

Resolution N°. 2

July 29, 2026

Subject: *Support for the AFM Multi-Card Rebate Improvement*

Multi-Card Rebate Resolution

Whereas, The members of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") believe that the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM") is committed to promoting fairness, solidarity, and the financial well-being of its members; and

Whereas, Many members of ROPA earn their livelihoods by performing with multiple orchestras and ensembles throughout the Federation; and

Whereas, Professional orchestra musicians frequently supplement their primary orchestra employment with freelance engagements outside of their home jurisdiction in order to earn a sustainable living, often incurring substantial travel, lodging, and meal expenses while accepting work that may offer lower compensation and less financial stability; and

Whereas, Many unionized workplaces, including orchestras and other institutions that hire orchestral musicians, require musicians to become members of the AFM Local having jurisdiction over the orchestra as a condition of employment pursuant to collective bargaining agreements, union-security provisions, or Local requirements, making a musician's membership in multiple Locals a practical necessity rather than a matter of personal preference; and

Whereas, For many years, Article 9, Section 16 of the AFM Bylaws provided a Federation Per Capita rebate only to members maintaining simultaneous membership in three or more AFM Locals, thereby requiring musicians who were obligated to belong to two Locals in order to secure employment to pay Federation Per Capita dues twice while receiving no rebate; and

Whereas, This policy disproportionately affected many ROPA musicians and other freelance professionals whose careers require employment across multiple jurisdictions and whose annual earnings are often assembled from numerous engagements rather than a single employer; and

Whereas, At the 2026 AFM Convention, the delegates adopted Resolution No. 6 amending Article 9, Section 16 of the AFM Bylaws by lowering the rebate eligibility threshold from membership in more than two Locals to membership in more than one Local, thereby extending eligibility for the Federation Per Capita rebate to members maintaining membership in two or more AFM Locals throughout the qualifying year; and

Whereas, This amendment represents a meaningful step toward a more equitable treatment of Federation Per Capita dues by allowing musicians to pay per capita dues only once; thereby acknowledging the realities of modern professional orchestral and freelance employment and reducing the financial burden on musicians whose work requires membership in multiple Locals; and

Whereas, Many eligible musicians may be unaware of this important improvement and may not realize that they are now entitled to apply for a Federation Per Capita rebate through the AFM Secretary-Treasurer's Office; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") commends the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM") for adopting the amendment to Article 9, Section 16 of the AFM Bylaws lowering the eligibility threshold for the Federation Per Capita Multi-Card Rebate from three or more Locals to two or more Locals; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA recognizes this amendment as an important advancement in fairness and equity for professional orchestra musicians and freelance performers whose employment requires membership in multiple AFM Locals; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA encourages all eligible members to familiarize themselves with the revised Multi-Card Rebate provisions, maintain the documentation necessary to establish eligibility, and submit rebate applications to the AFM Secretary-Treasurer's Office in accordance with the procedures established by the Federation beginning in 2027; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA encourages its member orchestras, delegates, and affiliated Locals to actively inform eligible musicians of this change and assist in promoting awareness of the revised rebate program so that members may fully benefit from the financial relief made available through this amendment.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board