



UNITY • HARMONY • ARTISTRY

# American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada

AFL-CIO/CLC Affiliated

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
TINO GAGLIARDI  
Dave Shelton

Dir. of Education/Asst. to the International President  
International Representative – Midwest Territory

To: Delegates and Locals of the Eastern Conference

From: Dave Shelton, AFM Dir. of Education 

Date: March 17, 2025

Re: Southern Conference officer education

We are pleased to advise that the International Executive Board has again approved funding for local union officer education for the 2025 year. Accordingly, the AFM Education Committee will be presenting two days of training prior to the Southern Conference at the Doubletree by Hilton Campbell Centre in Dallas, TX on **June 19 and 20**. This optional training dovetails with the conference so that delegates can attend both events without incurring additional transportation expense.

The AFM will cover the cost of hotel rooms for two nights if required plus two days of per diem for up to 15 participants. Participants are responsible for the cost of transportation and should plan to arrive by June 19 at 10 AM. Most will choose to arrive the evening of June 18.

If you or one of your fellow officers or delegates is interested in attending this two-day session, we invite you to complete the following “Showing of Interest” form and return it as soon as possible to [education@afm.org](mailto:education@afm.org) but no later than **Friday, April 18**. Additional forms may be submitted if more than one officer or delegate is interested in attending.

The cutoff date for hotel reservations is May 29. Visit <https://afmsoco.org/conference/2025.html> for hotel reservations for the pre-conference training and conference.

Although hotel and food will be covered for a maximum of only 15 participants, additional participants are welcome to attend at their own expense. Anyone who desires to attend should submit the “Showing of Interest” form.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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*The 2025 Officer Education seminars focus on organizing musicians who don't traditionally work under CBAs: freelancers, indie, self-produced, etc. These musicians comprise the biggest population of musicians in Canada and the U. S. but are often the most difficult to organize.*

*We will discuss and practice real-world conversations with these musicians, working as groups on true-to-life scenarios and armed with information from organizing, freelance services, and streaming and recording perspectives. The sessions will be led by Freelance Services Director Wages Argott, Organizing Director Gabe Kristal, and Electronic Media Director John Painting, assisted by AFM Field Organizer Gabriel Feldman-Schwartz and AFM Secretary-Treasurer Ken Shirk.*

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*Day 1 (AM): John Painting will discuss electronic media concerns relevant to a typical, local, freelance musician, including streaming, joint ventures, limited pressing contracts, etc. Wages Argott will follow with programs available to Locals and how to maximize their effectiveness through better understanding. Gabe Kristal will finish the morning with a discussion about how to have hard conversations and how to structure your local's resources to facilitate organizing.*

*Day 1 (PM) – Day 2 (AM): We'll practice implementing the first session's information into real world scenarios. We'll form into small groups and work through several case studies.*

*Day 2 (PM): An unfiltered Q&A with the presenters on the material covered or anything else that the group wishes to discuss.*

**AFM Local Officer Education  
2025 Participation Interest Form (Southern Conference)**

Name: .....

Email address: .....

Phone No: .....

Local No: .....

Position(s) with Local: .....

Duties/responsibilities: .....

Years in position(s): .....

Check either as applicable:

I want to participate if the AFM pays for hotel and food.

I want to participate even if the AFM does not pay for hotel and food.

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Please email completed form to [education@afm.org](mailto:education@afm.org) no later than **April 18**.