



AEA Membership Information and Procedures

Eligibility to Join

You may apply for Membership by any one of the following methods:

Equity Contract. You may join the Association by virtue of employment under an Equity contract. Applications for joining Equity are only valid during the term of the contract. Certain contract types also have a length-of-employment requirement before a membership application becomes valid; the Membership Department will advise you at the time of joining. The Equity Council may also authorize eligibility for membership under special circumstances.

Four As (Associated Actors and Artistes of America) Affiliation. Membership is also available by virtue of prior membership in a performing arts sister union (such as SAG-AFTRA, AGMA or AGVA). Applicant must be a member in good standing of the sister union for at least one year, and must have worked as a performer under one principal contract, one under five contract or three extra contracts in that union's jurisdiction. You must submit a written statement from the parent union stating that you meet these requirements. (This sister-union policy is not applicable to non-resident alien performers. See Alien/Foreign Actor Rules below.)

Equity Membership Candidate Program (EMC). This program permits actors and stage managers-in-training to credit theatrical work in an Equity theatre towards eventual membership in Equity. After securing a position at a participating theatre, you may register as a candidate. The registration fee will be credited against any future Initiation Fee when you become eligible for membership. Eligibility under this program requires a total of 50 weeks of EMC work at participating theatres.

Application Instructions

Application Form. Once you meet the joining requirements, complete both sides of the membership application. If you are under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must also sign the application.

Name. All performing arts unions generally prohibit the issuing of a professional name that is identical (or similar sounding) to that of an already current member of the union. If a conflict exists, you will be advised at the time that you submit an application to join Equity that you may have to change your professional name.

Aliens/Foreign Actor Rules. There are certain eligibility restrictions that are applicable to Non-Resident Aliens. You will need to submit proof of US citizenship or Resident Alien status with your application for membership if you were born outside of the US. If you are not a US citizen or US Resident Alien, you may join Equity only by virtue of employment under an Equity contract, where such employment has been approved by Equity, or where the employment contract was granted pursuant to a valid Employment Authorization Document. There are, however, special reciprocal membership rules between American Actors' Equity Association and Canadian Equity.

Payments. Any initiation fee payments accompanying your application should be made in the form of a certified check or money order. If you pay by personal check, your application will be held until the check clears your bank.

(OVER)

Initiation Fee

Equity's initiation fee is currently \$1,100 and must be paid within a maximum two-year period. **You are cautioned that your membership, and any monies paid, will be forfeited should you fail to complete payment of the full initiation fee within the two-year time period.** All membership privileges, including the right to vote and attend meetings and Equity-only auditions, commence upon the initial payment of \$400 towards the initiation fee within six months of the filing of your application.

If you are working under an Equity contract at the time of joining, authorization for dues and Initiation Fee deductions from your weekly salary appears on the face of the Equity contract. Weekly deductions towards the balance due will be made from your salary according to the following schedule. These deductions will continue whenever you are employed until the full initiation fee is paid.

Salary Range	Weekly Deduction	Salary Range	Weekly Deduction
\$100 – 250	\$25	\$451 - 500	\$50
\$251 – 300	\$30	\$501 - 600	\$75
\$301 – 350	\$35	\$601 - 800	\$100
\$351 – 400	\$40	\$801 or more	\$125
\$401 – 450	\$45		

If you are joining Equity through Four A's affiliation or the Membership Candidate Program, the minimum \$400 initial payment is due with your application.

If your parent union (the first performing artist union you joined) is the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA), or the Guild of Italian American Artists (GIAA), you may be eligible for a reduction in the Equity Initiation Fee based on the amount of the initiation fee that you paid to your parent union. You will be advised of the amount of this reduction by the Equity Membership Department at the time you submit your application.

Dues

Equity's dues structure has two components: *Basic Dues*, currently \$118 per year, which are billed at \$59 semi-annually each May and November and *Working Dues*, currently 2.25% of gross earnings under Equity contract, which are collected via weekly payroll deductions. Gross earnings do not include the minimum portion of out-of-town *per diem* expense monies. The maximum Equity earnings subject to the Working Dues is \$300,000 a year.

Other Information

Upon Equity's receipt of your contract or your application form, a package of important information, including *ABOUT EQUITY* and the Equity *Constitution and By-Laws* will be sent to you.

Loss of Membership

If you are delinquent in the payment of dues for a period of two years, and you did not apply for inactive status, you are considered out-of-benefit and membership is automatically terminated. In order to re-join Equity, you must secure a new contract and pay a new Initiation Fee. Members are therefore strongly urged to remain in good standing with Equity.

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