

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE A FAI BOARD DIRECTOR

Hello there! So you're interested in running for the Folk Alliance Board of Directors. We're excited to get to know you!

You probably have a few questions about how this works and what will be expected if you're elected to a seat. Allow us to walk you through it!

The Mission of our Board is:

To nurture, engage and empower the international folk music community — traditional and contemporary, amateur and professional — through education, advocacy and performance.

To Apply:

-Complete the online form between July 1 and August 1. You'll be sent a confirmation email within 48 hours of submission. A member of the Nominating Committee will follow up to schedule a phone interview with each applicant.

-While you may express interest and be considered for the ballot as a non-member, to serve on the Board you must be a voting member in good standing for the duration of your three-year term.

-The slate of candidates will be announced on October 15.

- Please keep in mind that the Nominating Committee is tasked with assembling a slate that represents a needed mix of skills, experiences, regions, and diversity. Therefore, not every person who applies may be placed on the slate. If you are not selected but still wish to run, there is a self-nomination procedure (which you can learn more about via the FAI Bylaws)

If You're Elected:

-Your term will begin at the AGM at the FAI conference in the February after the election. However, each incoming director is asked to sit in on existing Board meetings in the days prior to the AGM (all directors should plan on arriving the Tuesday prior to the conference).

-The Board convenes for 90 minute conference calls every other month and in-person meetings twice a year (once at the Conference in February and again around April / May).

-The Board also communicates on a listserv. Your thoughts and ideas are extremely valued online and in meetings. You'll have a Board Buddy assigned to you at the beginning of your term to walk you through the process and catch you up on existing discussions and topics.

-Along with your time and energy commitment to Board meetings, the Board also operates through a collection of committees. All directors are assigned to serve on (and chair) multiple committees. The role of these committees is to help the board facilitate their collective work -- not to make decisions, take over staff jobs, or do work on behalf of the board. In these committee roles, there are additional meetings that require phone conferences, email correspondence, and advance reports for the full Board meeting package.

-You're expected to dial in / attend each of our meetings. If you miss two consecutive meetings, you can be brought up for possible dismissal (that said, the Board understands that we all experience challenging times, personally and professionally. Directors are rarely dismissed for attendance if they have good reason, and communicate well/manage expectations).

- Directors are responsible for communicating directly with the President and Secretary as soon as possible regarding any inability to join or attend any meeting. Regrets will be noted in the minutes.

-A travel stipend of up to \$250 US is available for US directors who wish / need to claim reimbursement for attendance for any in-person meetings. A slightly higher travel amount is available to non-US directors. Directors are responsible for booking all of their own travel.

- Directors wishing to claim a travel reimbursement must do so no later than 30 days following the in-person meeting (no later than June 30 if the spring meeting is in June)
- At the February in-person meeting, your first night at the hotel is covered; the remaining nights are the responsibility of the director
- 100% of lodging for board meetings outside of the February conference is covered

-Each director is asked to make an annual donation at whatever level they are able -- be it \$1 or \$100. FAI publicly announces the % participation rate of the Board as part of the annual charitable fundraising campaign.

- Additionally the Board currently has a collective \$10k fundraising target, and there is the expectation that directors should be actively involved in recruiting new members, attendees, and donors.

-All directors must sign a confidentiality agreement in perpetuity, must sign an annual conflict of interest form, and must disclose all known, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

-You are expected to represent FAI and be identified as a director when attending music events in their home area, region, and in their national / international travels (a name badge is provided for such occasions).

If you have any other questions, please email Nominations Committee chair, Amy Reitnouer, at nominations@folk.org