

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

Dear AFM International Executive Board:

We are writing to express our disappointment in your recent decision to discontinue the option for AFM locals to extend membership dues deadlines. This instruction appears in a letter to all AFM locals, dated Dec. 14, 2020: "Any member that has not paid dues for six months must be expelled in conformity with AFM bylaws." We respectfully ask the IEB to reconsider this policy.

As you know, almost all professional musicians are out of work. Many have had difficulty keeping up their membership dues. Unfortunately, we feel your policy has the potential to damage our relationship with our members by putting us in the position of being "enforcers" or "debt collectors" during this unprecedented pandemic.

We respectfully request flexibility and help. Other national unions have recognized the great pressure and stress their locals are going through. They've offered credits and discounts to their locals on the per capita dues that they are required to remit.

To put it simply, most of our local unions are struggling financially, along with our own members. We rely on the good will of our musicians and the relationships with our members to survive.

We need your help to give our members a lifeline through this pandemic by simply extending a credit on per capita dues to locals until live performance starts to return and musicians go back to work.

In solidarity,

The officers of the following AFM locals:



Adam Krauthamer, President
*Associated Musicians of Greater New York,
Local 802, AFM*



Vicky Smolik, President
*Musicians Association of St. Louis,
Local 2-197, AFM*



George Troia Jr., President
Detroit Federation of Musicians,
Local 5, AFM



Patrick Hollenbeck, President
Boston Musicians Association,
Local 9-535, AFM



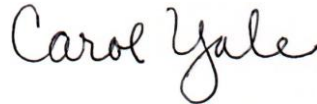
Leonard DiCosimo, President
Cleveland Federation of Musicians,
Local 4, AFM



George Clewer, President
Pittsburgh Musicians' Union,
Local 60-471, AFM



Luc Fortin, President
Guilde de Musiciens et Musiciennes du Quebec,
Local 406, CFM



Carol Yale, President
Lehigh Valley Musicians' Association,
Local 45, AFM



Dorian Parrott, President
Asbury Park New Jersey Musicians Union,
Local 399, AFM



Andrew Bruck, President
Musicians' Association of Jacksonville
Local 444, AFM



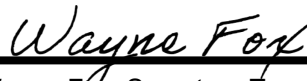
John DeCicco, President
Fitchburg, MA
Local 173, AFM



Jim Pace, President
Buffalo Musicians' Association,
Local 92, AFM



Larry Hazard, President
Professional Musicians' Association,
Local 238-291, AFM



Wayne Fox, Secretary-Treasurer
Lebanon, PA
Local 401-750, AFM

George Felder, III

George Felder, Executive Board
Lebanon, PA
Local 401-750, AFM

John Cross

John Cross, President
Jamestown Musical Association
Local 134, AFM

Steve Kostyk

Steve Kostyk, President
Niagara Region Musicians Association
Local 298, CFM

Janet Borelli

Janet Borelli, President
Worcester Musicians' Association
Local 143, AFM

Jack Gaughan

Jack Gaughan, President
Musicians' Union of Las Vegas
Local 369, AFM

Helen June Zatlín

Helen June Zatlín, President
AFM Mississippi Coast
Local 777, AFM

Nathan Nix

Nathan Nix, President
Memphis Federation of Musicians
Local 71, AFM

Kenneth (Skip) Kutz

Kenneth (Skip) Kutz, President
Saskatoon Musicians' Association
Local 553, AFM

Annette Hulbert

Annette Hulbert, President
Musicians' Union of Oswego County
Local 267-441, AFM

Michael Avila

Michael Avila, President
Central Florida Musicians' Association
Local 389, AFM

Cheryl Six

Cheryl Six, President
The Musicians Association of Eastern Connecticut
Local 285-403, AFM

Michael Decker

Michael Decker, President
Musicians' Association of Metropolitan Baltimore
Local 40-543, AFM