LOCAL 400

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

The Score

September 21, 2026

Local 400 Officers

Christine Melson, *Acting President*

Arthur Masi, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Executive Board

Jarrod Briley

Thomas Hudson

Jordan Jacobson

Walter Mamlok

Roy Wiseman



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Local 400 Nominations Meeting

followed by

General Membership Meeting

Date: **October 5, 2026**

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Zoom meeting (link below)**

Original Notice sent September 11, 2026

The Nominations Meeting is being held for the purpose of receiving nominations for the Local's elected offices. If more than one candidate is nominated for an office, an election will be conducted by mail ballot in accordance with the Local's Bylaws and applicable federal law. If only one candidate is nominated for an office, that candidate will be declared elected by acclamation in accordance with the Local's Bylaws. Officer terms begin on January 1, 2027.

ALL OFFICES ARE OPEN FOR NOMINATION

President / Business Agent

Vice President

Secretary-Treasurer (or separate Secretary and Treasurer offices)

Executive Board (5 members at large)

Click for Rules regarding Nominations

Click to Join Zoom Meeting



Member Updates - August 2026

NOTE: New and Reinstated members have not yet been accepted by the Local 400 Executive Board, which is expected to do so on September 25.

At the end of August, Local 400 reported **504 members**, a net loss of seven members from the prior month. There were 393 Active Regular members, 110 Life members, and 1 Youth member. Below is the activity for the **month of August**.

WELCOME New Members

Luke Ashworth, 8/3 Bassoon, Contrabassoon

Steven Sherts, 8/12 French Horn
Steven Cohen, 8/14 Clarinet, Piano
Sandra Bouissou, 8/23 Violin
Joseph Swift, 8/26 Bassoon, Contrabassoon
Maureen Hurd Haus, 8/26 Clarinets, Sax, Piano
Zitian Lyu, 8/28 Viola, Violin

WELCOME BACK Reinstated Members

Harrison Kliewe, reinstated 8/3 Sax, Oboe, Clarinet, Flute, English Horn
Nelsy Badia, reinstated 8/13 Viola
Juan Espinosa Monteros, reinstated 8/21 Clarinet
Wendy Case, reinstated 8/24 Violin, Viola
Emily DePalma, reinstated 8/28 Flute, Piccolo

If you are a contractor or are in the habit of hiring musicians, please consider our newest members. Their contact information can be found on our website in the password-protected Members' Area.

Resigned Members

None for August

Life Member Attainment

None for August

Member Milestones

Congratulations to **Jamie Marci**, who celebrated her 25th year of continuous membership on August 17.

In Memoriam

Local 400 mourns the loss of Kenneth Lagace, who passed away on August 24. He was a member of Local 400 for 28 years before resigning in December 1987. You can read his obituary here.

Expelled Members (updated as of 9/19/26)

The members below, whose memberships expired on June 30, have been expelled for non-payment of membership dues:

Hannah Batsford
William Bivona
James Czeiner
Krystyana Czeiner
Tyrone Fuertes
Sebastian Gobbels
Alexis Javier
Shaolan Liou
Christopher Louis
Haneef Nelson
Rheagan Osteen
Luigi Polcari
Mark Thornton



Changes to Suspension and Expulsion Criteria Implemented

As a result of Resolution #29 that was passed at the 103rd AFM International Convention, Local 400 has implemented the required changes to its suspension and expulsion criteria and has made the required administrative updates to its bylaws, effective September 15, 2026. The resolution required that the modifications be incorporated into Local unions' bylaws without the need for a vote of the Local Union membership.

Although the changes were made effective September 15, they will not be felt by members until the December 2026 dues billing cycle has commenced. The changes will affect members with membership expiration dates of 12/31/26 and beyond.

The increase in time to suspension and expulsion may warrant increased late fees and reinstatement fees. However, these fees cannot be increased without consent of the membership. The increase of fees is a topic for consideration at the upcoming Membership Meeting on October 5.

Below, in red, are the administrative changes made to Local 400's bylaws

ARTICLE VII: DUES, FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS

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Section 2. A member is automatically suspended if the member's periodic dues remain unpaid for three calendar months from the expiration date of the period for which the member's dues were last paid and shall be required to pay a late fee to resume membership in good standing.

Section 3. A member is automatically expelled if the member's periodic dues remain unpaid for six calendar months from the expiration date of the period for which the member's dues were last paid and shall be required to pay a reinstatement fee to reinstate membership.



MPTF Music Family Scholarship Winners from Local 400

Local 400 is thrilled to announce that **two of the 75 Music Family Scholarships recently awarded went to children of three active Local 400 members!**

Congratulations to **John Kramer**, son of Local 400 members Virginia and David Kramer, and **Nikki Harris-Stone**, daughter of active member Jackie Harris-Stone. John and Nikki were each awarded a **$1,000 scholarship**.

The MPTF Music Family Scholarships can be awarded to AFM members and their dependents. Applicants do not need to be enrolled in a music program to be eligible.

Congratulations, John and Nikki, on this wonderful achievement!

Read more about John Kramer

Read more about Nikki Harris-Stone

MPTF Annual Report

The MPTF Annual Report is a testament to the tremendous work the organization does and the lasting impact it continues to make, made possible in large part through the support of AFM members. Click here to read the report.

2026 CT AFL-CIO Labor-to-Labor Canvass Schedule

Join your fellow union members for energizing canvassing events! Knock on union household doors, discuss key issues, and educate members about labor-endorsed candidates. You'll receive training, a prepared script, and a list of households. Pair up with another volunteer and enjoy complimentary coffee, donuts, and bagels to fuel your efforts! Click the button below for more information and dates.

L2L More Info & Dates



BOYCOTT STARBUCKS!

CT AFL-CIO President, Ed Hawthorne, is encouraging all union members to join union baristas and boycott Starbucks due to extensive management stonewalling at the bargaining table. Click the button

below to read more about it and to take the Boycott Starbucks Pledge.

Boycott Starbucks



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...
See below for information you have may missed from previous newsletters

Have a Voice in Your Local's Future!

We're still looking for volunteer members to serve on our **By-Laws Committee** to review our Local's by-laws and recommend updates where needed. This is a great opportunity for rank-and-file members to have a direct voice in how our Local operates and help make sure our rules reflect the needs of today's membership. **Interested in serving?** Send us an email to request information or to volunteer. No special experience is required—just an interest in helping your union!

AFM-EPF Educational Webinars for Participants

Beginning in September, the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) will offer bi-monthly 60-minute virtual educational webinars with interactive Q&A designed to help Participants of the Plan make informed decisions about their retirement and maximize the resources available through the Plan. Webinars are open to all.

Each session provides an overview of how the AFM-EPF Plan works and some key Plan provisions, including participation requirements, vesting rules, retirement eligibility, benefit calculations, and the death benefits available under the Plan. Participants will also learn how to access and navigate the Participant Portal, use the Pension Estimator to project future retirement benefits, and the importance of making a beneficiary designation.

To view the webinar schedule and register on the AFM-EPF website, click here
In addition to the educational webinars, the AFM-EPF has created a one-page Quick Guide overview of some Plan benefits, rules, and important resources. To view the Quick Guide, click here.

Are You a Freelance Musician?

The Freelance Musicians Association (FMA) is the AFM's newest player conference, joining the ranks of ICSOM, OCSOM, ROPA, RMA, and TMA. The creation of a dedicated Players' Conference recognizes that freelance work presents challenges distinct from those faced by musicians employed by orchestras, theaters, and recording labels. This new players' conference provides a forum for members from across the U.S. and Canada to share ideas, develop policy recommendations, and advocate collectively on issues that directly affect freelance careers.

The FMA meets the first Wednesday of every month, and annual membership dues is only five dollars. Please consider joining the FMA today!

MPTF Reminders

Members need to be aware that MPTF has adopted stricter time frames for submission of grant requests. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FEWER THAN 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE WILL BE RETURNED. This obviously means that all relevant materials regarding an MPTF performance must be received well before that

deadline in order for the online application to be written in time for appropriate submission.

Please note below specific deadlines for special initiatives for February, March, and April (2027), funded at 100% of the Public Service scale. Begin planning performances now in order not to miss out on this valuable opportunity available to our members!

February - Black History Month - Submission deadline January 1, 2027
March - Women's History Month - Submission deadline February 1, 2027
April - Jazz Appreciation Month - Submission deadline March 1, 2027

How to Apply for MPTF Funding

WANT GIGS?

Are you a solo performer? Are you in a group?

AFM Entertainment is the official website for the AFM's booking and referral service. It connects musicians with gigs for events like weddings, parties, and corporate functions, acting as an online booking agency. The service provides a platform for AFM members to create a profile, register their act, and be hired by individuals and organizations seeking live music, while also offering AFM-approved contracts as a guarantee for bookings. The main website is visible to the general public. There is a separate link (top right of page) for musicians. That's where you upload your materials and register your act.

—> LET THE AFM DO THE HEAVY LIFTING FOR YOU! <—

The AFM provides the communication interface between potential customers and your group. It also handles all of the contract work. Acts can be listed in geographic regions beyond its home local. Only one member of a group needs to be an AFM member. Why wait? Visit AFM Entertainment today!

NOTE: There is another musical booking agency website called "AFM Entertainment" with a nearly identical URL except that it ends in ".com" THIS SITE HAS NO AFFILIATION WHATSOEVER WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS. They just happened to have registered their domain name first. Be sure to visit and bookmark the **.org site linked in this article.**



HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, PLEASE let us know your new address! You can easily change your address online at the AFM website, and that change will flow through to us here at Local 400. You can also send address updates to us via email or phone call, and we'll be happy to update our records.



*Don't forget to add **afmlocal400.org** to your trusted email senders so that our communications don't wind up in your junk/spam folders.*

*Add **(860) 854-8176** to your safe list of text message senders. We occasionally use this purchased number to send important voice or text messages to our members.*

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