

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT - 2026 AGM

On behalf of the Members Services Committee here is our 2026 report to the members.

Your member services committee members are: Karen Kennedy, Jill Day, Vicky Rogers, Lee Bale, Matt Remley, David Wolkowski, Sarah Jane (SJ) Barriage, Alyson Hyrynyk, Arlo Grundberg and Larry Bejcar.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the past support of committee members Alec Walker, Amanda Terlaan and Dave Fisher, who have stepped back from serving on the committee.

The terms of reference for the Member Services Committee (MSC) can broadly be stated as promoting the festival community embodied in the festival and working to make that accessible to members throughout the year.

We work to engage with members in a number of ways

- via email communications of upcoming events of interest to members
- working to engage members through the Members FaceBook group
- working to add incentives to members such as the winter appreciation, ticket draws

Routinely, the Member Services Committee members are assisting in events such as The AGM and Members lineup preview, in addition to organizing the winter appreciation, held this year at the Yardbird Suite with Benjamin Williams performing.

The MSC also worked with the Volunteer Office to get QR codes posted on the Festival Site to allow people to indicate their interest in joining the Society.

Through that we had over 35 expressions of interest who ultimately became new members of the Society.

At the time this report was written (late March), The Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society had 207 members.

The other effort underway, and to be considered by the Society Members this year, is addressing the administrative hurdles to joining the Society. Those were primarily around the member dues, and Matt Remley has been instrumental in working with the Volunteer office in adding online renewals to aid registration, and research for the proposed bylaw revision.

For our current members, the best promotion of the EFMF Society comes from conversations with our fellow volunteers. Those first person testimonials are a relatable point of contact for volunteers that might not otherwise be aware of the role of the Society in the function of the Festival.

Here's our summary of the tangible benefits that you can use in those conversations;

- Insights into the operation and goals of our festival through the reports offered at the AGM
- Voting rights at the AGM
- Advocacy for our festival through committee work and running for positions on our Board
- Members only events
- Occasional ticket giveaways
- Comradery by way of our Facebook group and sharing of local arts and music events

In this regard, we're grateful for the continued support of the MSC from the Board and Staff, in particular the Volunteer managers this past year Dana Fontaine, her assistant Elisa Zenari, and new assistant Fiona Clarke.

If you have any feedback or new ideas to share, please come see me after the meeting or feel free to contact me by email lbejcar@edmontonfolkfest.org

Larry Bejcar Chair Member Services Committee, Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society