

General Membership Meeting of the Freelance Musicians Association (FMA)

Via Videoconference
May 6, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Nate Omdal at 5:11 PM, EDT.

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A motion was made and carried to approve the April 1st general membership Meeting minutes as presented.

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President Omdal informed those present that there have been ongoing conversations with representatives from United Musicians and Allied Workers (UMAW). Omdal introduced representative of UMAW Damon Krukowski who went on to present two campaigns to the general membership. Krukowski let those present know that UMAW is looking for an endorsement from the FMA for their "Raise the Bar" campaign and the "Living Wage for Musicians Act".

Krukowski explained the 4 objectives of the "Raise the Bar" campaign: No pay-to-play, no door polling, no merch cuts, and contract transparency. First steps would be asking private venues to commit to these standards voluntarily, or a pressure campaign on venues not willing to meet these requirements voluntarily.

Krukowski also explained the "Living Wages for Musicians Act" (LWMA). This legislation would create a new streaming royalty paid directly to artists, ensuring that musicians can build a sustainable career in the digital age. Executive Board Member-at-Large Ken Hatfield brought up the fact that many independent venues livestream or record a concert for on-demand viewing, and that the musicians do not see a royalty for that. Krukowski replied that this topic is not something that has been considered before and that they will explore that option.

In response to Krukowski's presentation, Vice President Kreienberg committed to host a conversation with AFM Director of Government Affairs, Ben Kessler, for those who are interested in learning more about the LWMA. Vice President Kreienberg said that the FMA members should be educated on UMAW's efforts before any vote on a possible endorsement.

President Omdal thanked the presenters and laid out next steps: the FMA will discuss supporting these movements and will make an informed decision at the next general meeting.

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President Omdal gave an update on the FMA and the recent feature in the *International Musician*, the monthly journal publication of the AFM, and he gave thanks to all those involved to make the FMA's official recognition possible.

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Wages Argott reported on behalf of the Jazz Committee. Argott said that it was decided that outreach to other large cities with a large jazz presence is needed, cities like Philadelphia, Baltimore, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc. Argott also reported that the Jazz Committee has decided to meet regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at 12PM Eastern.

Gene Perla and Ken Hatfield reported on Venuology. David Stern was kind enough to share his personal database of venues across New York, and beyond, with the FMA, and that now the task of adding the data into the website is near. Hatfield reiterated that Venuology will need constant maintenance and data input to stay up-to-date.

Vice President Kreienberg reported on behalf of the communications committee. Valeri Speights, Local 65-699 Houston, TX, has worked on a logo for the AFM to approve and that we are hoping to have a logo ready before the 103rd AFM Convention in Ottawa, CA. There has been some discussion on the creation and selling of merchandise, primarily stickers, hats, and buttons.

President Omdal said that it is very important for the FMA to fundraise in order to help the FMA delegates attend the 103rd AFM Convention in Ottawa, CA. Officers in need of immediate financial support are Vice President Kreienberg and Secretary-Treasurer Salazar.

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Motion to adjourn 6:27 PM, EDT.