



# Baristas United

February Edition

[An International Coffee Shop Workers Union]

## What's in it for me?

Starbucks workers, and retail and coffee shop workers generally have been the target of a recent IWW organizing drive. This bulletin is written to show workers in the industry just exactly why the IWW is for you.

## Get some Back-Up!

### USA, Maryland Barista Speaks Out on Early Benefits of Union Membership

Thu, 15/02/2007 - 11:20am.

Seth Dietz, Starbucks barista and IWW member in Rockville Maryland, tells his story:

Life at Starbucks has improved for baristas in Rockville with a union! We've already had victories around the trash in our store, work hours, respect, and recycling. There is a stronger sense of community among workers. Union members can now walk through the doors with a spring in their step after letting the company know that we aren't going to be pushed around anymore by bosses. Since declaring membership in the IWW Starbucks Workers Union the presence of a union in our store is bringing about real change.

### Trash Problem Solved With Increased Staffing

Our store used to open with two people in the morning. The plan is now three people will be scheduled in the morning. The result is giving workers adequate time to complete their daily morning tasks including removing the trash heap in the back. We had wanted a second trashcan to create a safe walkway in the back of the store which was inundated with trash but it turns out there's not really space for one. But adding another worker to help us we decided is a better solution! This victory is a direct result of "unofficial negotiations" with the District Manager after we went public with a demand to solve the trash problem.

### We got our hours! You got yours?

Pre-union not that many people were happy with their hours. But now everyone is getting the minimum number of hours they want. Whether a barista is trying to maintain health benefits or touch forty hours a week. It is not a problem anymore at least at our shop where there is a union presence for workers to work the hours they want.

### Respect

Immediately, we won respect from our management team, and are now

unofficially recognized by managers as a power to be cautious of. They realize that workers united are strong! Since our going public with the union a lot of the media has been talking poorly about Starbucks and in response Howard Schultz decided to show respect to baristas everywhere. This was done by writing a letter to all partners thanking them for their hard work and creating the third place. We in the union believe it was a quaint, however weightless, gesture. If Schultz means what he says he does, he can at least give baristas a raise. How about a living wage Howard? Starbucks coffee company could afford to pay a fair wage and still be highly profitable.

### Union Institutes Recycling Program

We baristas are tired of Starbucks cashing in on a socially responsible image they have created with empty promises. It was not until the union demanded that a recycling program be set in place for customers did the company start to move in the right direction. Now signs are posted encouraging customers to hand us their recyclables. Improvements to the environmental workings of Starbucks policies are in the works on the union agenda. We would just like to let everyone know that recycle bins would be in place in all Starbucks cafes at this moment if the bins weren't "so ugly" according to district managers. Just goes to show

you how much this company really cares.

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## Starbucks Workers Union Will Spill the Beans in a New Blog

**IWW Starbucks Workers Union  
February 22, 2007; Contact:  
starbucksunion@yahoo.com**

New York, NY- The IWW Starbucks Workers Union has unveiled a new blog at <http://www.StarbucksUnion.org/blog>. With an emphasis on workers' own stories, the SWU blog will provide news and views on the reality of the Starbucks Corporation behind the brand. The initiative marks the first time that employees at a multinational retailer will amplify their voices together through a blog.



"When we hear from corporations, it's management speaking not workers," said Christine Morin, a Starbucks barista and union member in Chicago. "With the SWU blog, we can expose the reality of work across the Starbucks supply chain."

The first set of postings at the blog represents a compelling mix of issues. A post from a union barista in Maryland details early gains on

the job as an IWW member. A former barista at a Canadian Starbucks tell her story of getting tracked down and fired by the company without warning for selling a small amount of coffee and tea on eBay. She writes that she was saving up money for a Disney World trip with her kids.

The latest blog post makes public for the first time an internal Starbucks document revealing the high-cost of health care at the company. Another post exposes Starbucks role in the National Retail Federation, a lobbying group seeking to insert tax giveaways in the minimum wage bill and defeat labor law reform. The early postings also contain updates on the trademark dispute between Ethiopia and Starbucks from a barista perspective.

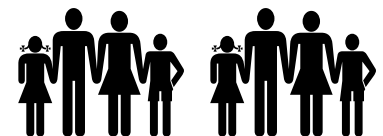
"I'm excited about this project because Starbucks has done such a good job deceiving people about the company," said Daniel Gross, an SWU barista currently fighting for his job back at Starbucks after an anti-union termination. "This is an opportunity for workers to set the record straight and continue the struggle for secure work hours, a living wage, and affordable health care."

The IWW Starbucks Workers Union is an organization of employees at the world's largest coffee chain united for dignity at work. SWU members working at Starbucks do not get involved in flawed union certification elections, opting instead for direct pressure against the company on the job, in the community, and in the public arena. The union is open to all Starbucks workers.

Despite an illegal union-busting campaign by Starbucks, the organization has chalked up important victories in wages and working conditions. Still as Starbucks announces yet another quarter of record profits, the coffee giant maintains a 100% part-time hourly workforce with no guaranteed work hours each week leaving baristas in a precarious struggle to pay the bills on just \$7 or \$8 per hour. And in contrast to misleading corporate communications, high out-of-pocket expenses leave the majority of Starbucks employees without health care from the company.

Join the IWW today and you'll be joining a **global** force of people who are fighting for our rights, our safety and our pay in our workplaces. Where we've organized in the past year we have raised the wages of workers and improved the working conditions of our members and workmates. Don't moan about crap conditions, join us and **get organized!**

### Want To Find Out More / Join IWW?



**Standing up for each other  
is our greatest weapon!**

**For all inquiries, including  
membership requests and to  
find out more about the IWW  
and what we do please  
telephone our Central  
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