

The IWW began organizing in warehouses in 2005 and works in solidarity with Brandworkers, a nonprofit organization which offers free legal aid to workers in the food and retail industries. Our monthly "Focus on the Food Chain" meetings continue to attract new members through various trainings, workshops, cookouts and cultural events. We have celebrated several substantial victories over bosses who exploit their workers.



Workers have been fighting abuse by coming together to demand their rights and build a better future. Workers have employed tactics like strikes, pickets, demonstrations, legal action, media pressure and boycotts, which they have decided on themselves.

To learn more, visit: brandworkers.org

In response to SFU going public, business owner Ken Sturm fired 32 members for forming the union and defending their rights. The company claimed that these employees were fired for stealing, but the National Labor Relations Board sided with the workers and all SFU members have since been offered their jobs back, along with back pay.

In addition to that major victory, SFU has been able to win reinstatement of their tips, repairs to dangerous workplace fixtures, adequate staffing, legally required breaks and the rejection of uncompensated work. While not all participants in these actions considered themselves members of SFU, the union is committed to fighting for all employees — not just union members.



To learn more, visit: stardustfamilyunited.com

SFU

Stardust Family United is a group of employees at Ellen's Stardust Diner who are striving to improve conditions for all of the workers at their Times Square restaurant. SFU was founded in 2016 as a branch of the IWW in response to practices that employees felt were unfair, such as arbitrary firings, safety and health concerns, and poor working conditions.

HOW DO I JOIN THE IWW?
Contact the New York City branch of the IWW via email (organize@iww.nyc), Twitter ([@iwwnyc](https://twitter.com/iwwnyc)), Instagram ([@iwwnyc](https://www.instagram.com/iwwnyc)), or Facebook ([/iwwnyc](https://www.facebook.com/iwwnyc)). Visit our website at iww.nyc.



THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

An Introduction to the IWW in New York City



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!



WHAT IS THE IWW?

The Industrial Workers of the World is a democratic, rank-and-file labor organization dedicated to building workers' power on the job. Members of the IWW are sometimes called "Fellow Workers" and "Wobblies."

Run by the Workers

The IWW is run by its members — not hired staff. It has only one full-time paid officer, the general secretary-treasurer. All general officers are elected each year by the entire membership. There are no "career officers" in the IWW. Local branches elect their own officers and have complete control over local affairs, as long as they abide by the IWW Constitution. No one can tell workers on the job to go on strike, to end a strike or to take any other action.

Visit the IWW online:

iww.org

iww.nyc

twitter.com/iwwnyc

[instagram.com/iwwnyc](https://www.instagram.com/iwwnyc)

[facebook.com/iwwnyc](https://www.facebook.com/iwwnyc)

Low Dues

Every organization needs money to operate, but the IWW relies most on its members — not their money. The IWW Constitution requires that dues and initiation fees be kept low so that every worker can join. Dues range from between \$6 and \$33 per month, depending on your monthly wages. Initiation is the same amount as one month's dues. Whatever dues you pay, half will go to the central organization and half will stay with your local branch, where you and your Fellow Workers will decide how it should be spent.

Your Boss is Organized

Why Not You?

You work for a company, which is a big organization of bosses. The bosses use their organized power to get rich off of your work and to make you obey their orders. They may claim to have an "open door" policy, but if you try to go it alone, you will discover that door is marked EXIT.

In the IWW, you and your Fellow Workers can fight back with your own organized power to win higher pay, better hours, safer conditions and, above all, respect on the job.

Direct Action Gets the Goods!

The IWW uses the power of workers sticking together — solidarity — to win demands. We don't depend on contracts, government agencies, lawyers or courts, although we may sometimes use them as tools. We say, "**An injury to one is an injury to all!**" If one worker is cheated

from their pay, treated unfairly or forced to do dangerous work, that means all workers could be — thus, all workers should take action to fight against abuse. In the IWW, we don't beg from the boss or ask politicians to solve our problems. We know that together we are powerful enough to get what we want through direct action, such as petitions, marches on the boss and strikes.

On average, union workers:

- Earn 27% more per week than nonunion members
- Are protected from unjust firing
- Have powerful grievance procedures



IU 460

The IWW organizes by industry rather than by trade, and each industry is designated by a number. Industrial Union 460 refers to the food-stuff industry, which includes those who grow, process, deliver and serve food.

The IWW in New York City has been organizing warehouse workers in the wholesale sector of the food industry. These food distribution warehouses that line the industrial neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Queens employ immigrant labor to work in sweatshop-like conditions. It is typical for workers to earn \$3 below minimum wage, work over 40 hours with no overtime, receive no raises for years and endure racial discrimination.