

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

AGM, reportage illustration, casual shift work

LFB HAS its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Monday 13 January**, during which it elects new members of its Committee. See www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html for Committee posts (some paid) and what they entail.

There are also elections for nine LFB delegates to represent the Branch at the next Delegate Meeting – the NUJ’s conference – in Southport on **24-26 April 2020**. For more on standing as a delegate, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1912dm.html and see also www.nuj.org.uk/about/union-democracy/nuj-delegate-meeting/

Additionally, there is a meeting for members new to LFB or to freelancing on **Thursday 30 January**: see below.

Regular meetings with speakers resume on **Monday 10 February**. We will hear from David Ziggy Green, the creator of the “Scene and Heard” graphic feature in *Private Eye*

(@SaHreports). He will speak about being possibly the UK’s only reportage illustrator.

Working shifts is the focus of our **Monday 9 March** meeting. We’ve had reports of the precarious nature of trying to make a living doing freelance shifts having a catastrophic effect on the mental health of journalists. Possible speakers include NUJ Freelance Organiser Pamela Morton. We hope to hear also from some of the journalists who work at the sharp end of casual shifts.

This went to press on **3 December**. Your deadline for the January online only issue is **Monday 23 December**.

LFB meetings (except for new members’ meetings) are always on the second Monday of the month, from 6:45pm to 8:45pm in the basement of the NUJ’s HQ at **Headland House, 72 Acton Street, London WC1X 9NB**, accessible to people who use wheelchairs.

The nearest Tubes are King’s Cross and Chancery Lane. If you need the Branch to pay for care for a child or dependent so you can attend a meeting, contact a Branch officer.

For updates on meetings and for confirmation of themes and speakers for forthcoming meetings, see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB’s Twitter feed at www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

Can members who have difficulty reading the agenda on paper please contact us to get the agenda in electronic form ahead of the meeting?

We draw members’ attention to the microphone that will be passed to you if you indicate you wish to speak at a meeting. This is so our members with hearing problems can hear you via the induction loop. For updated guidance on etiquette on recording or live-tweeting from LFB meetings, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1805film.html

FREELANCE

Branch contacts: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb
Online Freelance contents: www.londonfreelance.org/fl

REDUCED RATE UNION SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don’t let your membership go

LONDON FREELANCE Branch reminds members that under NUJ rules you don’t need to pay more than one per cent of your taxable income in union subscriptions – subject to a minimum of £10 a month.

Take all your business expenses off your turnover, just as in your income tax return, and ask the Union’s administrators to let you pay one per cent of what’s left.

This means that you need to submit evidence of income to the Union at the start of each year. If you are already on a reduced rate, you need to contact the membership office (via membership@nuj.org.uk) in plenty of time for **31 January**

of each year – or they will automatically put your subscription up to the standard rates.

If you apply for reduced rate subs by **31 March**, you can get the difference between what you’ve paid and the reduced rate you should be paying refunded. Leave it beyond the end of March and your subs will stay at the standard rate until you apply for the reduced rate.

If you earn enough in any calendar year to go back onto standard rates, the Department will stop sending reminders. So if you earnings for the following year fall enough to take you back into reduced subs, you will have to contact Membership again.

NEW MEMBERS MEET

There were 14 members new to freelancing or recently joining the NUJ at the Branch’s New Members Meeting on 31 October – Halloween, also supposed to have been the day the UK left the EU. New members had questions

about fees, invoicing, taxes, unpaid “work experience”, pitching and negotiating. Six experienced members of the LFB Committee attended to give advice. We discussed the Freelance Directory (www.freelancedirectory.org) and opportunities for training. The next New Members Meeting is due on **Thursday 30 January** from 6pm. It’s at the Camera Museum, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY – the nearest Tube is Holborn.



October’s meeting: photo © **Francesca Marchese**

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STRUGGLING with time management and procrastination? Experienced and qualified coach with background in journalism will help you draw up and implement a

plan of action to get organized. Email: **Sara Dewar** sara@saradewar.co.uk

TECHNOLOGIST AND FREELANCE JOURNALIST coaches and assists colleagues that need training and refresh on databases and quality data sources in STEM, law, social sciences and current affairs, history and humanities, trademarks and patents. Prices for one-to-one sessions start from £35 per hour. Contact Brunella Longo at bl@brunellalongo.co.uk

NEED HELP WITH LAYOUT? We’re experienced editorial and graphic designers (long-time NUJers): fast turnaround; no job too small (or too big); from eye-catching, dynamic layouts to meticulous “typesetting” or subbing. Andy Smith & Denise Bell: info@smithplusbell.com or telephone 07 968 588 729.

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