

## General Meeting of the Freelance Musicians Association

Via Videoconference

March 4, 2026

Wages Argott, AFM Director of Freelance Services, and member Local 802, New York, NY, called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM, EST.

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Argott introduced those present to the newly-elected officers and board members. Each board member-elect took a few moments to introduce themselves:

- Nate Omdal, FMA President, and President Local 76-493, Seattle, WA.
- Leni Kreienberg, FMA Vice President, and member Local 802, New York, NY.
- Milton Salazar, FMA Secretary-Treasurer, and Trustee Local 7, Orange County, CA.
- Colin Dean, FMA Executive Board Member-at-Large, and Administrative Director Local 1000, Non-Geographic, and member Local 802, New York, NY.
- Lisa LeMay, FMA Executive Board Member-at-Large, and member Local 325, San Diego, CA.
- Dakota Nicely, FMA Executive Board Member-at-Large, and Executive Board member Local 3, Indianapolis, IN.
- Gene Perla, FMA Executive Board Member-at-Large, and member Local 802, New York, NY.
- Elliott Ratliff, FMA Executive Board Member-at-Large, and member Local 60-741, Pittsburgh, PA.
- John Shipley, FMA Executive Board Member-at-Large, and President Local 368, Reno, NV.

Argott led the swearing-in of the officers and board members.

Argott reiterated that the FMA is seeking recognition by the AFM International Executive Board and delegate representation for the 103rd AFM Convention in Ottawa, ON. He also encouraged the members present to continue to lend their voices and ideas to the general meetings and invite their colleagues to attend.

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No minutes were given to approve for February 2026.

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No committee reports were presented as the committees had not met prior to the general meeting.

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Omdal introduced Zack Reaves, member Local 47, Los Angeles, CA, to discuss and present updates on the Candlelight Concert Series organizing campaign. Reaves went on to say that the musicians lack negotiating power due to hiring via subcontractors, and there is no enforcement of agreement. The Candlelight Concerts parent company, Fever, recently rolled back their changes to rehearsal pay and work schedules in response to the musicians' social media campaign and petition letter, and has said it is committed to communicate more directly with their US musicians. Discussion was held on the topic, including issues such as arranging, travel pay, and the desire for a Canadian agreement.

Kreienberg committed to creating a Discord secure communications platform channel to develop a "Candlelight Campaign Committee." Kreienberg let the members know that anyone is able to volunteer for this or other committees.

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Omdal asked the members present to reach out to the board if there are any new ideas for committees or subcommittees. Some ideas that were discussed include: Information campaign for the FMA, FMA merchandise to engage the public and raise awareness, and a communications committee, both internal and external.

Ken Hatfield, member Local 802, New York, NY, raised a question leading to discussion on Venuology.org, a user-driven website hosted by the AFM, where venues are compiled into a database and reviewed anonymously.

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Omdal proposed the following Calls to Action: Adding new venues to Venuology.org, and bringing a friend to the next general meeting.

Argott reiterated that communications among committees will be happening on Discord, and members may volunteer for committees or suggest new committee ideas via [afmfreelance.org](http://afmfreelance.org).

Kreienberg said that they will be making committee-specific channels on the Discord for members to join.

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A motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 PM, EST.