluded from any meeting by a simple majority vote (50% + 1) of members in good standing. Voting privileges shall be reserved for IWW members in good standing, in accordance with the IWW constitution. Meetings shall be facilitated by a rotating chair and co-chair to be determined before meeting in session has been adjourned. The duties of the Secretary shall be to provide the Richmond GMB with a general report monthly. A detailed written report on the activities of all campaigns shall be submitted to the Richmond GMB Secretary / Treasurer & the Organizing Department Board quarterly. All delegates and representatives from active organizing campaigns shall be strongly encouraged to participate in all GOC meetings.

Section 8. The Richmond, Virginia 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 9. All officers shall serve one year terms to begin on May 1st. All office terms shall end at 12:00 PM on April 30th.

Section 10. Officers may be recalled by ¾ majority vote of the membership. A recall vote may be held whenever 5 or more members of the GMB submit a petition for recall at a monthly branch meeting.

Section 11. 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

Section 1. Eligible voters shall include all local IWW members in good standing.

Section 2. 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 e-mail at least two weeks prior to the election of any officer.

Section 3. All elections will be by secret ballot at a GMB regular or special meeting. Each member in good standing has one vote. Members shall also vote in absentee by submitting a ballot to a delegate or officer in a sealed envelope.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Richmond, Virginia 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. All official statements issued by a subordinate committee of the Richmond, Virginia GMB bearing the name Industrial Workers off the World shall be subject to the formal approval of the Richmond, Virginia GMB.

Section 4. Any committee which fails to report for three consecutive branch meetings shall be subject to a motion to dissolve the committee.

ARTICLE VII

HANDLING OF FUNDS

Section 1. Any and all voluntary assessments collected by the Richmond, Virginia 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 Richmond, Virginia 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 signers.

ARTICLE VIII

JOB BRANCHES:

Section 1. Job Branches shall be formed when five or more members are working in one workplace. Job Branches exist as the workplace organization of the IWW. Job branches shall report to the GMB about developments in their workplace. The GMB shall support the efforts of job branches to the best of its ability.

Section 2. Job Branches may elect Stewards and other officers as needed. Terms for all officers will be for a set time and subject to recall.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a **vote of 50% + 1** of eligible voters as defined in Article IV Section 1

Section 2. 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 shall also vote in abstentia by submitting a ballot to a delegate or officer in a sealed envelope.

Bylaws adopted December 8, 2010

Revised December 14, 2011

Richmond GMB Officers for the term of: May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013

Secretary: x371204

Treasurer: x372734

Communications: x374244

Literature Department: x374242

General Organizing Committee Secretary: x370724