

THINKING OF BECOMING AN LWA MEMBER ORGANISER?

WHAT ARE LWA MEMBER ORGANISERS?

LWA member organisers are members and supporters who are on the Organising Teams for member-led groups such as regions, branches, identity groups or sectors. Organisers are a bridge between the LWA membership and the UK Coordinating Group and staff, as well as strengthening your region, branch, identity group or sector networks and engagement.

Member-led groups play a crucial role in building grassroots member networks, shaping the vision and culture of the LWA, and creating opportunities for peer to peer learning and mutual aid. Organising Teams - usually between 2 and 6 people - are supported by staff on the LWA Membership team because of the important work that they do to engage, support and empower LWA members on the ground.

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO MEMBER ORGANISERS DO?

Member organisers are responsive to both the needs and interests of the LWA members in the groups they are organising with, plus the wider activities and strategy of LWA. Most Organising Teams include a few different roles: keeping an eye on finances, planning and facilitating meetings, focussing more on event planning, writing newsletters, and others. Member led groups have quite a lot of autonomy over the activities they do, but they generally focus around these themes:

1. Comms: Information sharing and communications networks

- Newsletters for regions, branches, sector groups or identity groups
- Social media, WhatsApp groups, Discord
- Supporting information flow between members and staff & Coordinating Group

2. Connection: Mutual support, networking and peer-to-peer learning

- Online or in-person check-ins for membership
- Trainings and skillshares, farm tours
- Celebrations, pub meets and gatherings

3. Democracy: Linking into wider LWA activities and systems

- Acting as a contact between your member-led group and LWA staff
- Feeding into UK level LWA democratic processes and engaging the membership
- Representing the needs and experiences of the membership in your sector, region, branch or identity group

4. Activism: Taking action with the LWA

- Amplifying and mobilising for LWA campaigns and influencing policy
- Holding film-nights, info-sessions and outreach events
- Spreading the word about the LWA!

WHAT'S THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Member Organisers are usually busy people, and it's totally normal for capacity to vary throughout the year because of landwork, caring responsibilities, mental and physical health, and other projects or work you may be involved in! However, some rough estimates on time commitment are:

- Regular meetings: most groups meet weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, varying from 30 mins if they meet weekly to 1.5 hours if they meet less often.
- Outside of meetings, Organisers take on action points and areas of responsibility that can vary from a negligible amount of time at some points in the year, to several hours a week when there is a lot of organising going on.
- A lot of Organising Teams choose to organise events such as farm/site tours, pub meets, regional gatherings and skillshares. These events can take a lot of time to plan, and then generally take place over a day or two.
- We ask that Member Organisers connect to LWA democratic processes, so a couple of delegates from each Team are asked to attend the Organisers' Assembly in person over one weekend of each year. Organisers Assemblies are an opportunity for fun and celebration, and a great chance to meet with other organisers across the country.
- Participation in peer to peer learning and training opportunities is encouraged for Member Organisers - currently there is a 1.5 - 2 hour zoom session every other month that at least one person from each Organising Team is asked to attend.
- Member Organisers often participate in other pieces of member engagement, such as running sessions at the Land Skills Fair, the LWA AGM or other in-person LWA events or attending other events within the wider movement.

Member organising can be a lot of work, but it's also possible (and encouraged!) to set manageable goals and work in a way that feels healthy and exciting. We try to support you to plan a sustainable workload, and it's definitely okay to take a step back from the Organising Team for however long you need before stepping back in.