

To the Members and Friends of IFALDA:

I'm writing this letter as an individual member of IFALDA. For those of you that remember me, I served on the IFALDA Senior Board between 1991-1998, first as Secretary/Treasurer working with IFALDA President Peter Schuetz then later as President for 4 terms. Since 1998 I've served the IFALDA Board as a Director and currently as the Special Assistant to the President – Russ Williams.

We have held Annual General Meetings (AGM) each year since 1961. The AGM serves two purposes...first, in plenary session, to report IFALDA activities and projects throughout the past year with reports from Board members, Directors of Special Projects and from Member Associations. The second and equally important function of the AGM is to gather socially during coffee breaks, dinners and receptions to informally exchange information and to build and maintain professional relationships.

It is expected and it is critical that every IFALDA member association send a delegation to the AGM. It is also vitally important for individual members to do all possible to attend. We are currently in a very healthy financial position with adequate funding to engage in professional projects with ICAO and other regional authorities and are able to fund various working groups on projects.

While IFALDA has adequate funding to represent the professional interests of its membership, we lack professional input from our member organizations and individual members. Money is not currently a major issue. We do the best we can to keep the IFALDA website ([www.ifalda.org](http://www.ifalda.org)) up to date but we rarely get much professional input or guidance. As a result, out of a worldwide membership of about 1700 flight dispatchers, we have about a half-dozen (6~) individuals actually doing the work. These 6 folks do the best they can using their own experience and professional judgement but some of us are no longer active dispatchers and our knowledge and skills have eroded over the years.

Current projects include but are not limited to:

- The ICAO Flight Operations Officer/Flight Dispatcher Training Manual, replacing the current ICAO Doc 7192-D3 that IFALDA developed in 1995 and ICAO published in 1998,
- Working with the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau, we collaborate on the development and maintenance of SARPS (Standards and Recommended Practices in the ICAO Annexes).
- Also working with the ICAO Air Navigation Bureau, we collaborate on the development and maintenance of ICAP Docs. And Circulars that affect flight dispatch and operational control,
- Participation in the NATSPG (North Atlantic Systems Planning Group),
- Participation in the NAMEUR (North America-Europe) working group
- Projects in South America with our affiliate APADA,
- Supporting our European affiliate EUFALDA with the EASA Pre-RIA effort to get flight dispatch training integrated into EASA regulations and
- Various international projects with the U.S. FAA and other State authorities.

The glue that ties all this together is our relationship with ICAO. As you know, IFALDA has been formally recognized by ICAO as an NGO (Non-government organization) invited to attend and participate in appropriate ICAO activities and regional working groups. A glance at the ICAO website will show IFALDA among several dozen major international aviation organizations.

We find ourselves making decisions on behalf of the membership that you may or may not perceive to be in the best interests of the future of our profession and with which you may or may not agree. When

we make a presentation to ICAO or other high-level groups, we are speaking for all of you and our presentations are accepted as such. Please make sure what we say is what you want us to say!

Every member association and every individual member of IFALDA needs to seriously consider attending the AGM each year...starting with this year in Copenhagen in May. In my opinion, you need to listen to the presentations, decide if they reflect your own views and make your views known. As leaders, we are bound by your wishes. If you choose to be silent, you will be in a difficult position later to complain about the direction of flight dispatch and the exercise of operational control as civil aviation continues to evolve.

Please be sure that your dispatcher association is well-represented at the AGM. If you are an individual member with airline travel privileges, please consider attending the AGM yourself and let your voice be heard.

AGM information is below:

<https://www.ifalda.org/meetings-events/>

Hotel Park Inn Radisson Copenhagen Airport will provide us special room rates (Breakfast Included) :

Standard Single Room - DKK 1095 / Approximately \$167 USD

Standard Double Room - DKK 1245 / Approximately \$192 USD

**Reservations must be made through email to Kenneth Kronborg**  
**Email: [kkronborg@ifalda.org](mailto:kkronborg@ifalda.org)**

Reservations accepted thru 24 April 2019

Cancellations must be made through email to Kenneth Kronborg

Group Name: IFALDA

AGM Registration Fees will be collected during the Registration Check-in at the hotel preceding the Welcome Reception. All fees are paid in CASH.

Delegate Registration: \$100 USD

(Delegate Registration includes: Welcome Reception, Coffee Breaks, Lunch and Gala Dinner)

Spouse: Registration: \$50 USD

(Spouse Registration includes: Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner)

In summary, IFALDA is whatever the membership chooses it to be. It is only as effective as the members make it. We have no paid employees; we are all volunteers. IFALDA's work is at the international level; we help shape the ICAO SARPS (Standards and Recommended Practices) found in the ICAO Annexes as well as training standards and manuals and ICAO Circulars. We constantly recruit IFALDA members to serve on these working groups so if you want to be really effective in IFALDA, you will volunteer to work with one or more of the working groups.

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND INVOLVEMENT!    THE AGM IS THE PLACE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

Thanks, all the best  
...and cheers!

Dave Porter  
IFALDA