Thank you for joining the EFA! This is the first of four weekly emails that will introduce you to many of the benefits and opportunities that are yours as a member of the largest U.S. professional association dedicated to the needs of editorial freelancers.

Our mission is to advance excellence among our dynamic community of freelance editorial professionals by providing opportunities for business development, learning, and networking. Our resources help our members and their clients build successful collaborations.

Our vision is a vibrant community of freelance editorial professionals—esteemed for their expertise, inclusive in their ethos, and thriving in their businesses—helping clients launch ideas into the world.

Connect with the EFA Community

☑ Join your local chapter!
The EFA has approximately 3,000 members and 27 chapters all over the country! Join your local chapter to network with fellow editorial freelancers and develop professionally. Chapter events* are open to all members and their guests.

☑ Join the members-only Discussion List (DL), where you'll find colleagues eager to answer questions and share ideas about editing and the freelance lifestyle. The Discussion List committee created a number of videos to help members navigate the DL, which you can view on our YouTube channel.
Learn more about our Diversity, Equity, & Belonging Community (DEB) to support a more diverse membership and promote equitable access for all. The DEB also connects and supports members with educational and professional resources on diversity within and beyond the EFA.

See listings of events in your area* on the EFA calendar. From book festivals and trade conferences to chapter networking, online courses, webinars, parties, and EFA's annual meeting, there are many opportunities to meet your new colleagues and to enhance your skills!

As the U.S. begins a return to in-person events this year, the EFA defers to local public health guidelines regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the discretion of local coordinators in deciding to resume in-person meetings and events. Check the Events calendar or contact your local chapter for the most up-to-date information.

Read the Freelancer newsletter, the What's New ebulletin sent monthly by email, and the News & Blog, full of information about what EFA members are doing in the organization and in their work.

Keep up to date on EFA news and happenings and meet members active on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Get to know the Board of Governors, who lead the EFA's programs and policies.

"What a terrific group! I feel a bit like Robinson Crusoe finding a footprint in the sand—I'm not alone."—a member in New York

"I'm not quite sure how I used to get through some workdays without the benefit of the wisdom and experience of this group!"—a member in Oregon

"Not only have you taught me a great deal, you have saved me from feeling completely isolated while transitioning from working in an office full of other editors to working alone at home all day. You are now my colleagues."—a member in Florida

"One thing I know for sure is that joining EFA was a good first move for me. I feel like I am part of a community now, and that is most encouraging for someone moving into new career territory."—a member in Pennsylvania

"You guys are the best and I depend on this group for sanity, laughs, education, networking, friendships."—a member in Indiana
More Resources

- Visit the EFA Welcome Program page on the website to learn how to optimize your EFA membership benefits and grow your professional networks.
- Check out videos about the EFA's history and other resources on our YouTube channel.
- Find out who else joined recently on our monthly newest members list.
- **Sign up for emails:** If you haven't already, log in to the-efa.org and click on My Account to find your Profile Editor. There you can set selections for receiving the newsletter, announcements, and more—including the EFA Job List. Consider whitelisting the domain the-efa.org in your email software to help ensure EFA emails don't get misidentified as spam or junk.
- The EFA recently completed a Strategic Plan. Learn more about the plan and the EFA's strategic priorities.

Questions? See the FAQ or contact the staff in EFA's central office in New York:

Susan Patton, General Manager
Sadia Rahman, Membership Coordinator
Rose Fox, Educational Programs Coordinator
Vina Orden, Events and Communications Coordinator

Next week: Check out classes, webinars, and other professional development resources!

Access all your member benefits and resources.