

Executive Board Meeting of the Freelance Musicians Association (FMA)

Via Videoconference
April, 20, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Nate Omdal at 1:03 PM, EDT.

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Members Present: President Omdal, Vice-President Kreienberg, Secretary-Treasurer Salazar, Executive Members-at-Large Dean, Lemay, Perla, Ratliff, and Wages Argott, Antoinette Follet.

Absent, Excused: Executive Board Members-at-Large Nicley, Shipley.

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A motion was made and carried to approve the March 23rd Executive Board Meeting minutes as presented.

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AFM Director of Freelance Services Wages Argott gave a report on the FMA's official recognition as a players conference of the AFM. Argott and Kale Cumings, President Local 6, San Francisco, CA, traveled to San Juan, PR, and presented a case to the International Executive Board, advocating for official recognition. The IEB deliberated and voted unanimously in favor of recognition. The FMA immediately began work on sending 3 delegates to the 103rd AFM Triennial convention taking place in Ottawa, CA. The FMA will have a chance to speak and make its presence known at the convention, but it does not hold any voting rights as a players conference. Vice-President Kreienberg mentioned that the FMA should have a visual presence at the convention in ways of merchandise, buttons, pins, or similar. President Omdal mentioned that an FAQ sheet and tabling would be a good way to let people know that the FMA exists.

Argott went on to say that there was a spike in membership numbers thanks to the AFM's official announcement on the FMA's recognition. Executive Board Member-at-Large Dean posed a question regarding funding for the 3 delegates: considering that the FMA does not have sufficient funds, how will the FMA be able to send the delegates to the convention? There was discussion about co-funding requests, fundraising, and other means.

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President Omdal and Executive Board Member-at-Large Perla reported on behalf of the Jazz Advocacy Committee. It was reported that they would like to see more representation from other Locals that have a large jazz presence in their jurisdictions. Some good starting options would be Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and DC.

Vice-President Kreienberg reported on behalf of the Communications Committee. They reported that Valeri Speights, member Local 65-699, Houston, TX, created a possible logo for the AFM to adopt. Those present discussed and reviewed mock-logos. It was decided that the entire FMA membership should hold a vote before there is any official adoption of a logo.

Argott reported on behalf of the P2 Visa Workgroup. Argott reminded those present that there are no Canadians on the FMA board and that there should be an effort to create a seat for Canadian representation. There was discussion on creating a seat for a Canadian Vice-President, amending the FMA bylaws, and other possibilities.

Argott also gave an update on the Candlelight Concert Series. A presentation was made to the body of Candlelight musicians and they were given a realistic expectation of the difficulties they might face on their campaign.

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President Omdal reiterated that he would like to see some coalition building at the local level. Omdal would like to see a conversation focused on identifying local leaders, identifying key issues, and educating our colleagues on what to look for when out on the field. Omdal also said that he would like to see a list of good targets so that we can set up these larger conversations about community involvement.

Omdal went on to let those present know that Dave Shelton, AFM Director of Education, sent in powerpoint and slide resources that can be used as a starting point to create a freelancer-specific education packet. Kreienberg said that there should be some consolidation of material used by the larger locals that are proficient at educating their members, and that the Education Committee can use that as a starting place.

Kreienberg let those present know that there will be a presentation by the Union of Musicians and Allied Workers (UMAW) at the next General Meeting of the FMA. Kreinberg said that UMAW will be presenting on a Venue Standards campaign and that they are looking for the FMA's endorsement. They went on to say that any future endorsements should be voted on by the general membership, and that ample research should be done before any endorsement, as the FMA is now an official extension of the AFM.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 PM, EDT