

**Affiliate Council Meeting
IAFP 2026 – New Orleans, Louisiana
July 26, 2026**

Affiliate Delegates Present:

Argentina	Fabiana Guglielmone
Arkansas	Jennifer Acuff
Bangladesh in NA	Md Niamul Kabir
Brazil	Caio Carvalho
Capital Area	Jenny Scott
Carolinas	Robert Price
Chinese in North America	Quanhong Li
Georgia	Dina Scott
Idaho	Bonnie Waldemarson
Japan	Shige Koseki
Kentucky	Eric Martin
Minnesota	Ruth Petran
Missouri	Rick Heiman
Nepalese	Karuna Kharel
New York	Steve Murphy
New Zealand	Aswathi Soni
Portugal	Laurentina Pedroso
Quebec	Julie Jean
SE Asia	Alvin Lee
United Arab Emirates	Bobby Krishna
United Kingdom	Helen Taylor
Upper Midwest	Justin Zangl
Washington	Celina To
Wisconsin	Takiyah Ball

IAFP Board/Staff Present: Manpreet Singh, Manan Sharma, Pam Wilger, Wendy White, Lisa Garcia, Susan Smith.

Visitors/Guests: Achyut Adhikari (Nepalese), Leili Afsah-Hejri (Wisconsin), Richa Bedi Navik (United Kingdom); David Blomquist (Minnesota), Neil Bogart, Veronica Bryant (Carolinas), Jessica Burke (Ontario), Henk den Bakker (Georgia), Nicola Dermer (New Zealand), Aakankshya Dhakal (Student), Bob Ferguson (Capital Area), Julia Fukaba (Student), Francisco Garces-Vega (Colombia), Kristen Gibson (Arkansas), Virginia Hamilton (Kentucky), Maria Hoffmann, Aaron Huckabee (Georgia), Sheetal Jha (Student), Ian Jenson (Australia), Kunihiro Kubota (Japan), Gillian Kuehnle (Student), Daniel Leiva (Student), Ana Lima (Portugal), David Lloyd (United Kingdom), Stefhanie Loaiza (Student), Janeth Luna (Colombia), Morgan Madison (Florida), Deon Mahoney (Australia), Yoshinori Mizoguchi (Japan), Juan Moreira (Colorado), Marin Pavlic (Ontario), Carrie Rigdon (Minnesota), Kristin Sanders (Kentucky), Deborah Sattely (Arkansas), Erica Turley (Illinois), Adriana Vanegas (Student), Deng-Jye Yang (Taiwan).

Meeting Called to Order: 7:36 a.m. (U.S. Central Time), Sunday, July 26, 2026.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Takiyah Ball.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Approval of 2025 minutes: A motion was made to approve and seconded.

Report from Affiliate Chairperson: Helen Taylor provided the following updates:

1. Attendees were reminded to get badges scanned.
2. Affiliate 2026 milestone anniversaries: None reported
3. No new charters were established in 2026.
4. Webinar suggestions are welcomed. Affiliates are encouraged to share their webinar proposals at the PDGs taking place today or email the IAFP office to ensure suggested subjects are relevant to IAFP Membership. It is a great way to share updated technical information.
5. There were three Affiliate Council Virtual Meetings held during the past year. Participation of Affiliates and Affiliate members has been active with invitations for the three meetings sent in advance from Susan Smith. The attendees were reminded that meeting recordings are available on *IAFP Connect* for those who are unable to attend. Also, they were encouraged to send agenda topics in advance to be discussed in upcoming meetings. The 2026 meetings will be scheduled this fall and dates/times will be sent to all Affiliate Delegates in advance.

Report from IAFP President: Manpreet Singh, IAFP President, thanked attendees for being active in their Affiliates and IAFP. He announced that more than 3,200 attendees were registered for IAFP 2026, higher than 2025. He encouraged more Affiliate Members to join IAFP.

Report from IAFP Executive Director: Lisa Garcia commented on how important the Affiliates are to IAFP, helping drive the Association's membership. Webinars are reaching our Membership and beyond, with open access to non-Members made available during the month of June.

Report from IAFP Staff Liaison:

Susan Smith commented that Annual Reports for 40 of 54 active Affiliate were submitted for 2025 activities, an increase of 2% from last year's submissions. According to the IAFP Bylaws, Affiliates must submit an Annual Report, regardless of activities. Susan sends monthly reminders to all Affiliate Officers. All reports are electronically submitted, including those Affiliates applying for awards. Member lists are no longer required. Limit reports to one email to include the actual report and all attachments, whether applying for awards or not. Susan encouraged more Affiliates to apply for awards. Fifteen Affiliates applied for awards, three more than last year. The Affiliate Award criteria was updated in 2025 to provide more clarity, which may have been part of the increase in applications

Forty-three Affiliates held meetings in 2025, with some holding two meetings throughout the year. Not all of these Affiliates requested speaker support from IAFP. The IAFP Board Speaker and Expanded Speaker Programs are available, and 16 Affiliates benefited from using it in 2025. IAFP pays the speaker's travel to and from the meeting; Affiliates only pay onsite expenses. This is a great resource to schedule high-level speakers for Affiliate meetings. Speakers can also present remotely at no cost for the Affiliate or the Association. Those Affiliates that collect dues through IAFP should inform the Association if dues are increased.

Affiliate members were encouraged to register on *IAFP Connect* to receive communications from IAFP. Affiliates were reminded about submitting summaries and photos from meetings to include in *Affiliate View*. IAFP lost one Affiliate, the Alabama Association for Food Protection, in 2025. Interest has been shown to establish a SE District Affiliate for Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and an open meeting will be held on Monday, July 27, to discuss in more detail.

Discussions: The 2025 Affiliate Awards updates were discussed, with no issues reported from attendees present. Helen thanked Jennifer Acuff, Takiyah Ball, Caio Carvalho, and Jenny Scott for taking part on the Awards Committee to help update the criteria.

Ian Jenson from the Australia Affiliate raised the question regarding Delegates who are unable to attend the Affiliate Council Meeting and nominating a substitute Delegate to act “by proxy.” Clarification was requested on how Delegate substitutions should be handled. The topic will eventually be elevated to the Board for discussion after development of a more formal process by the Affiliate Council.

Election of Affiliate Secretary: Helen called for nominees from the floor. Potential candidates were reminded they need to serve as their Affiliate Delegate for the next two years, and be an active IAFP member. Two candidates volunteered to stand for election: Karuna Kharel, Nepalese Affiliate Delegate, and Carrie Rigdon, Minnesota Affiliate Member. Helen asked each to provide attendees with a brief summary of their involvement with IAFP and their respective Affiliate.

Candidates left the room while Delegates voted. Karuna Kharel was elected by a majority vote.

2026 Affiliate Awards Presentation: Helen highlighted the achievements of the award recipients and presented the 2026 Affiliate Awards as follows:

Affiliate Membership Achievement: *Ontario Food Protection Association* – The Affiliate demonstrated progressive and innovative plans and ideas to recruit and retain members, with a 46% increase in membership throughout 2025. Included in their efforts were relevant multi-channel communications and adding value for the members with newsletters, reduced rates, monthly webinars, etc.

Affiliate Communications Materials: *Florida Association for Food Protection* – The Affiliate distributed high-quality communication materials to its membership on a regular basis, using multiple mechanisms including various in-person (Town Hall) and digital options. The Affiliate presented an effective mix of communication methods throughout the year to its members.

Affiliate Member Education: *Colombian Association of Food Science and Technology* – The Affiliate demonstrated a contribution towards the education of its Affiliate members throughout the year via an education program it delivered to more than 1,100 learners via meeting(s); conference(s); webinar(s); workshop(s); and classes.

Best Overall Affiliate Meeting: *Brazilian Association for Food Protection* – The Affiliate submitted evidence to the awards committee demonstrating the overall quality of its FoodMicro Latino meeting. The 2025 meeting was attended by 560 delegates who shared learnings and networking at Brazil’s first conference, with 46 speakers from seven countries discussing a broad range of food safety subjects including antimicrobial resistance, microbiomes, alternative proteins, AI in microbiology, sustainable processing resistance, fermentation, and artisanal food safety. A significant number of students attended, with 30 receiving awards. The successful conference was supported by numerous exhibitors, sponsors, and partners.

C.B. Shogren Memorial: *Ontario Food Protection Association* – The Affiliate submitted evidence to demonstrate growth in its membership; communicate with, engage, and educate

their members about food protection; as well as showing how the Affiliate has improved and/or sustained its food safety efforts during the year. Recent activities demonstrate how it has sustained and promoted the mission of IAFP. The Affiliate will formally receive the award at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday night.

Old Business:

The Executive Board approved Takiyah Ball as Affiliate Council Secretary for 2025–2026.

The updated Affiliate Awards application process and accompanying flow chart was approved.

New Business:

Fabiana Guglielmone, Argentine Delegate, provided an update on IAFP Latino 2026 to be held in September in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Quanhong Li, Chinese in North America Delegate, reported that a meeting will be held in Hong Kong in November.

Representatives from the Student PDG spoke to attendees about student activities, including Coffee Hour networking sessions and expanding the number of these; 3-Minute Thesis competition; and improving email engagement and response rates. The day's Student Lunch will include a discussion on Affiliate involvement and opportunities.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Affiliate Council recommends that Karuna Kharel, Delegate for the Nepalese Association for Food Protection, be appointed as the next Affiliate Council Secretary.

Passing of gavel: Chairperson Helen Taylor passed the gavel to Takiyah Ball, Secretary, signifying the beginning of Takiyah's term as Affiliate Council Chairperson, official after the completion of IAFP 2026.

Next Meeting Date: Virtual meetings will continue with dates and times scheduled well in advance to allow attendees to get them on their calendars. The next in-person meeting is Sunday, July 18, 2027, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 a.m. (U.S. Central Time)

Chairperson Name: Takiyah Ball