LOCAL 400

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

The Score

October 19, 2026

Local 400 Officers

Christine Melson, *Acting President*

Arthur Masi, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Executive Board

Jarrod Briley

Thomas Hudson

Jordan Jacobson

Walter Mamlok

Roy Wiseman

Nominations Meeting & Election Update

Local 400 held its nominations meeting for all officer positions on October 5, 2026. Thank you to all who attended the meeting. Below are the results.

President / Business Agent

The nominees were **Roy Wiseman** and **Matthew Russo**. However, on October 7, Matt officially withdrew his nomination for this office, leaving only 1 remaining nominee. According to Local 400 bylaws, when there is only 1 nominee for an office, that nominee is considered elected to the office by acclamation. Therefore, **Roy Wiseman has been elected as President**, and his

term begins on January 1, 2027. The Election Committee has filed an election record to document these events. Click here to review the election record.

Vice President

Christine Melson was the sole nominee for the office of Vice President; therefore she is elected to this office by acclamation. (Christine is the current Vice President.)

Secretary and Treasurer

Arthur Masi was the sole nominee for the office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer; therefore, he is elected as Secretary-Treasurer by acclamation. (Arthur is the current Secretary-Treasurer.)

Executive Board**

The following members were nominated to serve on the Executive Board:

(in alphabetical order)

Edward Allman
Nicholas Borghoff
Jarrod Briley
Thomas Hudson
Jordan Jacobson
Candace Lammers
Walter Mamlok
Joseph Messina

As there are five positions on the EB and eight nominees, **there will be an election** to determine the final composition of the Board.

**NOTE: Roy Wiseman was also nominated for the Executive Board. However, due to his election by acclamation as President, he can no longer run for Executive Board.

The Election Committee consists of members Robert Hoyle, Christopher Swist, and Leland Tolo. Watch your email over the next several weeks for important information about the upcoming election and the associated timeline. **The election will be by mail-in ballot; no in-person voting or in-person ballot delivery is allowed.**

Per Local 400 bylaws, ballots will be counted during the second week of December. The Election Committee will determine the exact date. Ballot packages are expected to be mailed to members' address of record no earlier than November 4.

Please make sure we have your current mailing address to ensure that you receive a ballot in time to vote and mail it in for counting.



Member Updates - September 2026

At the end of September, Local 400 reported **509 members**, a net increase of five members from the prior month. There were 398 Active Regular members, 110 Life members, and 1 Youth member. Below is the activity for the **month of September**.

WELCOME New Members

William Hughes, 9/2 French Horn
Shelley Huang, 9/15 Bassoon, Contrabassoon
Gino Villarreal, 9/15 Trumpet

WELCOME BACK Reinstated Members

Fengwan Chen, reinstated 9/7 Violin
Sesil Cho, reinstated reinstated 9/16 Violin

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 September

Life Member Attainment

Congratulations to **Lisa Kugelman**, for reaching the continuous membership and age requirement for Life membership on September 4.

Member Milestones

Congratulations to **Lorne Entress**, who celebrated his 25th year of continuous membership on September 28.



Increase to Late Fee and Reinstatement Fee Approved

At the October 5 General Membership Meeting, the membership approved increases to Late Fees and Reinstatement fees, effective immediately. These fee increases come as the criteria for suspension and expulsion for nonpayment of annual membership dues have been

standardized across the Federation. Because members will not be suspended or expelled until 3 months and 6 months, respectively, after the payment due date, the Local's existing fees needed to be realigned to reflect the substantial increase in members' time to pay. The increased payment timelines create an additional administrative burden for local officers and stewards to follow up with lapsing and lapsed members. Below are the new approved fees:

Late fee once Suspended**:** dues owed plus **$10** in the first 45 days after suspension; dues owed plus **$20** in the second 45 days after suspension.
Reinstatement fee once Expelled**:$30***

*The Reinstatement Fee increase applies to members expelled January 1, 2027 and thereafter. Members who were expelled on 2/28/26 or 8/31/26 will retain the existing $10 Reinstatement Fee as long as 1 year or less has elapsed since the membership expiration date. According to Local 400 bylaws Article VII Section 4, members whose annual membership dues remain unpaid 1 year after the due date must re-affiliate as a new member.

**** DUES DISCOUNT ****

To offset the increase in Late and Reinstatement Fees, Local 400 will be implementing an "early bird" dues discount for the upcoming year's annual membership dues. If your **full year's** dues payment will be received in our office or in our bank account by the due date of **December 31, 2026** you may take **$10** off the amount due.

The discount applies to Regular, Youth, and Life memberships, but ONLY on the full year's dues payment ($179 or $116).

Invoices for 2027 annual membership dues will be mailed in early December to members whose memberships expire on 12/31/26.

No Increase to Annual Membership Dues for 2027

Effective January 1, 2027, the Federation will increase the per capita dues that Locals must pay. For Local 400, this means paying the Federation approximately 40% of the annual membership dues we collect, up from the current 38%.

Many Locals are increasing their annual membership dues to offset this additional expense. Per capita dues are the single largest expenditure for many Locals, including ours. However, the Local 400 Executive Board has voted **to absorb the additional cost—estimated at $2,000 for 2027—and keep annual membership dues unchanged.**

The Federation's per capita rate will increase again in 2028 and 2029. As those increases take effect, the Executive Board will evaluate whether Local 400 can continue to absorb the additional costs or whether an increase in membership dues is needed.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



See below for information you have may missed from previous newsletters

---

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.*

American Federation of Musicians Local 400 56 Town Line Rd Rocky Hill, CT 06067-1241 USA - 860-563-1606 - afmlocal400.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe