

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE:

APPLYING TO THE FREELANCERS UNION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS





Dear Member,

Freelancers Union is a membership organization that promotes the interests of independent workers through advocacy, information, and service. We aim to work with our members to build protections, benefits, a voice, and solidarity for the nation's changing workforce – and 30% of this workforce now comprises independent workers. None of our work would be possible without our 150,000 members nationwide.

To demonstrate our commitment to members, our Board of Directors includes a dedicated Member Representative position. This is a great opportunity to get involved in our work and promote issues that are important to freelancers. The Representative is elected by the Freelancers Union membership, and will serve for two years. **You are encouraged to apply to serve on the Freelancers Union Board of Directors. We will hold elections in May, and the Representative will begin serving on the Board in June.**

Following is additional information about the role of the Member Representative, and the nomination and election process. Your involvement in this organization gives it its strength. Thank you for your interest in being a leader and helping to build a new social structure that serves freelancers' needs.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sara'.

Sara Horowitz
Executive Director

The role of the Member Representative

The Freelancers Union Board of Directors plays an integral role in developing the organization's overarching strategy: forging the next support system for workers by building the power of the Freelancers Union group in both markets and politics. The elected Member Representative will have the same responsibilities as all other Board Members.

Every Board Member is expected to serve for two years and attend three meetings per year, either in person or by phone. The Member Representative's first Board meeting will be held on June 21, 2011. The elected member may be asked to take the lead on special projects especially suited to their role and strengths, as determined by the Board.

Applying to serve on the Board

To be eligible, a Freelancers Union member must:

- Work primarily as an independent worker (freelancer, independent contractor, sole proprietor, temporary employee, contingent worker, or part-time worker);
- Be a Freelancers Union member for at least one year (recommended two years);
- Adhere to Freelancers Union [Community Guidelines](#); and
- Demonstrate a commitment to building Freelancers Union in one or more of the following ways:
 - Volunteer in advocacy campaigns
 - Use a Freelancers Union service (health, dental, life, or disability insurance; retirement plan; etc.)
 - Participate in Freelancers Union events and activities (such as surveys, networking events, focus groups, etc.)
 - Provide a service or product to other members (or offer a discount on services to other members).

On the application, you will be asked to answer the following questions:

1. What skills and experiences would you bring to the Freelancers Union Board of Directors?
2. What do you see as Freelancers Union's greatest strengths and weaknesses?
3. What do you see as the biggest unmet need for independent workers?
4. Why should Freelancers Union members vote for you to join the Board?
5. What is your vision for Freelancers Union?

To apply, please submit your [online application](#) by March 28, 2011.

What happens after I apply?

A Nomination Committee will review all eligible applications, and choose a set of vetted candidates to appear on the ballot for Member Elections.

The Nomination Committee will be made up of five to seven people, including the current Member Representative, a qualified Freelancers Union member, a current Freelancers Union Board Member, the Freelancers Union Executive Director, a Freelancers Union staff member, and a representative from an allied organization. The Nomination Committee will review all qualified applications, and will interview up to ten finalists before making a final decision. The Nomination Committee may choose to verify finalists' independent-worker status at this time.

Once the Nomination Committee finalizes the ballot, all candidates will be notified and given space on the Freelancers Union website to introduce themselves to their fellow members.

The election will be held online from May 17 - June 1. The elected Member Representative will attend the Freelancers Union Board meeting on June 21, 2011.

What is the Nomination Committee looking for?

Below are the guidelines for all current Board Members, which will be used by the Nomination Committee in their vetting process. But it's not a checklist—we are looking for an individual who exhibits the potential to develop new skills and grow into this role over his or her two-year term.

GUIDELINES FOR FREELANCERS UNION BOARD MEMBERS

Commitment to Freelancers Union and its members

- Commitment to promoting the interests of independent workers through information, advocacy and service
- Holistic view of the organization and its subsidiary entities, including Freelancers Insurance Company and Working Today
- Sophisticated understanding of the issues that face the independent workforce and the needs of current members
- Commitment to the long-term sustainability of the organization and the needs of future members, particularly when faced with difficult choices
- Ability to prioritize the best interests of the entire organization over a single issue or concern
- Commitment to devoting the necessary time and energy to be an effective Board Member and steward of Freelancers Union, both at and between required Board meetings

Willingness to embrace Freelancers Union strategy and culture

- Appreciation of Freelancers Union's overarching strategy—to use the strength of the group to create power in markets and politics, with the ultimate goal of building the next support system for the independent workforce
- Enthusiasm for Freelancers Union's entrepreneurial business model and culture of experimentation and innovation
- Ability to understand and follow notions of future trends and ideas
- Commitment to building new solutions, rather than tearing down those which already exists

Personal traits, experience, and competencies

- Congenial attitude
- Ability to draw on practical wisdom gained through personal and professional experiences
- Ability to exercise objective and impartial decisions for the benefit of Freelancers Union, evidenced by a consistent pattern of sound judgment and discretion, or civic and community leadership positions and activities
- Demonstrated ability to work well in teams (e.g. with members of the Board, associates, and staff)
- Willingness to grow personally and professionally by, for example, taking on new assignments and obtaining broader exposure
- Intellectual curiosity

Other considerations

- Freelancers Union seeks to build a Board of Directors that represents the geographic and occupational diversity of our membership, in addition to expertise about the range of our operations.

Who can vote in the Member Elections?

To vote in the election, you must have registered as a member on the Freelancers Union website prior to February 17, 2011.

How to vote

Voting will take place online from May 17 - June 1. All eligible members will receive an email with instructions once voting begins.

Key Dates

Please keep in mind the following key dates during the Member Representative election process:

March 1: Application process begins

March 28: Application process ends

May 3: Final candidates selected by Nomination Committee

May 17: Voting begins

June 1: Voting ends

June 7: Winner announced

Email us at advocacy@freelancersunion.org if you have any questions. We look forward to reading your application!