



International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

NEWSLETTER AGM Highlights

Website: www.iaf.org

The I.A.F. currently has 82 associations from 56 countries worldwide totalling 40 000 members.

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Thoughts for the New Year

Throughout many parts of the world we are blessed to practice falconry as a daily part of our lives. That blessing comes from the hard work of great falconry leaders in each nation and by the dedicated leadership of the IAF to represent falconry internationally. Together we have achieved incredible success in 2012. No doubt our achievements promise to be greater in the future.



We are reminded of the benefits that the 2010 UNESCO recognition of falconry as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity will mean for the future protection, perpetuation, and expansion of falconry in new parts of the world. Just this year the initial group of 11 nations was expanded to 13 with the inscription of Austria and Hungary. There will be more in the future. And for all of this we must be grateful for the incredible leadership of H.E. Mohamed Al Bowardi, H.E. Majid Al Mansouri, the financial generosity of the Emirates' Falconers' Club, and the organizational and coordinating efforts of the Abu Dhabi Authority on Culture and Heritage (now Tourism and Culture), and their professional consultants, for assisting each nation to achieve this success. Then in each nation select falconers worked incredibly hard locally to ensure that falconry was placed on the national inventory and to prepare the materials for the UNESCO submission. I salute all of you. The IAF, as a UNESCO recognized international advisory NGO, was honored to be part of and to

to support the largest joint submission in UNESCO history.

In 2012 the IAF represented falconry in all of the international meetings of where falconry could potentially be an issue, but principally to support the principle of sustainable use of natural resources to ensure that hunting is promoted as a traditional way of life. We were joined by and cooperated with FACE and CIC at almost all of those meetings. We did this as part of our conservation mandate.

On behalf of the IAF, I began reaching out to the political leadership of the European Union five years ago. We had our first meeting with European Parliament leadership in Strasbourg in 2011, followed by the magnificent event in Brussels just last month that featured an exhibition and very large reception in the Parliament building focused on the 4000 years' history of falconry. Simultaneously the IAF intervened on behalf of our member organization on national issues affecting falconry in the three countries of North America, some countries in South America and southern Africa, and many countries in Europe. We reached a new level of engaging the general political leadership in various parts of the world.

Vice President Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania : Bohumil Straka (Czech Republic)

Vice President for the Americas: Ralph Rogers (USA)

Executive Secretary : Adrian Lombard (South Africa)

Treasurer: António Carapuco (Portugal)

I reported previously that with the development of a new business plan, again through the generosity of the Emirates' Falconers' Club, the IAF will open a modest permanent professional administrative office in Brussels to support the volunteer leadership of the IAF. With a permanent IAF office, the IAF can reach to every part of the world far easier to support and provide services to our Member Organizations. I personally thank and take great pride in the IAF team that assisted me so ably in bringing this initiative to a successful conclusion.

I join all of you in this Holiday season to reflect on where we have been together in this journey with the IAF. From it all we are richer for the experience of having traveled together not only to support falconry but also to preserve a way of life in changing culture and society. We support our traditional falconry in a changing world so that we may hand to posterity the values passed to us by our predecessors.

At this time of reflection at the year's end, all of you have my greatest personal gratitude for your support of the IAF during my period as president. You have made me welcome all across the world in your countries and your homes. It has always been my great pleasure to serve you as President, and I will look at this time as one of the most enjoyable and challenging periods of my life. Thank you.

I know that Dr. Adrian Lombard, the new IAF president, will hope to have your support as well as he begins his term of leadership. I will be assisting him and the new leadership team as the General Counsel when they undertake the enormous task of leading the IAF.

This is my final message to you as President of the IAF. I give you and your families my very best wishes for the New Year.

Frank M. Bond
President

