

Board of Directors Election 2022– Candidate Bios

Questions forwarded to Candidates by the Membership Committee:

- How many inspections did you do in 2021?
- What do you see as the most important goals for IOIA in the next year?
- The next five years?
- If you work for a certifier in a capacity other than an independent contractor, please explain.
- Mention any involvement in IOIA as a trainer or on committees.

Brian Baker – Oregon, USA

In 2021 I conducted 31 organic inspections in three scopes.

The most important goals for IOIA in the next year are:

1. Prepare training materials to build capacity in the organic sector.
2. Protect and empower organic inspectors in the context of anticipated regulations.
3. Train inspectors in underserved scopes, particularly input manufacturers.



In the next five years, I see following goals as a priority for IOIA:

1. Fiscal stability and financial security.
2. Respectful and competent leadership transition.
3. Fair employee / contractor – employer relations with Certification Bodies.

In 2021, all my work was as an independent contractor. I have not been on anyone's payroll since 2013.

I have served as a trainer for IOIA since 1994 when I organized the first joint training with CCOF. When I was with OMRI in 2008, I conducted IOIA's first advanced training for input manufacturing. I am a member of the Rutherford Scholarship Committee.

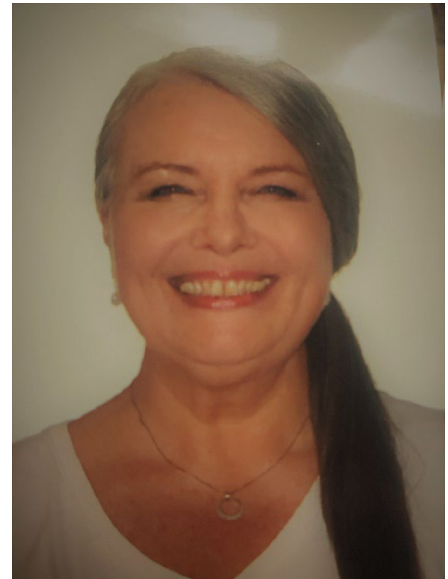
The first organic inspection that I conducted was for NOFA-NY in 1986. In 1988, I was hired by CCOF as perhaps the first employee dedicated full-time to organic certification. In addition to inspecting crop, livestock, and handling operations, I trained and supervised all CCOF's inspectors, and reviewed and approved all inspection reports that I did not write myself. I was a co-founder of OMRI and conducted the first input supplier inspections. I have served on the IFOAM Standards Committee and am familiar with international organic standards.

I would be honored to serve on the IOIA Board and ask for your vote.

Janine Gibson – Manitoba, CANADA

IOIA has served as both professional development and support services for me in my 29 year career as an accredited inspector in 3 scopes serving 14 certifiers internationally, with over 5, 000 audits conducted. In 2021 I conducted ~105 inspections, mostly remote, for 7 international certifiers. Continuing to serve our membership as both a Peer Evaluator and trainer/mentor is a privilege.

As your Vice President I have sought to support IOIA's stable functioning, excellent communication with the ACA and NOP as your representative voice, increased fundraising as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee and the development of an expanded Apprenticeship program through service on the Mentorship Committee.



The IOIA network and mentoring support-built skills that helped me live and work with greater integrity, greater conscientiousness and diligence, so I value this opportunity to give back even a small portion of what has been learned and shared, so kindly.

Founding the Canadian Committee of IOIA and continuing service in Canada on the Organic Technical Committee of the COR, reflects my efforts to strengthen organic integrity in Canada. I am honored to represent Manitoba on the Organic Federation of Canada, and continue service to Canadian Organic Growers as the Executive Secretary.

As a proud mother and grandmother, I continue in gratitude, to live on the off grid, solar and wind powered co op farm we founded in 1984 in SE Manitoba.

Darren Maum – New York, USA

I have been a full-time independent inspector since 2011. I did 160 inspections in 2021, both on site and virtually, for three different agencies. Scope of inspections range from small Amish dairies to large international processors. I also own a certified organic seed garlic farm in the Fingerlakes region of upstate NY. Being able to farm part time, and play on my tractor, keeps me sane during the hectic inspection season.

Beginning with my first crop training I have been interested in how new inspectors enter the field and succeed. My short-term goal for IOIA is to continue to build a robust field training, mentorship, and/or apprenticeship training program. One that would prepare new inspectors to “hit the ground running” when they complete the IOIA program. In addition to my own experience, I have worked with many new inspectors in the past 11 years. I have seen firsthand the difficulties they experience after they complete their initial courses. With the focus from the NOP on inspector qualifications, the need for more new (trained) inspectors, and the increasing complexity of the work, this is a great opportunity for IOIA.

Long term goals for IOIA are to continue to expand internationally and help develop organic inspecting into a sustainable, professional career path.

I have been an IOIA inspector member since 2011. Attending the advanced trainings/AGMs, with and without the ACA/NOP, have been invaluable experiences for me as an inspector. And a lot of fun. I am excited to see the developments already happening in the profession and IOIA, and if elected, I would be honored to continue this good work.



Kate Newkirk – Maine, USA

I have a Masters' Degree in Agronomy (Soil and Crop Sciences) from Virginia Tech and am an Accredited IOIA Inspector in all 3 inspection scopes. After working as a soil/ecological scientist for 20 years, I moved to Maine where I have worked in the organic industry for the past 17 years. From 2004 to 2018 I worked for MOFGA Certification Services (MCS) as an Inspector, Reviewer, Compliance Officer, IT/Database Developer, Associate Director and Acting Director.

Since retiring from MCS in 2018, I fill my time as an independent contractor, working with several accredited certifiers. From 2008 to 2021, I averaged 33 inspections per year, which includes 38 inspections in 2021, down from the previous 3 years due to CoVID-19.

I am currently a member of the IOIA Policy Committee. I gave a Soils Presentation at my initial IOIA Basic Farm Training in 2004 and a Pesticide Residue Sampling and Testing Presentation at the 2012 Advanced IOIA Training. While with MCS I coordinated with IOIA to do an in-house inspector webinar training on 'In/Out balances and Traceability Test for Crop Inspection under NOP and COR'.

I have mentored a number of inspectors over the years and see Mentoring as a major role for IOIA and all inspectors.

Over the next year 5 years I would like to see IOIA reaching out to improve the diversity of the inspector pool. I would like to see IOIA over the next year or 2 develop a webinar in cooperation with highly skilled auditors to understand best practices for verifying and effectively auditing the electronically based record keeping systems that have become prevalent in the handling industry.



Tom Page – California, USA

I did 200 +/- inspections in 2021 (haven't counted yet). IOIA trained inspector in all 3 scopes since 2015.

The most important goals for IOIA in the next year? Lower training costs or source funding for trainees that can't afford, not just one scholarship per training. This is the main complaint from shadow inspectors.

The next five years? Pivot to industry changes and needs as far as products, crops, and inspection scopes. It's a lot more than granola these days.

I am a staff inspector for CCOF I also contract inspect for OMRI on a regular basis. I am also listed with a few other certifiers as well. I represent CCOF on the OTA Farm Advisory Committee and also the OTA Produce Council.

Involvement in IOIA as a trainer or on committees? Helper at trainings and conferences.

Page's Organics, 4 Acre Certified Organic Farm, in Ramona, CA (Owner/Farmer) 2000-Present. Certified Organic Grower of fruits, vegetables, nursery plants, and wine grapes. Responsibilities include working with USDA NRCS Programs and Contracts on the farm,

Education: B.B.A., A.S. Food

Former Vice President and current Member of CCOF, Pacific Southwest Chapter. Former Committee Member of Government Affairs Committee for CCOF. Member: RVVA Ramona Valley Vineyards Association; San Diego County Farm Bureau; OTA Farm Advisory Committee and Produce Council.



Leonard Pollara – Michigan, USA

I completed 37 organic and 10 Non GMO inspections in 2021.

I believe the most important goal for the next year is to carry to completion the projects already begun; Particularly regarding codifying benchmark competencies that would be reflected by Inspector Certification/Accreditation and licensing, Exploring the future of the Peer Evaluation program with a focus on gaining traction within the broader organic regulatory community, Continuing to develop and build a sustainable financial platform, Supporting the ongoing focus on increasing IOIA's global engagement, and participate in broadening the engagement of specific expertise in support of IOIA's goals and mission. I believe that critical areas of focus will develop in response to both regulatory and public influence in the organic market place. Projecting forward to meet those concerns in a way that genuinely adheres to the foundation organic principals, continues to support inspectors while contributing to the global discussion, and finds meaningful avenues for growth, stability and sustainability can be a solid achievement for a 5 year plan.

In both 2020 and 2021 I have providing consulting services to accredited certifiers in the form of completing their 'internal' audits as per §205.505(a)(4).

I currently serve on the IOIA Bylaws Committee and on the Policy Committee.

I would appreciate your vote for my election to the IOIA Board of Directors.

