

Signal Group Chat Policy Proposal
Portland IWW
October 2025 GMB

The GMB has been using the signal group chat (currently called PDX Wobs Chat) as our main forum for internal communication for years. The chat is intended for members in good standing. Group admins can be any of the current GMB officers or anyone elected as moderators. Members are added to the group chat as they join the branch or by request. People are to be removed as they lapse into inactive standing. Audits of the Signal group chat shall be conducted routinely and at least twice per year by a branch secretary so inactive members can be removed.

What the Signal group chat is for:

- Shop and campaign organizing (public campaigns only)
- GMB operations
- Promoting IWW events
- Promoting events which may be interesting to IWW members

What the Signal group chat is not for:

- Debating
- Unwanted or inappropriate jokes
- Arguments
- Inter-personal conflicts and disagreements
- Name-calling
- Harassment
- Violations of the Safer Spaces policy
- High-risk organizing
- Organizing of non-public campaigns
- Illegal or illicit activities

Concerning moderators:

- Moderators will fill the role of enforcing the Signal group chat policy.
- Two or more moderators will be elected through majority vote by a quorum of members in good standing at a GMB meeting and will serve a one year term, but can be re-elected at the end of the term.
- Moderators can be recalled during any GMB meeting by a quorum of members in good standing.

Approaches to misuse of the Signal group chat:

- Moderators can remind participants of the Signal group policy by posting the policy text.
- Participants can be asked to take debates/discussions to separate Signal groups, direct messages, or other communications platforms depending on the situation.
- Moderators can mediate a conflict with the participants.
- Moderators can delete messages that violate the Signal group chat policy.
- Participants can be temporarily banned from the group chat for up to 14 days.
- Participants can be permanently banned from the group chat.

Concerning blocking:

The Signal software allows individuals to 'block' other individuals in a group chat. This results in the blocked participant not being able to see posts from the blocker. This is not ideal as it can cause problems with group communications and operational security. As an alternative, participants can seek mediation from moderators. Signal group members shall not block moderators as this makes moderation impossible. A member found to have blocked one or more moderators may be removed from the group chat.

Concerning operational security:

While the Signal software is an encrypted form of communication, it should not be considered 'secure' against surveillance or infiltration as the barrier to entry to the IWW is relatively low. All participants shall refrain from any high-risk communications.

For reference:

Here's what the current bylaws from 2020 say concerning the communications platform:

Article 11: Branch Communication Systems

1. The branch maintains various means of internal communication as outlined in the "How We Do Things," document.
2. Branch communications platforms will be treated as branch spaces and subject to the Safer Space Policy and non-branch members may be barred from them.

From our How We Do Things policy:

Safer Spaces Policy

The I.W.W. is a union committed to the emancipation of the working class. The working class is diverse and we realize that oppression is many layered. As such, we strive to keep our common paces free from oppressive action, behavior, and language. These oppressive actions and words include, but are not limited to: racism, sexism, homophobia, and expressions of disrespect and/or intolerance of size, gender identity, physical ability, age, educational level, cultural background, or political ideology (as long as such ideology does not conflict with the I.W.W. Constitution). We want to learn from and educate each other. We will each be responsible for addressing these issues in ourselves and others. This policy is not about censorship, but rather opening a dialog in a respectful way.

If a member feels like this policy is in violation, and is uncomfortable bringing this up personally, they are encouraged to seek an ally of their choosing to advocate for them. In a meeting, a person can ask for a point of personal privilege to take a break and discuss this with necessary parties. The chair should be conscious of this policy, and address issues as they arise. Further, space shall be defined as any meeting, event, or listserve that is I.W.W. sponsored.