

The European Guitar Builders e. V. MEMBERSHIP ORDINANCE

Each membership application is evaluated individually by the board. As the EGB is beginning to gain attention internationally as a professional organization the criteria for full membership need to be defined more detailed and enforced strictly. The purpose of this membership ordinance is to define some criteria more clearly for new applicants.

1. What is a 'professional' luthier?

- has a legally established business as guitarbuilder (or the similar appropriate name) under the individual country's regulations (= can provide a registration number with the chamber of commerce or similar artisanal organisations, or has a VAT number for the business).
- makes a living as guitarbuilder — we understand if someone has to substitute the income, but the focus should be on building (and repairing) as the main profession.
- the luthier has been in business for at least 3 years (this criterion was approved by the General Assembly in October 2016), meaning at the time of the application the luthier needs to be in his/her 4th year of business in the current calendar year

If the applicant lives in a country which does not require registration (due to small business regulations or such) other criteria will be considered:

- membership in other professional organizations like NAMM
- dealer or distributor representation

If none of this is applicable the application will be looked at more thoroughly on an individual basis by a board member

2. What is the Endorsement that is required on the application form?

A current EGB member must endorse the applicant for membership. This member should be familiar with the work of the applicant to be able to give some information about him/her. We don't need to know who told you about EGB but rather who is in support of your application to full membership. The endorser will be contacted to confirm this recommendation and to follow up on the application.

Should an applicant not have anyone able to endorse his/her application a board member will audit the application closely, have a conversation with the applicant and — if appropriate — provide the endorsement.

3. Support membership amendment

All the following groups are still support members, but it will make access to services clearer and easier:

YOUNG LUTHIER

= fulfills ALL requirements of a full member except that he/she has not been in business the required 3 years (is not yet in the 4th year of business at time of application)

- have access to all full membership discussions on Basecamp
- can participate in EGB group exhibits if there is room without further approval necessary
- membership can be changed to full membership after the 3rd year upon board approval

WORLDWIDE LUTHIER MEMBER

= fulfills ALL requirements of a full member except that he/she is not located in Europe

- have access to all full membership discussions on Basecamp
- can participate in EGB group exhibits if there is room without further approval necessary

FRIEND & SUPPORTER

= everyone else

have access to all membership discussions on Basecamp which are open to all members

4. Renewal procedures

Our bylaws specify that members commit to paying their membership fees. Non-payment of fees until March 1 of the current business year is grounds for expulsion. Chasing down non-compliant members is a hassle and takes a tremendous amount of time.

Membership fees are billed annually before the beginning of the year and payment is expected in a timely manner. Non-payment of fees means that the member won't receive additional member services in that year and the membership will be terminated in accordance with the by-laws.

5. Additional Member services

Each year the board decides which activities and services are considered additional member services. These are services that generate cost and are therefore only available to members, who are current with the payment of their membership fees. Some of them might only be accessible to full members or might require board approval for support members (i.e. participating in EGB group exhibits).

6. Procedure for full membership applications

- Submission of application form
- Applications received are processed always in the last week of the month
- Membership coordinator will look over the application and clear any immediate questions, check with the endorser, and have a personal chat with the applicant (phone)
- Board receives the application for approval
- Applicant is informed about the decision

Support membership applications will be reviewed by the board for approval also once a quarter.

7. The Creed

All EGB full members confirm their adherence to the EGB creed:

We, the European Guitar Builders (EGB), are an association of independent artisan guitar builders.

I and my fellow EGB members agree, through principles of friendship and mutual respect, to share knowledge and culture and establish mutual support through co-operation.

We stand for

- Constantly refining the art of guitar building.
- An open-minded approach to learning.
- Fairness and honesty in business.
- Respect for the environment through the promotion of sustainability and minimising of waste.
- Promoting the culture of the instrument maker.

We will

- Demonstrate trust, honesty and openness.
- Offer reliable instruments of high quality and value.
- Seek fair income/value for our work to maintain self respect and to support our community.