

2018 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

Margaret Anne Weigelt



Building on history, gaining momentum - The growing impetus of IOIA's current and historical efforts was undeniable for 2018, realized through successful collaborations and honored with distinction. With friends and partners, IOIA ensured that the important voice of inspectors was heard and amplified.

From Ecuador to Nepal, IOIA shepherded exponential training growth in 2018. In the face of some of the largest fraud cases ever, we remain relentlessly positive as we rise to the challenge of more and better training.

IOIA contributed generously - bringing the inspector's voice to the Accredited Certifiers Association working group on Inspector Qualifications and Training, commenting to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and on recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board, and offering edits to "**Growing Organic Trust**" by International Organic and Sustainable Accreditation (IOAS). ACA published "**Guidance on Organic Inspector Qualifications**", a key resource in the NOSB's work. NOSB and ACA drew heavily from IOIA's historical work on inspector and reviewer qualifications and training.

2018 was a year to grow and engage the membership, as we explored new ways to connect our international community and increase our capacity. IOIA finalized our Comment Policy to more nimbly communicate the inspectors' voice. Poised for the future and foundational to building a robust new inspector credentialing system, IOIA's board set aside the necessary funds. As we worked toward the 2019 annual meeting in Mexico, inspector membership in Mexico doubled!

The Annual Meeting in South Carolina boldly elevated social justice issues and bolstered our understanding. Keynotes were Leah Cohen from the Agricultural Justice Project and farmers Fathiyyah Mustafa and Shaheed Harris. IOIA partnered with the Global Organic Textile Standard in fiber inspection training. NOP accepted an invite for Lars Crail, NOP Lead Auditor, to join us for the advanced training.

And finally, 2018 was a year where inspectors were recognized. Our Executive Director received the prestigious **OTA Growing the Organic Industry** award for her 30 years as an inspector and trainer and as one of IOIA's founders. In her acceptance remarks Margaret Scoles quoted R. Buckminster Fuller, "*You can never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete*".



Be assured, IOIA continues its commitment toward a healthier and more just food and fiber system and to keep the voice of inspectors at the table.

Margaret Anne



Our Mission: To address issues and concerns relevant to organic inspectors, to provide quality inspector training, and to promote consistency and integrity in the organic certification process.

International

Through collaboration with partners, IOIA trained in 9 countries and in 4 languages during 2018. These partners and cosponsors, IOIA's bilingual trainers, and an experienced International Training Manager made it possible to accommodate an explosion in training requests. 2018 saw the most cosponsor-managed trainings in IOIA's 26 years of training.

IOIA in the Asia Pacific

- The year began with two advanced trainings in Korea – one by web and one in-person.
- With partner Hong Kong Organic Resource Center, we delivered basic crop inspection training and aquaculture training.
- IOIA's first basic training in Nepal, in the tea-growing region, was cosponsored by NEP.CERT and with funding from UNNATI Inclusive Growth Programme, Denmark.
- Two in/out balance trainings were delivered in Australia – one in-person and one self-paced distance course, both partnered with NASAA Certified Organic.
- Two trainings in Japan – basic crop and basic processing – were delivered with JOIA as our partner.

IOIA in Latin America

- IOIA trained in Peru, Costa Rica and Ecuador (twice) in Spanish language. Cosponsors were Control Union, Eco-LOGICA, and QCS.
- Advanced in/out training was offered through partnership with AgriVita.



Field trip in Peru

IOIA in Canada

- A subcommittee of the IOIA Canadian Committee formed to work on Inspector Qualifications to assure that IOIA's work is equally relevant in the US, Canada, and everywhere else in the world.
- In preparation for the new organic aquaculture standard, the regional training planning committee in Ontario and Quebec prepared the Guelph Advanced Training for January 2019.



Aquaculture training in Hong Kong



The Nepal training banner says, 'Organic for Prosperity!'

*Committee Spotlight:
Latin American Committee.
Led by Martha Santizo Castillo as
Chair, was busy in 2018, with
activities focused around growing
inspector membership, providing more
membership service in Latin America,
and planning the
2019 Annual Meeting in Mexico.*



Trainer Lisa Pierce at the Tea Festival

"Back in Hong Kong again! Thanks to the HKORC and its director Dr. Jonathan Wong for the continued trust and support to the IOIA trainings. With the incredibly valuable support of Lisa Pierce as co trainer, we were able to successfully conduct this training which included the farm tour to New Life Farm who has proven to be an excellent host to our field trips. Special thanks to Thapenee and Liew from Thailand and Malaysia respectively, to be part of our excellent group of students." – Luis Brenes, Lead Trainer

Building Community - Engaging the Membership

IOIA Grows in Latin America!!

IOIA represents 15 countries, including 15 inspector members in 5 Latin American countries.

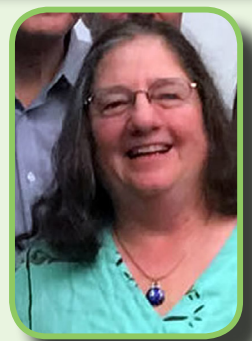


IOIA Continues to Meet the Needs of Certification Agencies and Inspectors

- IOIA's Peer Field Evaluation Program (now 4 years old), evaluators performed field evaluations of 43 inspectors.
- Evaluators are drawn from IOIA's roster of 21 accredited inspectors.
- IOIA's Inspector Accreditation Program has credentialing inspectors since 1995.

Continuing Value for members!

- IOIA surveyed 60 non-member inspectors about why they weren't members and what benefits would be an incentive to join. The #1 incentive for joining was the IOIA discussion group (aka "The Forum").
- The IOIA newsletter continues to be a prime benefit of membership. Guest articles:
 - "Mexico Update – Development from the Organic Sector" by Ana Negrete, OMRI
 - "Update on the Canadian Organic Regime: Organic Sector & the Canadian Food Inspection Agency" by Janine Gibson, IOIA inspector member.
- A popular benefit for inspectors – a half-off discount for one webinar each year – continues in 2019.
- A collaborative survey with ACA gathered useful information from certifiers on training needs and inspector qualifications.
- IOIA continues (since 2010) to sponsor regular conference calls with certification agencies. This dialog informs our accreditation, peer evaluation and training programs and is critical as IOIA moves into the next phase of inspector credentialing.
- IOIA's first podcast! IOIA inspector member **Terrance Layhew**, has his own podcast, *The Intellectual Agrarian*; interviewed Executive Director Margaret Scoles, and developed a podcast for IOIA members about the 2019 Annual Meeting in Mexico (available on Youtube).



Inspector member Harriet Behar is the new chair of the NOSB.



Terrance Layhew

IOIA's members stepped up to strengthen organic integrity

We introduced the "fish bowl conversation" concept at the annual meeting event. A resounding success! Fraud, the thorniest topic of all, was the first one chosen. Silke Fuchshofen continued her 300-level webinar, "Fraud Prevention in the Receiving Department," and served on the Import Oversight panel to the NOSB.



"Rigorous inspections by competent, well-trained, ethical inspectors is critical to maintaining organic integrity. It's what we do – we make sure organic really means organic!"
 – Margaret Scoles, Baltimore, MD

2018 Training Highlights

Around the world in 4 languages

IOIA increased all types of training (webinar, self-directed, in-person basic, cosponsor-managed, field training and advanced) - 72 events!





IOIA Residue Sampling & Responding to Test Results

6 Advanced trainings – 1 in Ecuador, 1 in Australia, and 4 in the USA. US trainings mostly focused on organic integrity of imports. One allocated equal time for dairy audit compliance. Training in Ohio focused on natural resource and biodiversity assessment.



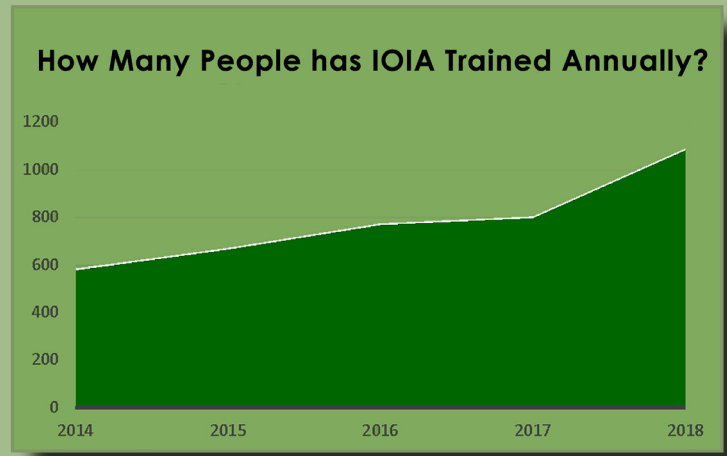
Launched another member initiated 300-level webinar – Inspecting Bee Keeping Operations.

This training came alive with a professional video and interviews with certification staff and lab experts.

Updated and delivered the 200-level livestock feed audit webinar



Social Accountability and Global Organic Textile Standard training for inspectors in conjunction with the annual meeting in South Carolina



IOIA's first **self-directed learning modules** – audit trail training in Australia and IOIA/AGA Grassfed Dairy in the US.



IOIA **increased capacity** by drawing new trainers from experienced inspector members:



New IOIA trainers Garth Kahl, Corinne Kolm, and Nathaniel Powell-Palm.



**Leah Cohen, Keynote
Agricultural Justice
Project**



**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING
2018**



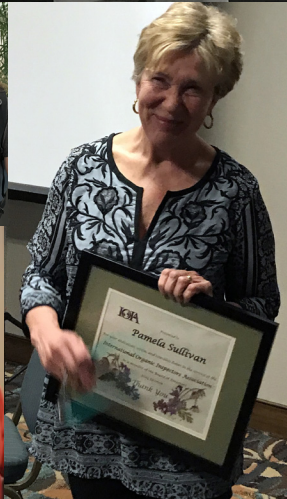
**Fathiyyah Mustafa &
Shaheed Harris, SCR-Organic
Farms - Keynotes**



Charleston, South Carolina



2017-2018 Board of Directors



Collaboration



Training Cosponsors

- AgriVita for Kiwa BCS
- Central Milling
- Control Union (Peru)
- Eco-LOGICA
- Georgia Crop Improvement Association
- Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
- Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre
- Isidor Sustainability Institute (Korea)
- Japan Organic Inspectors Association
- Kentucky Dept of Agriculture
- NASAA Certified Organic (NCO), Australia
- NEP.CERT (Nepal)
- Northeast Organic Farming Assn. (NOFA-NY)
- Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Organic Association of Kentucky
- PepsiCo
- Pennsylvania Certified Organic
- Quality Assurance International
- Quality Certification Services (Ecuador)
- Utah Department of Ag and Food

Policy Work - IOIA as Organic Citizen

In 2018, IOIA took a bold step to engage the membership and amplify the voice of inspectors, while meeting the challenge of representing a diverse membership. A comment policy was presented at the Annual Meeting and finalized after a robust "fish bowl" conversation.

- IOIA speaks – through formal comments:
 - Three times in writing and twice in person to the NOSB Board in the US, mostly addressing inspector qualifications and training.
 - To CFIA on its proposed Policy on Enhancing Openness and Transparency.
 - Responding to a call for action on the US Farm Bill by the National Organic Coalition, IOIA urged members to defend organic and to contact Congress.
- Representing inspectors in the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture to the Canadian General Standards Board, Kelly Monaghan fills IOIA's seat.
- IOIA steps up - Sponsorships and Memberships
 - Sponsor of Guelph Organic Conference, Ontario, Canada
 - The ACA Annual Conference and NOP Training in Texas.



IOIA at the Organic Community Resource Fair in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with New Hope's Expo East Trade Show.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee annually reviews applicants for two IOIA Scholarships; two were awarded in 2019. Recipients receive free tuition to an IOIA Basic Organic Inspection Training.

2019 RUTHERFORD SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO WILL BAILEY-ELKIN, WINNEPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

After working as a cook in various restaurants in Winnipeg, Will's passion for the culinary arts led him to pursue a Bachelors' degree in Sustainable Agriculture. 2018 found Will working at FortWhyte Farms, an educational farm for marginalized high school youth. Through small-scale market farming, the youth develop confidence, leadership skills, and work experience. In the next year he hopes to pursue a Masters' degree in agriculture, and to work as a part-time organic inspector. The scholarship will allow him to stay connected to the organic sector.



2019 ORGANIC COMMUNITY INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO KUL DIP GHIMIRE, NEPAL

"I am an agronomy specialist and work as a Senior Plant Protection Officer, and have worked under the Dept. of Agriculture in different capacities, especially with IPM, for over 20 years.
 "I have set my priority now to concentrate in the field of organic agriculture, and to play a vital role for promotion of organic farming in Nepal.
 "To achieve this goal, the first step is to maximize the farmers' participation by providing the knowledge and processes of certification.
 "I wish to become a crop organic inspector, and utilize my knowledge to help those small farmers whose products have high demand but are unable to afford the high certification cost.
 "I am very thankful to the OCIS scholarship for providing me the opportunity to continue expanding my knowledge in the field of organic agriculture."



International Organic Inspectors Association Balance Sheet (Cash Basis) As of December 31, 2018

ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2018	Dec 31, 2017
Current Assets		
Total Checking/Savings/CDs	430,088.25	418,108.84
Accounts Receivable	30.92	50.92
Total Other Current Assets	64,890.05	18,356.48
Total Current Assets	<u>495,009.22</u>	<u>436,516.24</u>
Fixed Assets		
Total Building	38,768.86	38,768.86
Other Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-16,918.05</u>	<u>-14,259.50</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$516,860.03	\$461,025.60
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Contributed Property-FM Value	29,031.80	29,031.80
Reimbursables		0.00
Restricted (Scholarship Travel Fund)	1,598.00	220.42
Retained Funds	431,773.38	373,541.20
Net Income	54,456.85	58,232.18
Total Equity	<u>516,860.03</u>	<u>461,025.60</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$516,860.03	\$461,025.60



I am extremely grateful for IOIA. As a 2018 Rutherford Scholarship recipient, I attended the Crop Inspection course in PA with an impressive group of people. I left feeling equipped, informed

and empowered to continue advancing my path in organic agriculture and be a resource for others, both here and abroad. My goal is to complete a couple more shadow inspections this spring and then pursue opportunities with certifiers. I also intend to do the Processing course in the near future which will round out my skill set so can best support organic integrity from seed to shelf.

*Debra Kiliru,
2018 Rutherford Scholarship winner*

Contributors

Although space does not allow listing the names of all our Inspector and Supporting Individual members, IOIA wishes to extend a **SPECIAL THANK YOU** and to especially acknowledge that **your continued support is what sustains our unique organization.**

Supporting Certification Agencies

- Agricultural Services Certified Organic (ASCO)
- California Certified Organic Farmers, Inc. (CCOF)
- Centre for Systems Integration (CSI)
- Clemson University
- Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)
- Ecocert ICO, LLC.
- Global Organic Alliance, Inc. (GOA)
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
- International Certification Services (ICS)
- Japan Organic Inspectors Association (JOIA)
- Kentucky Dept of Agriculture (KDA)
- Kiwa-BCS Oeko-Garantie GmbH
- Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA)
- MN Crop Improvement Association (MCIA)
- Nature's Int'l Certification Services (NICS)
- NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC.
- Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA)
- Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO)
- Organic Certifiers, Inc.
- Organic Crop Improvement Assn. - Int'l (OCIA)
- Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)
- Pro-Cert
- PrimusLabs
- Quality Assurance International (QAI)
- SCS Global Services
- Vermont Organic Farmers, LLC (VOF)
- Washington State Dept of Agriculture (WSDA)

Supporting Businesses

- Basin & Range Organics
- Baystate Organics
- Chumley's Inspection Service
- County of San Diego
- CROPP/Organic Valley/Organic Prairie
- Dave's Killer Bread
- Dole Fresh Fruit International, LTD
- International Certification Authority, LLC
- Georgia Organics
- Maryland Dept of Agriculture
- Montana Department of Agriculture
- NASAA Certified Organic
- New Jersey Department of Agriculture
- New Mexico Dept of Agriculture
- Organic Materials Review Institute
- Organic Producers Association of Manitoba
- Quality Certification Services
- Ranck and Associates, LLC.
- Richard D. Siegel Law Offices
- The Fertrell Company
- Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
- Van Drunen Farms
- Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates, Inc.
- Yolo County Agriculture Department

Sustainers

- Driscoll's
- DanoneWave Foods

Patrons

- Nature's Path Foods
- Aurora Organic Dairy

In Memoriam:
Enid Wonnacott
 8/29/61 –
 1/19/19



Tribute to a Special Lady

Ardith Rost of Sonnette, Montana, began making hand calligraphy/dried flower appreciation gifts for outgoing BOD members in 2003. Those who received her gifts in 2018 will treasure them even more as the last ones. She was a gentle, beautiful, and generous soul.
 July 5, 2018



Board of Directors



The BOD typically meets once a year face-to-face at the annual meeting, plus about 10 conference calls. In 2018, they met a second time – in Baltimore – to celebrate Margaret Scoles' OTA Award. They also met there with Jenny Tucker, the new USDA NOP Deputy Administrator. They explained IOIA's vision for a new inspector credentialing system as a way to raise the bar for inspector and inspection quality.

2018 Board Goals

- Update the Inspector Accreditation Program by creating a new Information Management System and developing an Inspector Qualifications System.
- Adopt an IOIA BOD Comment Policy and create an IOIA Policy Committee.
- Increase IOIA membership by adding value.
- Make sure we have a seat at the table in ongoing discussions in the organic sector about Fraud Prevention Technology.
- Update the IOIA website.

- 2018-2019 Board of Directors**
- Margaret Weigelt, Chair *
Minnesota, USA
- Chuck Mitchell, Vice-chair*
Ontario, Canada
- Heather Donald, Treasurer*
Pennsylvania, USA
- Lois Christie, Secretary*
California, USA
- Phillipe Descamps,
Executive Committee at Large*
Costa Rica
- Matt Miller, Director
Iowa, USA
- Ryan Sitler, Director
North Carolina, USA
- *Member of Executive Committee**

Committee Spotlight – Bylaws Committee!
Under the leadership of Al Johnson, Chair, and BOD liaison Matt Miller, the Bylaws Committee added 3 new members, completed a comprehensive review of the bylaws, had a legal review of the new version, and adopted final bylaws.

Staff

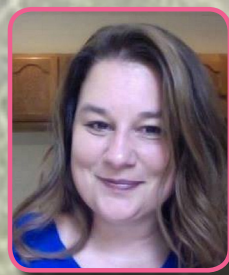


The IOIA Crew celebrates a banner year, I to r:
Cil Earley, bookkeeper; Teri Lindberg, US Training Services Coordinator, with Jonda Crosby attending via Skype; Sacha Draine, International Training Manager; Margaret Scoles, Executive Director; Jennie Olson, Administrative Assistant



Jonda Crosby
Training Services Director

Diane Cooner
Communications Director



Sue Hall,
Webinar Support Specialist