



# **Bylaws of the General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World**

Established: October 5th, 1917  
As amended through January 1, 2018.

Preamble	3
Article I	5
Section 1 Name	5
Section 2 Structure	5
Section 3 Locals	5
Section 4 At-Large/Regional Delegates	7
Article II	7
Section 1 Membership	7
Article III	7
Section 1 Goals	7
Article IV	8
Section 1 Location and Timeline of GDC Convention	8
Section 2 Powers of GDC Convention	8
Section 3 Representation at GDC Convention	9
Section 4 Credentials for GDC Convention	9
Section 5 Preliminary Session	10
Section 6 Delegates' Eligibility	10
Section 7 GDC Audit Committee	11
Section 8 GDC Convention Resolutions	11
Section 9 GDC Convention Observers	12
Article V	12
Section 1 General Officers	12
Section 2 Duties of the Central Secretary-Treasurer	12
Section 3 Election of the Central Secretary-Treasurer	12
Section 4 Duties of the Steering Committee	13
Section 5 Election of the Steering Committee	14
Section 6 Charges Against Officers	14
Article VI	15
Section 1 Funds	15
Section 2 Budget and Fiscal Year	16
Section 3 Dues	16

Article VII	17
Section 1 Clearing House	17
Section 2 Clearing House and Reporting Deadlines	17
Article VIII	17
Section 1 Materials	17
Section 2 Referendums	18
Section 3 Emergency Referendum	19

## Preamble

The capitalist class of bosses, financiers, landlords, and their cops wage relentless and violent class war upon the working class. The General Defense Committee (GDC) is a committee of and supports the revolutionary unionism of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The GDC's goal is to defend and support the entire working class, divided and under attack by those who wage class war against us. We therefore promote, through organization, action, and outreach, a mass, non-sectarian defense of the class, in order to build a self-organized working class that treats differences as strengths and opportunities to live in solidarity. Community Self Defense means we intend to build our revolutionary community precisely by defending it and the earth on which we live.

Our power as a class will never come from our possession of wealth, but from our ability to organize the class to defend ourselves. We must secure defense against legal attacks, but do not imagine that legal and financial defense alone are sufficient. Any revolutionary union that does not expect oppression from the master class, and organize to meet it, has failed to learn from past waves of repression.

We say defense means organized action taken explicitly to defend members of the class against the different forms of oppression that structure our society. Our membership expects the GDC to be an arena of mutual education through mutual struggle. Exploiters rely upon the fractured unity of the working class. By standing in solidarity across and directly attacking the diverse oppressions of the class, we intend to embody the notion that an injury to one really is an injury to all, and to openly use our defense to build the resilience, strength, and fighting spirit of the working class. Because the class war is not limited to the workplace, our defense of the class cannot be limited to the workplace. Oppressions like racism and sexism structure class oppression and division. Both degrade the solidarity members of the working class should have for each other, and are predicated on acts of violence within the class, and structures of violence organized by the state. We are against all oppressions. By organizing against the diverse oppressions of the working class, and

centering our revolutionary and anti-capitalist foundations, we intend to directly overcome those divisions. Through this struggle we advance the goal of an anti-capitalist revolution by building the size, solidarity, and strength of working class.

The oppressed do not determine the grounds of their liberation; those grounds are chosen by the oppressors, whose warfare upon our class results in exclusion, harm, and death. We intend to meet our oppressors on whatever grounds we must, in order to complete the revolution against the capitalism that accelerates not only our exploitation throughout the world, but our entire world's ecological peril. We reject sterile bureaucratic or legalistic restrictions on the revolutionary demands with which our union and our world is faced, recognizing that our history includes failed attempts to pretend allegiance to the state and capitalism. We make no pretense. We will defend and support each other.

The General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World demands hope and bravery of its membership, so that we can build and organize the class that is worthy of the revolution that we must make.

## **Article I**

### **Section 1 Name**

This organization shall be known as the General Defense Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World, and shall be stated so on membership cards, literature, and letterheads.

### **Section 2 Structure**

**A.** The General Defense Committee shall be composed of GDC Central, GDC Locals, and GDC Regional Locals.

**B.** GDC locals may be known as the "GDC of the IWW" of a particular local IUB or GMB where applicable.

**C.** The official means of communication shall be the GDC Email List at [gdc-list@lists.iww.org](mailto:gdc-list@lists.iww.org). All GDC members so indicating on their membership form shall be subscribed to this list. Members can also communicate with GDC Central via mail at the address printed at the end of this document.

**D.** Upon request, incarcerated members may communicate by mail to the GDC e-mail list.

**E.** The Constitution and Bylaws of the Industrial Workers of the World hereby supersede any conflicting language within the GDC Bylaws as the GDC is bound by the IWW Constitution.

### **Section 3 Locals**

**A.** A GDC local must consist of at least five IWW members in good standing, and membership shall be open to non-members of the IWW who subscribe to the principles and aims of the IWW and GDC. A Regional Group shall be considered a local unless otherwise specified.

**B.** Charters for GDC locals shall be issued and approved by the Steering Committee. A local charter may be placed in suspension by the IU, ROC, RA or GMB with jurisdiction, pending a decision by the Steering Committee to revoke a charter. The GDC local may appeal the decision of the Steering Committee regarding charters to the membership of the GDC.

**C.** A quorum for an official GDC local meeting shall be five GDC members in good standing.

**D.** Each chartered local shall elect a Secretary-Treasurer who shall be the responsible custodian of all records, funds and supplies, coordinating efforts with other locals, and reporting all such business and activities to the local IU or GMB and making monthly reports to the CST of the GDC. The local Secretary-Treasurer will be responsible for all minutes of meetings and his/her own monthly financial report to his/her branch; shall endeavor to keep all members in good standing and aware of all referenda.

**E.** The local's elected Secretary-Treasurer shall be a delegate for the local, and as such is responsible for all initiation fees, dues and assessments taken in by the local, and seeing that all funds are properly maintained and properly recorded, and that the per capita set aside for the Defense Fund is properly deposited with the CST. The local may elect, and the CST may appoint, other delegates as necessary.

**F.** All local officers including Local Secretaries-Treasurer and all Delegates elected, shall be members in good standing of both the GDC and the IWW.

**G.** Locals may create non-officer positions, such as coordinator positions or chair positions for committees or working groups, in which non-IWW GDC members may take responsibility.

**H.** Each local may modify their local dues structure while keeping the split with GDC Central 50% of dues collected at the rate established by GDC Central, and produce local assessments stamps. No GDC Local may modify their dues structure to be less than \$5 per quarter unless it is for the membership of the incarcerated. A copy of any stamps or structure changes issued by a local must be sent either by mail or email to GDC Central.

**I.** No chartered local shall enact any legislation or motion conflicting with the constitution of the IWW.

**J.** All Locals and Delegates will remit copies of financial records to any member of GDC Central, any member of the GEB or the GST immediately upon request. The requesting body will reimburse copy costs for locals and delegates in hardship, provided receipts are included with IWW Reimbursement Forms. Reimbursement Forms can be found at [www.iww.org](http://www.iww.org) or be mailed by request of GDC Central.

**K.** All Delegates are responsible for maintaining his/her own monthly financial report to their branch or the CST and shall endeavor to keep all members within their jurisdiction in good standing and aware of all referenda.

**L.** Uncleared Delegates and de-chartered locals will remit all GDC supplies and funds to GDC Central.

**M.** Regional Locals shall set initiations, dues and assessments in the region's currency, taking into account the prevailing economic situation. Regional Groups shall negotiate dues share with the Steering Committee and shall produce supplies in the local language as needed.

## **Section 4 At-Large/Regional Delegates**

**A.** The Central Secretary-Treasurer may issue credentials authorizing certain members to act as regional or at-large delegates with the authority to initiate new at-large members of the GDC, and/or collect dues and assessments.

**B.** Regional delegates must be members in good standing of the GDC.

**C.** Regional delegates of the IWW may also serve as delegates for the GDC upon requesting Delegate Credentials from the CST.

**D.** Each regional delegate will be responsible to the GDC for all funds and supplies, including initiation fees, dues and assessments and will pass on such information along with all funds received to GDC Central Administration in a quarterly report.

## **Article II**

### **Section 1 Membership**

**A.** Any member of the IWW in good standing may be a member of the GDC.

**B.** Non-members of the IWW, and those ineligible for membership in the IWW may still join the GDC, as long as they subscribe to the general principles and aims of the IWW and GDC.

**C.** All members shall agree to abide by the regulations of the GDC and the Constitution and regulations of the IWW; to study the principles contained therein; and make themselves acquainted with its purpose.

**D.** No expelled member of the IWW shall be eligible for membership in the GDC.

## **Article III**

### **Section 1 Goals**

**A.** The GDC of the IWW wants most to provide support to any member of the working class who finds themselves in legal trouble due to their involvement in the class war.

**B.** Any member of the IWW or GDC in good standing may petition the GDC for direct aid in their legal defense on charges resulting from protests, picketing, or other acts related to job actions or activist causes. This aid may include bail, bond or legal aid, and may take the form of a grant or a no-interest loan. Members may also rest assured of solidarity from the organization, including motions of support, letter writing, and public education as to the case (or cases) in question.

**C.** Non-members of the IWW and GDC who find themselves embattled with the law may also expect solidarity from the organization, including motions of support, letter writing, and public education as to the case (or cases) in question.

**D.** GDC Locals and Regional Locals will always try to engage in strike support and other activities consistent with the aims and principles of the IWW.

**E.** The GDC is also available to aid our organizers facing Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) and other work-related legal issues.

## **Article IV**

### **Section 1 Location and Timeline of GDC Convention**

**A.** Each year, the GDC shall hold a General Convention. Nominations for the convention host site shall be made at the General Convention of the GDC or through the mail with nominations closed by the adjournment of the General Convention. Election of the convention host site shall be by referendum ballot as provided for in Article VII, Section 2.

**B.** The General Convention of the GDC shall not remain in session over 3 days. The GDC Steering Committee and Central Secretary-Treasurer shall draft an agenda to be issue to the Delegates prior to Convention convening. All resolutions shall be provided to GDC Central at least 90 days before the opening of the General Convention. GDC Central shall include all resolutions in a mailing not less than 60 days before the General No resolution not circulated in advance shall be considered by the Convention unless it is of an emergency nature and the delegates vote by a two-thirds majority to add to the agenda.

### **Section 2 Powers of GDC Convention**

**A.** The GDC Convention is the legislative body of the GDC. Any amendments to GDC bylaws must go to the GDC Referendum to approved. Referenda to approve changes to the Constitution shall be issued according to the provisions of Article VII, Sec. 2.

**B.** The General Convention has the power to determine the policy of the GDC, when sustained by a referendum vote of the membership.

**C.** The General Convention has the power to expel any member for violation of the principles, Constitution or Bylaws of the union.

**D.** The General Convention shall use the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order as standard parliamentary procedure. Convention may elect a parliamentarian to assist the chair and delegates with interpretation of rules of order.

### **Section 3 Representation at GDC Convention**

**A.** Representation at the General Convention of the GDC shall be by delegates from chartered Locals. Each delegate shall have one vote, except as provided for in Sections 3 (f), (g).

**B.** Individual members in good standing with the GDC or the IWW may attend the convention, with voice but without vote and shall be seated separately from the delegates.

**C.** Each chartered Local will require a minimum of 5 members to send a delegate to the General Convention, Locals with between 10 and 19 members in good standing shall have two delegates, Locals with between 20 and 29 members in good standing shall have three delegates. Every 10 members in good standing thereafter constitute an additional delegate.

**D.** The expenses of delegates to the General Convention shall be wholly or partially borne by the body they represent. No delegate to the General Convention shall have any amount of his or her expenses paid for out of the treasury of the General Administration IWW or GDC Central.

**E.** Locals will decide the mandate for delegates and may instruct delegates to represent the full range of views of the Local. Locals may supply their delegates with written instructions.

**F.** Locals may send less than the entitlement of delegates. The delegates sent may carry the votes of the delegates not sent.

**G.** Locals not able to send delegates may ask another Locals to carry their votes to the Convention. No Local can carry the votes of more than one other Local.

### **Section 4 Credentials for GDC Convention**

**A.** Not less than 60 days before the start of the General Convention, the Central Secretary-Treasurer shall send to each Local and each Industrial Union credentials in duplicate for the number of delegates they are entitled to at the Convention. The Local Secretary and the shall fill out the blank credentials and return one copy to GDC Central at least 15 days prior to the start of the Convention. The other copy shall be presented to the Committee on Credentials when the Convention assembles. If a Local is not entitled to a delegate, GDC Central shall send notification of this to the Local. If a Local wishes to challenge the records at GDC Central, they shall contact GDC Central and provide corrections accompanied by reports, dues and documentation to the Central Secretary Treasurer. Should a Local supply documentation that entitles the Local to an additional delegate(s), GDC Central shall issue the additional credentials and the Local shall communicate to GDC Central at least 15 days before the start of the Convention the names of those who have been elected to serve as delegate.

## **Section 5 Preliminary Session**

**A.** The GDC Steering Committee shall draw up a list of delegates, against whom no contest has been filed at General Headquarters. The Central Secretary-Treasurer shall call the Convention to order and read the aforesaid list. The delegates on the said list shall proceed to form a preliminary organisation by electing, with each delegate against whom no contest has been filed receiving one vote, a temporary Chairperson, a Credentials Committee, a Resolutions Committee, a Balloting and Distribution Committee, and a Planning Committee. Each committee must have a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) members. Any member in good standing of the GDC in attendance may serve on these committees, and these committees shall remain active for the duration of the convention.

## **Section 6 Delegates' Eligibility**

**A.** Delegates to the General Convention shall be members of the GDC in good standing.

**B.** The GDC Steering Committee and Central Secretary-Treasurer shall be delegates at large, with voice but no vote. All paid officials and employees of the IWW must be off the payroll 90 days prior to the convening of the General Convention to become eligible as delegates. Any member who has not been on the payroll of the IWW 10 consecutive days in the 3 months immediately prior to the convening of the Convention, shall be eligible as a delegate. No delegate shall cast more than one vote when voting on the seating of a contested delegate or delegates. No delegate shall have more than one vote on the expulsion of a member.

**C.** Delegates to the General Convention shall not serve for two consecutive terms. Records of Delegates GDC Central shall forward a complete record of each delegate elected to the General Convention to the chairperson of the GEB and to the

Secretary-Treasurer in order to facilitate the work of the Credentials Committee of the General Convention.

## **Section 7 GDC Audit Committee**

**A.** The General Convention of the GDC shall nominate an Audit Committee consisting of 3 members and a minimum of 2 alternates, all in good standing, to audit GDC Central's books and supplies. GDC Central's books, records, and bank accounts shall be closed and reconciled by July 31 of each year. Its expenses shall be borne by GDC Central. It shall convene between the close of the fiscal year and the next convention, where it shall present its report. This report shall be published in the minutes of the General Convention of the GDC, and the General Organization Bulletin of the IWW.

## **Section 8 GDC Convention Resolutions**

**A.** Resolutions for the General Convention shall be sent by a chartered Local of the GDC. No resolution sent in by an individual shall be considered by the General Convention.

**B.** Each resolution and amendment to the GDC Bylaws submitted to General Convention shall be given three readings, each reading separated by a reasonable amount of time to allow for consideration of amendments.

**C.** At the first reading, the chair shall rule on whether the resolution or amendment to the Bylaws has been properly submitted and is in order. The ruling of the chair may be challenged and overturned by a simple majority of delegates. Resolutions determined to be out of order do not proceed to second reading. Resolutions proceeding to the second reading shall be referred to the Resolutions Committee to consider amendments.

**D.** The Resolutions Committee shall, before the second reading of the resolution, review any amendments submitted by delegates. The resolutions committee shall assist delegates with the preparation of amendments and prioritize amendments for consideration by Convention. The resolutions committee may, at their discretion, merge, split, or amend proposed amendments for clarification and ease of consideration by the convention, in consultation with the Local delegation or representative of the committee that proposed the motion.

**E.** At the second reading stage, delegates shall vote on the amendments brought forward by the resolutions committee. Once all amendments brought forward by the resolutions committee for second reading have been considered by the convention, the resolution shall proceed to third reading.

**F.** At the third reading stage, delegates shall vote on whether to adopt the resolutions. Further amendments to the resolution emanating from the floor at third reading may be considered only by a two-thirds vote of delegates present.

## **Section 9 Convention Observers**

**A.** GDC Steering Committee shall have the ability to invite observers from like minded organizations to attend the convention. The GDC Steering Committee shall have the power to delegate this power to a convention planning committee.

## **Article V**

### **Section 1 General Officers**

**A.** The officers of the GDC shall consist of the Central Secretary-Treasurer (CST) and General Defense Steering Committee.

### **Section 2 Duties of the Central Secretary-Treasurer**

**A.** The CST of the GDC shall be to take charge of all books, papers and effects of the GDC, shall conduct the correspondence pertaining to his/her office, is the custodian of the seal of the organization, and will act as a Clearing House for stamps, cards and other educational supplies.

**B.** The CST is responsible for the financial accounting of all funds of the GDC, controlling the Defense Fund of the GDC, and all other expenses and special accounts. The CST is responsible for making a quarterly financial report available to the General Executive Board, the general membership of the IWW, and the membership of the GDC by submission to the IWW GOB.

**C.** The CST will make him/herself available each year to the IWW and the GDC during the Delegate Convention of the IWW, reporting on the state of the GDC and on its various projects. Any business or discussion of the processes, procedures or methods of the GDC may be handled by the Delegate Convention at this time.

**D.** The term of office shall be for 1 year and shall commence on January 1.

**E.** The CST will remit any and all financial and communication records upon request by any member of the GDC Steering Committee or any member of the GEB or the GST of the IWW.

### **Section 3 Election of the Central Secretary-Treasurer**

- A.** Nominees for the office of the CST shall each be a member of the IWW, in good standing for two years, and a member of the GDC for at least one year prior to nomination.
- B.** In the event that no nominee for CST meets these requirements, then they shall be reduced to 1 year membership in the IWW, and 6 months membership in the GDC.
- C.** Nominations for the office of CST will be made at the Delegate Convention of the IWW. Nominations may also be by mail or email, with nominations closed by the final adjournment of General Convention. The election shall be by general referendum of the membership of the IWW.
- D.** Any person elected to the CST's office must remain in good standing with both the IWW and the GDC while holding office.
- E.** No candidate for the CST will be permitted to run or hold other office within the General Administration at the same time, unless no other qualified candidates are available.
- F.** No candidate is eligible for more than three terms in succession. Members who have served three or more consecutive terms as CST shall only have their names placed on the ballot, in the event that two qualified nominees cannot otherwise be secured.
- G.** If the post of Central Secretary-Treasurer becomes vacant, the GDC Steering Committee shall have the power to appoint a Central Secretary-Treasurer of the General Defense Committee, to serve until the membership of the IWW elects a new CST via referendum. This appointment shall become effective immediately, but shall be reviewed by the GEB. The GEB shall have the final authority over who the replacement CST shall be.
- H.** The Steering Committee shall remove a CST by majority vote should s/he fail to fulfill the duties of the CST.

#### **Section 4 Duties of the Steering Committee**

- A.** The General Defense Steering Committee will be made up of five members elected by GDC referendum.
- B.** The Steering Committee shall have general supervision of all affairs of the GDC and shall watch vigilantly over the interests throughout its jurisdiction.
- C.** The Steering Committee shall consider petitions of those requesting aid from the GDC, and have the full power to provide whatever help is available up to and including 30% of non-earmarked funds from the Defense Fund of the GDC. Funds greater than 30% shall be approved by GEB vote.

**D.** The Steering Committee will have general oversight over all GDC publications and guide their policy.

**E.** Elected Representatives to the Steering Committee shall each serve a term of office of 1 year, which shall commence on January 1.

**F.** Each elected Representative to the Steering Committee is eligible for a maximum of five terms in succession. Members who have served five or more consecutive terms shall only have their names appear on the ballot in the event that three other qualified nominees cannot otherwise be secured.

## **Section 5 Election of the Steering Committee**

**A.** Nominees for the Steering Committee shall each be a member of the IWW in good standing, and a member of the GDC in good standing.

**B.** Members of the GDC who are not eligible for membership in the IWW may be nominated to serve on the Steering Committee, but must have maintained membership in good standing for at least 2 years prior to nomination.

**C.** In the event that no nominee meets these requirements, then they shall be reduced to membership in the GDC at the time of nomination.

**D.** Nominations for the Steering Committee must be made to the Central Secretary-Treasurer no later than 11:59pm EST on Labor Day. The Central Secretary-Treasurer and Steering Committee will contact nominees regarding their acceptance before reviewing eligibility. A list of eligible nominees will be released with all proposed referendum resolutions via direct mailing to each GDC member in good standing. The referendum ballot shall include space for write-in candidates. All write-in candidates who meet the requirements of Section 5 A or B are considered qualified nominees. All write-in candidates shall be considered qualified nominees under Section 5 C provided two (2) or less candidates do not meet the requirements under Section 5 A or B.

**E.** Any person elected to the Steering Committee must remain in good standing with the GDC while holding office.

**F.** No elected member of the Steering Committee will be permitted to run for or hold other office within the General Administration at the same time.

**G.** In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, with all duly elected members or alternates already serving or being unavailable, the Central Secretary-Treasurer and the GEB Chairperson shall appoint a new committee member until another shall be elected by referendum.

## **Section 6 Charges Against Officers**

**A.** Charges against any Officers of the GDC should be filed in writing with the GEB or the Delegate Convention, following the protocols laid out for charges in the Constitution of the IWW.

## **Article VI**

### **Section 1 Funds**

**A.** Two funds will be maintained by GDC Central. The General Fund will be maintained as the operating fund for the GDC, for the purpose of expenses, printing, and other supplies related to the operation of GDC Central. The Defense Fund of the GDC shall be accounted for separately and distributed for the purpose of legal defense work.

**B.** The Steering Committee is empowered to create new funds as it sees fit.

**C.** Any member of the IWW or GDC in good standing may petition the GDC Steering Committee for direct aid in their legal defense from the Defense Fund. This aid may take the form of bail, bond or legal aid, and may take the form of a grant or a no-interest loan. The CST and loan recipient shall write and sign a reasonable and fair repayment plan.

**D.** Such funds may normally only be drawn out of the Defense Fund by the Steering Committee, after a proper petition, motion and majority vote in favor.

**E.** In the interest of fulfilling one of the GDC's goals of strengthening solidarity with all prisoners of the class war, the CST is permitted to issue checks for "Gifts of Solidarity" to other Defense efforts that are brought to the attention of the GDC. Such gifts may not exceed \$25 each per recipient per year, and the total of all gifts in a calendar year may not exceed \$500, or 4% of the Defense Fund, whichever is greater. Such gifts may only be issued to Defense Funds or to incarcerated individuals who are members of the General Defense Committee or IWW. These gifts can also be given to prisoners as commissary gifts.

**F.** The membership of the GDC may requisition up to 50% of the funds from the Defense Fund for any given initiative by means of a referendum of the entire GDC membership. Said referendum may be called by a signed petition of 15 members of the GDC in good standing for at least one month prior to the month the petition is initiated or

by a chartered local making an official petition by majority vote and balloting to be conducted by the office of the CST.

**G.** GDC Locals and Regional Locals may raise funds through assessments and other fundraising techniques to aid in the defense of class war prisoners outside the IWW and GDC. These funds will be a separate trust by the chartered local or international group. Delegates-at-large are required to submit all dues and assessments with their quarterly delegate report.

**H.** Donations sent to the GDC on behalf of class war prisoners, will always be so earmarked and always be passed on in a timely fashion to the defense account of the prisoner. Donations that remain unclaimed after 2 years will be allocated to the Defense Fund by the CST.

**I.** The General Fund is not to exceed \$25,000. Funds exceeding \$25,000 in the General Fund shall be transferred to the Defense Fund.

## **Section 2 Budget and Fiscal Year**

**A.** At the start of each IWW fiscal year the Steering Committee and GEB Chair will discuss, create, and finalize a budget for the GDC.

**B.** The GDC Central budget must be completed and approved by the Steering Committee no later than 15 days after the start of the IWW Fiscal Year.

**C.** The GDC's fiscal report shall coincide with that of the IWW. Currently, each fiscal year starts July 1st and ends June 31st.

**D.** The IWW Audit Committee has the authority to audit the books of the GDC.

## **Section 3 Dues**

**A.** Initiation fees for GDC membership are \$5.00, all of which goes in the GDC General Fund. Quarterly dues shall be set as follows: \$10 for those with limited income or resources, \$20 for those with moderate income or resources, and \$40 for those with higher income or resources. Members in extreme circumstances may pay \$5. Each member is responsible for determining their appropriate rate, based on their circumstances. Individual locals can provide guidelines for their members as to what income levels are deemed limited, moderate, higher, and extreme income or resources.

**B.** Each local shall retain 50% of dues collected and pass the remaining 25% to the Defense Fund and 25% to the General Fund.

**C.** At-large members, who are not part of a local, shall pay all their dues directly to the CST, or an at-large or regional delegate. Of these dues, 50% shall be deposited in the Defense Fund; the remaining 50% may be deposited in the General Fund.

**D.** Dues are paid on a quarterly basis. A dues payment covers an entire quarter regardless of the day on which it was paid. A member who has not paid dues for the one (1) quarter period prior to the current quarter is considered in bad standing and is not entitled to any rights or benefits in the GDC until they have been paid. A local may vote to allow a member in bad standing to participate in local business meetings with voice, but no vote. After two (2) quarters in bad standing, a three (3) quarter period of unpaid dues prior to the current quarter, members are considered to be on inactive standing and cannot take part in business meetings.

**E.** Members in inactive standing may reinitiate their membership by paying an initiation fee along with one quarter's dues upon reinitiating or by paying, in full, any back dues at the current dues rate. Any person reinitiating their membership shall be assigned the same membership number in which they were originally assigned upon their first initiation. If a replacement card is needed upon reinitiating, the Local or GDC Central shall issue the replacement at no additional charge.

## **Article VII**

### **Section 1 Clearing House**

**A.** The CST and Steering Committee will maintain contact with each local of the GDC, and the CST will function as a Clearing House for all supplies and materials necessary to conduct the business of the GDC.

**B.** The Secretary-Treasurer of each GDC Local or International Local will maintain contact with the Clearing House through the CST, and shall record all fees, dues, and assessments collected on forms by their local's delegate(s) provided by the Clearing House and return these along with all fees and dues money set aside for the General and Defense funds to the CST Quarterly.

**C.** All regional delegates, delegates-at-large and others bearing such credentials shall record all fees, dues, and assessments collected on forms provided by the Clearing House, and must return these along with all fees and dues money allocated for the GDC funds to the CST.

### **Section 2 Clearing House and Reporting Deadlines**

**A.** The due dates for all reporting to GDC Central each quarter are hereby the 1st of January, April, July, and October of each year. This shall remain effective for all

delegates, Locals, Secretary-Treasurers, International Group locals and delegates-at-large.

## **Article VIII**

### **Section 1 Materials**

**A.** There shall be a standard label for the GDC. It shall be of a crimson color and always the same in design. The use of the label shall only be vested in our organization. The Steering Committee and CST shall take any necessary steps to protect the label of the GDC.

**B.** All branches of the GDC should procure and use such supplies as dues books, dues stamps, official buttons, labels and badges from GDC Central. All such supplies are to be of an uniform design. Regional Locals may print their own materials, dues books, dues stamps, official buttons, labels and badges, in their own language, if they desire. The design and format of these materials should remain generally consistent with those produced by the Central Administration, and copies of these materials must be forwarded on to the CST.

**C.** Assessments may be produced by the local and regional locals distributing them in various denominations. Likewise, assessments may be produced by GDC Central of various denominations and types for various fundraising purposes. A copy, digital or otherwise, of any stamps issued by an International Group must be sent to GDC Central.

### **Section 2 Referendums**

**A.** A general referendum on any organization question, including constitutional amendments, may be initiated by the General Steering Committee of the GDC, by a chartered local, by a petition of 20 GDC members in good standing or by the GEB or the General Convention of the IWW.

**B.** All referendum items shall be submitted no later than 11:59pm EST on Labor Day and shall be included on a ballot to be issued no more than 60 days after the end of the IWW Delegate Convention. Notification of all referendum items, including the full text of all questions to be voted upon and names of all nominees for the Steering Committee who are eligible and have not declined, will be provided to all members via mailing not less than 30 days before ballots are mailed. Ballots shall be sent to all members in good standing and shall be open for voting for 31 days. Ballots shall be sent by mail to all members. The deadline for receipt of ballots at GDC Central shall be printed on the ballot. Votes shall be counted and the results released no later than 32 days after ballots were mailed to the membership.

**C.** Bylaws, as well as future amendments and revisions of the Bylaws, must be approved by the GDC membership through referendum.

**D.** All changes ratified by a general referendum ballot shall take effect January 1, unless otherwise noted in the measure.

**E.** The Steering Committee may approve the formation of regional ballot committees elected by a GDC local to issue, receive, count and report the results of the ballots to the CST in accordance with the referendum timeline and requirements as set out by the bylaws and Steering Committee. The ballot committee shall send all ballots to the CST upon completion of its duties.

### **Section 3 Emergency Referendum**

**A.** An emergency referendum may be initiated at any time by a signed petition of 15% of the membership or 20 members, whichever is greater, all of whom are to have been in good standing for more than one quarter. This referendum will follow the proper emergency referendum procedure.

**B.** Upon receipt of a completed Emergency Referendum petition, the CST and Steering Committee shall, over the [gdc-list@lists.iww.org](mailto:gdc-list@lists.iww.org), announce the receipt of the emergency referendum petition. It will also be announced in the next GOB after receipt. After a period of 60 days to allow for discussion on [gdc-list@lists.iww.org](mailto:gdc-list@lists.iww.org) and in the GOB, the CST shall send ballots to all GDC members in good standing for voting following the rules laid out in Article VII, Section 2b.

**C.** Petitions must be signed with the member's full name and membership number and may be submitted electronically to [gdc@iww.org](mailto:gdc@iww.org), submitted to a GDC Central member, or delivered by mail to the address at the end of this document.

**D.** The CST will verify the eligibility and membership of each petitioner and announce the legitimacy of the petition no later than 72 hours after receiving the petition.

For more information about the General Defense Committee, contact:

Central Secretary-Treasurer

IWW General Defense Committee  
2101 Hennepin Ave. S. Suite #110  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
United States

[gdc@iww.org](mailto:gdc@iww.org)

