

PETITIONER AMENDMENTS STATEMENT

AGMA members proposed ten amendments to our constitution in July, but AGMA's board bundled these proposals and are denying you the right to vote on them individually. The board's interference in your union rights forces us to advocate for these amendments as a package.

These member-proposed amendments are intended to fix the structural issues that prevent AGMA members from effectively voicing their concerns. Under our current constitution, as many as four member classifications (stage managers, directors, choreographers and actors) are at risk of being shut out of governance entirely by being grouped with other member classifications into "professional categories." The board's proposed rewrite of our constitution makes it much more difficult to solve this problem.

The member-proposed amendments, if adopted, will ensure that every member classification has representation at every level of AGMA's governance, and that everyone in governance works in the same category as the members they represent.

These amendments will also immediately increase accountability by guaranteeing members access to meeting minutes and financial data, and codifying the right to observe AGMA board meetings. (Members have had this right for eleven years, but the board hid this fact until September of this year.)

The COVID-19 crisis has awakened members to the concern that they may not have adequate advocacy in governance, putting their financial security at risk. They have responded by fully exercising their rights, subjecting our board to member scrutiny for the first time in decades.

In the wake of this scrutiny, the board now proposes a complete rewrite to AGMA's constitution, with several proposals that move the union in an undemocratic direction. Should the board's rewrite become our governing document, our Executive Council will never be more than 53% directly elected. Currently, the Executive Council could be up to 80% directly elected. The members' proposal will make it 100% directly elected. Far worse, **THE BOARD'S REWRITE STRIPS MEMBERS OF THEIR RIGHT TO REMOVE OFFICERS AND GOVERNORS FOR MISCONDUCT.** The board wishes, with these changes, to place itself permanently out of the members' oversight. Any sensible member would question the thinking behind such a proposition and send the board a clear message that this is not the direction we want for our union.

Our full statement is at: <http://memberamendments.org>