



Frequently Asked Questions: 802 Basics

- **How does Local 802 operate?**
 - Local 802 is a democratically run organization whose officers are elected by the membership. The local is guided by three officers, the President, Financial Vice President, and Recording Vice President, and governed by an Executive Board, all elected by the membership. The Executive Board is made up of active, working Local 802 members.
- **What are my rights as a union member?**
 - Members in good standing have the right to vote in union elections and contract ratifications, as well as the right to attend and vote in membership meetings. As a member, you can also serve on union committees and caucuses that are relevant to your work and run for elected office.
- **What's the difference between "membership dues" and "work dues"?**
 - Paying your **membership dues** keeps you a member in good standing of Local 802 (regardless of how much work you do). Membership dues are currently \$55 per quarter, or \$220 per year. A \$5 discount will be applied if you pay for an entire year, in advance.
 - **Work dues** are the union dues that are paid as a small percentage of your union scale wages. For live engagements, the percentage is 3.5%. For teaching engagements, the percentage is 2%. For union recordings, the percentage is between 4 and 4.5%. These are traditional union dues, which make up the bulk of Local 802 income. Work dues allow us to enforce the contract you work under, and to negotiate new contracts.
- **What happens if I need to leave Local 802?**
 - Whether you are moving, going on tour, or just taking a break from playing professionally, you can pause your membership by resigning in good standing. You must be paid up to the current date and resign in writing to the membership department.
 - If you live or work in multiple jurisdictions, you can also join multiple AFM locals at the same time or transfer your membership from one local to another.

Your Work:

- **Now that I'm a union member, does that make all my work "union work"?**
 - In order for your gigs to be "union," they need to be covered by a union contract (which is an agreement between the musicians and the employer). Contact the Organizing Department if you are interested in bringing more of your work under

union agreements. The benefits of working under a union contract include job protections and entitlement to employee benefits programs.

- **Will the union help get me work?**
 - Local 802 is not a hiring hall and does not directly provide members with work. However, there are union-sponsored programs that do, (such as Music for the Soul). For information on the various employers covered by 802 contracts, or for information on our referral service, see the Local 802 website.
- **Can the union help me with an issue at a non-union job?**
 - You have more protections on the job when you're working under a union agreement. However, workers in all industries can use collective action to improve working conditions, even if they are not currently covered by a union contract. Contact the Organizing Department if you'd like to discuss your options.

Union Benefits:

- **How do I get on the union health plan?**
 - Under most union contracts, your employer contributes to the Local 802 Musicians Health Fund on your behalf for each gig you play. If a certain amount of contributions are made on your behalf during a six month Contribution Period, you will be eligible for health coverage during the corresponding six month Coverage Period.
- **How do I get a union pension?**
 - Under most union contracts, your employer contributes to the AFM and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) on your behalf for each gig you play. The fund is a defined benefit pension plan. The fund allows musicians to accumulate individual pension credits throughout their careers and secure a financially sustainable retirement.
 - Contact the Pension Fund directly at 212-284-1200 or www.afmepf.org
- Does the Union regularly provide any networking opportunities?
 - Local 802 regularly hosts various events (including membership meetings, concerts, clinics, panel discussions, and committee meetings) at www.local802asm.org/local-802-events

Other Resources/Benefits:

- **Local 802 Website:** Create your login to the member portal at www.local802afm.org (click on "LOGIN"). The member portal allows you to pay your dues online, view your union work history, search for members in the 802 directories, update your contact info, and download union documents including the 802 bylaws, contract forms, and skills for different kinds of union work.
- **Allegro:** All union members get a subscription to our award-winning monthly publication (currently available only online), of news and articles important to the music industry and

our union. You can access the archives of Allegro articles online at www.local802afm.org/allegro

- **Low-cost Rehearsal Space:** Members can rehearse their ensembles at modest fees (roughly \$10 an hour) in one of two rooms in the union hall: the club room (good for large ensembles, approximately 32' x 44') and Room B (better for smaller groups, approximately 20' x 26'). Chairs and stands, as well as various other instruments/equipment provided at no additional charge. Rooms are for rehearsals only (you may not charge admission or use spaces as a catering hall, etc.), and no recordings can be made unless filed under contract with Local 802.
- **Instrument Insurance:** there are a number of insurance policies Local 802 members can access through the AFM. To learn more about the plan, log into (or create) your MyAFM account at <https://www.afm.org/insurance-products/>
- **Unclaimed Checks Pick Up:** Local 802 collect checks for members from the Sound Recording Special Payments Fund, the Film Musicians Secondary Market Fund, the AFM and SAG-AFTRA Fund, Sound Exchange, AARC, and the Escrow Fund of New York State. Pick up your checks from the electronic media checks window on the 2nd floor of Local 802 from 10 AM to 4:30 PM on all weekdays except for Wednesday, when the window is open until 5:30 PM.
- **Music Performance Trust Fund:** Funding is available for musical performances meeting certain guidelines set by the Recording Industries Music Performance Fund. Co-sponsors required. Contact MPTF administrator Marisa Friedman for more information
- **Actors Federal Credit Union:** 802 Members are eligible to join the Actors Federal Credit Union. Currently, the most accessible branch is the Times Square location at 165 W. 46th St., New York, NY. AFCU is owned and run by its members, meaning any net income earned is returned to members in the form of dividends on deposits or discounted loan pricing, including affordable instrument loans.
- **Musicians Assistance Program:** All Local 802 members and their families are eligible for MAP, a free and confidential program administered and professionally staffed by the Actors Fund. The program services include counseling, referrals, and resources for anything ranging from personal, family, and work issues and substance abuse to child care, elder care, financial assistance, legal services and work/life seminars on topics like financial management and healthcare.
- **Emergency Relief Fund:** After two years of union membership, all active Local 802 members are eligible for help from the Musicians' Emergency Relief fund if they are experiencing extreme financial hardship. The ERF can connect you to appropriate services through MAP or help you pay off an expense, such as gas, electric, or telephone cut off, eviction, medical debts, costs incurred due to the theft of instruments, auto repairs, etc.
- **Lester Petrillo Memorial Fund for Disabled Musicians:** The Petrillo Memorial Fund is a charitable trust fund that provides financial aid to disabled AFM members on an emergency basis. To learn more about the Memorial Fund and how to apply for aid, login to your MyAFM Account (which all AFM members are eligible to create) at www.afm.org

- **Anne Walker Scholarship Fund:** each year, Anne Walker scholarships are awarded to members of Local 802 and their children who are pursuing the study of music at an institution of higher learning. The deadline to apply each year is typically in early May.
- **Union Plus Program:** as a current or retired union member, you are automatically eligible for AFM's union plus benefits. Create a free account and find out what discounts and benefits you're eligible for at www.unionplus.org
- **Friedman Health Center for the Performing Arts:** A health center conveniently located in Times Square for NYC's entertainment community, so you can make appointments before or after gigs! The health center is a program of the Actors Fund and Mount Sinai Doctors, offering primary and specialty care.

Get Organized!

Want to get more involved in your union? Are you interested in working with your fellow musicians to solve issue at your workplace? Contact the Local 802 Organizing Department:

Dan Point

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