

WHAT IS THE IWW?

And What Are We Doing In Ft. Bragg

The IWW, or Industrial Workers of the World (also known as Wobblies) was the grandparent union of the IWA. It was the IWW who first succeeded in bringing unionism to the timber workers in the early 1900's. They did this by combining loggers and millworkers in the same local, and by taking strong and unified action to win their rights.

What Kind Of Union Is The IWW?

The IWW is not like an AFL union. Rather than relying on "experts" to represent us to management, the IWW stands for people banding together and taking direct action in their own behalf. If the company dumps PCB's on you, an AFL union may file an OSHA complaint. An IWW shop would just refuse to work in it. Then we would file the OSHA complaint.

Who Is In The IWW?

Anyone who is not a boss can be an IWW union member. The Wobblies believe in "One Big Union", and it doesn't matter where you work. When the IWW went on strike to bring unionism to the timber industry, the whole town often went out with them. IWW Local #1 in Mendocino County is still new and small, but growing. It includes workers from all three big timber companies, as well as fishermen, health care workers, and other community members.

Who Controls The IWW?

The members do. We do not believe in "representative democracy", where you elect representatives then let them make decisions for you. We believe in "direct democracy", where decisions are made by the members themselves. If we don't like what the members decide, we don't bring in national officers to try and scare people into voting our way. In fact, the IWW has no executive officers. We have only administrative positions, to make sure books and records are kept up. All Wobblies are equal.

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Is The IWW Trying To Challenge The IWA?

No way! The IWA has a contract with Georgia Pacific, and if you dumped them you would lose that contract. Any union is better than no union. We would like to exist alongside the IWA. We do not consier them our enemies.

What Are We Doing In Ft. Bragg?

The IWW has been helping G-P workers when the IWA has failed to do so. We have provided support on the PCB issue from the beginning. When OSHA and G-P recently announced an out-of-court settlement, we intervned directly with the judge and convinced him to reconsider. As a result, the case is still pending. When a G-P worker was arrested for passing out leaflets in the parking lot and the IWA union lawyer said she could not help, we provided the legal support to get the charges dropped.

The IWW And Earth First!

They used to smear the IWW by calling us communists. This was not true. Now they are saying we are a front group for Earth First! This is not true either. There are two Earth First!ers in IWW Local #1, and they joined in part to separate themselves from the anti-worker stances of Earth First! The IWW does not support tree spiking, and Earth First! has no control on our policies.

The IWW And The Dues Increase

So how does the IWW want you to vote on your IWA dues increase? WE DON'T CARE! It's your union -- do what you want. Our dues are \$5.00 per month, and our local members recently voted down a dues increase, even though it was passed by the National.

Want More Info?

If you want more info, or if you want to join the IWW, please contact Anna Marie at [redacted]. We would also be happy to publicly debate Mr. Hubble, Mr. Nelson, or any other IWA rep on any of these issues. You can be a member of both unions if you want, and IWW membership can be kept confidential.

