It's often noted, and certainly true, that the more active you are in a professional association, the more you get out of your membership. Make an impact by sharing your feedback and expertise, helping out at events, or taking advantage of leadership opportunities—you'll benefit in more ways than you might expect!

Help the EFA Help You

Since its inception, the EFA has been powered by the energy and ideas of member-volunteers. Volunteers (with administrative assistance from our four-person office staff) run chapters, events, the education program, the Diversity Initiative, the newsletter, website content, publicity and advertising, social media, and on and on. In turn, active members gain greater visibility in the community and increase their potential for referrals, interviews, and other opportunities.

Volunteer by checking Yes in your Profile Editor. Your name and email address will be forwarded to your local chapter coordinator. If you don't live near a chapter—and even if you do—watch your email for EFA-wide calls for volunteers at local events or for online efforts. Periodically, EFA Board committee chairs also post about opportunities to help with special projects on the Volunteers page of the website.

Sign up to volunteer today!

"I joined the EFA initially to expand my professional network and snag an editing or writing job here and there. It was quickly apparent that the EFA is a vibrant, value-based community, a culture where members stand for each other either on a case-by-case basis or institutionally through focused volunteer work . . . The more volunteers we have, the stronger and better the association and the more meaningful the personal and professional experience."

—EFA member

Whether you've only recently joined or you've been a member for many years, there are many ways to help!
• Join the Diversity, Equity, & Belonging Community to help ensure our members are aware of inclusivity and sensitivity in our work and in our society.

• Volunteer with EFA's active social media team. Contact socialmedia@the-efa.org.

• Contribute to and/or help proofread the Freelancer newsletter. Contact newsletter@the-efa.org.

• Serve as a community manager on the EFA's Discussion List. If you are interested in discussing whether you’d be a good fit for this role, contact discussionlist@the-efa.org.

• Staff or captain a booth* at an industry conference or book fair in your area—it’s a great way to meet other editorial freelancers and clients and to give back to your professional association! View the calendar on the website for upcoming exhibits. If you’re interested in spending a morning or afternoon behind the table, feel welcome to contact the person in charge. (If you’re not sure who that is, contact Vina Orden, Events and Communications Coordinator in the EFA office.)

• Coordinate a chapter or help with chapter events and activities.* The EFA's regional chapters exist through the volunteer leadership efforts of EFA members in a particular locale. Contact the chapter organizer in your area for more information or to share your suggestions for meetings, speakers, field trips, or other activities. Chapter networking and educational events are listed on the calendar or on individual chapter pages on the EFA website. If there is no chapter in your area, consider starting one!

*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.
• Once you get to know us, consider running for a seat on the Board of Governors. Board members have a voice in how the EFA operates and in the programs and services the organization provides to members. Plus, serving on the Board is a great way for emerging and veteran freelancers alike to build job skills and visibility among fellow freelancers.

More Ways to Contribute

● Share your feedback and expertise on the Discussion List (DL). You can view video tutorials on navigating the DL on our YouTube channel.
● Participate in Freelance Fridays on Twitter (@EFAFreelancers) and exchange tips with colleagues on the topic of the month.

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

This is the final email in our Welcome series. If you didn't get the previous three Welcome emails, and they're not in a spam or junk folder, contact Vina to have them re-sent to you.

Access all your member benefits and resources.