



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.

Frank M. Bond
President

International
Association for
Falconry and
Conservation of
Birds of Prey

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President: Frank Bond (USA)
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SUCCESS OF UNESCO EXTENSION

On Thursday 5th Dec 2012 at the 7th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage an Extension was approved to the Representative List of The Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This extension increases the number of countries whose falconry traditions are now safeguarded on the List to thirteen. It is particularly gratifying for Austria and Hungary, the two countries added, since they both had their submissions almost ready for the original inscription, but narrowly missed the deadline. This is the first time extensions to the elements have been allowed. This is a memorable day and a milestone for falconry, because it will encourage many other countries to join our multinational nomination; it paves the way for further extensions such as those proposed by falconers in Croatia, Pakistan, Slovakia, Kazakhstan, Holland, Ireland, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy, Slovenia, Turkey...

IAF COUNCIL OF DELEGATES MEETING 2012 Kearney, Nebraska, USA.

Hosted by North American Falconers' Association
New member countries admitted to IAF: Azerbaijan, Kirghizstan, Belarus and Thailand. Asociación Colombiana para la conservación de las Aves de Presa y la cetrería (Columbia) was granted observer Status and the Centro de Rehabilitación de Aves Rapaces San Isidro (also from Columbia) is now a supporting member.

New clubs from existing member nations are: Guira Oga (Argentina), Association de Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Culturel du Dressage des Oiseaux Rapaces à Kelibia (Tunisia), Inter-regional Public Organization of Conservation of Birds of Prey and Falconry Development "Association of Falconers" (Russia).



Dr. Harald Barsch and Christian Habich (Austria) with officials at the UNESCO session

New Officers and Advisory Committee

Dr. Lombard announced his recommendations for the other officers and the rest of the Advisory Committee; the Council of Delegates announced their consent. The new Executive-Secretary will be Gary Timbrell (Ireland) and the Treasurer remains António Carapuço (Portugal). The new Advisory Committee will include, in addition to these officers: Dr. Bohumil Straka (Czech Rep) Chairman and with special responsibility for UNESCO matters; Véronique Blontrock (Belgium) Public Relations Officer; Zayed Al Madeed (Qatar) with special responsibilities in the Gulf States; Dan Cecchini (USA) database; Professor Matt Gage (UK) science; Majid Al Mansouri (UAE); Janusz Sielicki (Poland) conservation; Yukio Asaoka (Japan) with special responsibilities in far eastern countries; Dr Laco Molnar (Slovakia) veterinary matters; Fernando Féas (Spain) with special responsibilities in Latin America.

Dr. Lombard also announced his intention to extend their number with non-voting members chosen for their specialist skills: Frank Bond (USA) General Counsel to IAF, Patrick Morel (Belgium) Brussels Counsel, Dr. Javier Ceballos (Spain) ethics, Pete Rodas (USA) database support, Anthony Crosswell (UK) journal editor, Alexander Prinz (Germany) European Transparency Register, Dianne Moller (USA) women's working group, Adrian Reuter (Mexico) CITES, Keiya Nakajima (Japan) science and conservation, Jevgeni Shergalin (Estonia) Information Officer, Frits Kleyn (Netherlands) arts and culture, Patrizia Cimberio (Italy) website support.



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 Carapuço (Portugal)



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Report on the 2012 IAF Annual General Meeting

The meeting was opened by President Frank Bond who introduced the officers and delegates from 23 countries. A further 12 were represented by proxy. Minutes of the AGM 2011 in Al Ain had already been circulated by Secretary Adrian Lombard and were approved by the delegates present. Memorials were heard for falconers who had died in the past year and a few moments of silence were kept for Timothy Kimmel and Kinya Nakajima and others.

Apologies were received on behalf of a number of delegates and dignitaries including HE Mohamed Al Bowardi who sent a short DVD of HE Majid Al Mansouri reading his speech. This was well received by the delegates. On behalf of the Emirates Falconers' Club he expressed thanks and appreciation for Frank Bond's efforts during his presidency to achieve IAF objectives and the support given to EFC programs and activities. He stated he is very happy to continue to be involved in initiatives for the recognition of falconry as an intangible heritage and other falconry conservation programs and extended his heartfelt wishes for a successful meeting.

President Frank Bond gave his report 2012 has been a quieter year publicly but one of significant success and change internally for IAF. The 2011 Annual General Meeting had been the greatest assembly of delegates in IAF history thanks to the hosting of the Emirates Falconers' Club at the 2nd International Falconry Festival in Al Ain, Emirate of Abu Dhabi, celebrating the inscription of falconry on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. He spoke at length on the Business Plan and its development, through many reviews, into its present form which was presented to H.E. Mohamed al Bowardi and H.E. Majid al Mansouri in Abu Dhabi to review our response to a critique delivered to us in 2011. There was an extensive discussion. A final version of the BP including all issues discussed will be presented regarding supporting foundations, including IAF supported conservation programs. Mr. Al Bowardi said the EFC will support for a limited period the opening of a Brussels office. President Bond expressed IAF's deepest gratitude for this commitment not only for the continuing financial support but also more importantly for the EFC's continuing participation in the IAF. Mr. Al Mansouri also expressed his willingness to remain a member of the AC.

He went on to say: "It gives me great pleasure to announce to you today that because of the continuing great generosity of the Emirates Falconers' Club, their desire to be represented by the IAF, and the personal support of Mr. Al Bowardi and Mr. Al Mansouri, that we will be able to open an administrative support office in Brussels later in 2013, after we prepare a final revised business plan and locate suitable office space. I will personally continue to be involved the business plan. I hope that all of you join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to the Emirates Falconers' Club and personally to Mr. Al Bowardi and Mr. Al Mansouri."

The new Constitution, as agreed at the 2011 AGM and as translated into French by an official Belgian Notary, was accepted by the Belgian authorities on October 22, 2012, as the new official IAF Constitution.

Vice-president Straka reported that top priority for 2011/12 had been UNESCO: transfer of knowledge and support to IAF members and fellow hunting organizations towards further extensions. He listed the many benefits already accruing to both listed and non-listed countries. He had great hopes for the 2012 pending extension for Austria and Hungary, hopefully to be approved at the UNESCO session in Paris on December 5th. In 2013/2014 further extensions are expected: Croatia, Pakistan, Slovakia, Kazakhstan, Holland, Ireland, Germany, Bulgaria, Italy, Slovenia, Turkey...He went on to stress the importance of our links with FACE who are now in a uniquely good position in Europe.

VP Report – Ralph Rogers gave his report : new federal regulations must be adapted by all individual states in the next 7 months in order for Falconry to remain legal in each state. In Canada, there has been an extension of the wild-take. Exciting things are happening in Mexico which is a model for the development of Falconry in Latin American countries. There is a need for legislation to recognize and regulate Falconry. In Mexico, the response to new regulation was the development of the Federation of Mexican Falconry. This is an excellent model for other Latin American countries. The Association for Latin American Falconry is being developed and we will be supportive of them. We must do whatever we can to assist them. He stressed how much the South American countries would benefit from IAF, particularly if Argentina and Brazil host a Council of Delegates Meeting in 2014/15.

Treasurer António Carapuço gave the Financial Report for 2011, which was approved by Council and he followed with a budget for 2012. A report was read on behalf of Journal Editor, Anthony Crosswell, who was not present. Public Relations Officer, Gary Timbrell gave his report, which included a presentation on the very successful EU Parliament Brussels Exhibition. Dianne Moller gave a presentation on the activities of the Women's Working Group and its aims to reach out to active women falconers and to support IAF. Janusz Sielicki reported on the Meeting of the Raptors MoU and the Convention on Migratory Species and MoS1 and gave a presentation on the importance of IAF involvement in conservation projects. The three legs of the IAF tripod are Falconry, Culture and Conservation. Adrian Lombard presented a brief report on the CIC Meeting in Cape Town, encouraging mutual cooperation. He also made a presentation on the Electrocutions Data base. Keiya Nakajima reported on the IUCN Conference in Korea which he had attended. Dan Cecchini reported on developments with the IAF Data Base.

Frank Bond spoke on the efforts to down-list the CITES status of the Peregrine Falcon and the Gyrfalcon: "The Gyrfalcon and the Peregrine falcon do not deserve to be listed CITES 1 species. Down-listing of the Gyrfalcon was previously attempted in the Nairobi CITES Conference. We must note that the 27 EU nations vote as a block and the proposals can become politicized. A down-listing Proposal is difficult and takes time to prepare. The Gyrfalcon may be easier to approach. The Peregrine will be more difficult although there is considerable data available. There is a need for a respected scientist to put together a proposal and then a country must submit it. This needs to be addressed in the near future. The Peregrine Fund held a 3 day conference regarding the Gyrfalcon and Ptarmigan. This resulted in a 2 volume Proceedings which contain the evidence for the proposal. This is a project which we need to undertake and we need to recruit a scientist to prepare the proposal."

Frits Kleyn reported on the successful Rijksmuseum Exhibition, seen by 250 000 people, and the proposals to go on tour with it. Patrick Morel spoke about future AGM Planning and there was a discussion of venues for 2013, 2014 and 2015, which include a presentation by Frits Kleyn on the Valkenwaard meeting from 19th to 22nd June 2013, a presentation by Qatar on a meeting in Doha in December 2013 and a joint presentation by Argentina and Brazil for a meeting in Misiones Province, Argentina in Aug 2014 or '15.

As previously report by eNewsletter Dr. Adrian Lombard was elected President, Professor Thomas Richter of Germany was elected IAF Vice President for Europe. He listed two of his principle goals: founding an experts group of IAF-Members for optimal falconry legislation throughout Europe and founding an experts group for a brochure on best falconry practice, mainly addressing animal welfare. Mr Bakyt Karnakbayev was elected Vice President for Africa, Asia and Oceania. He gave one of his principle goals as VP would be interaction with Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Egypt where he had already established contacts. President-elect Lombard presented his selection of the other officers and Advisory Committee for 2013. These were ratified by the Council of Delegates.

In other issues a letter from the Danish falconers was read out. It requested urgent assistance with their exchanges with the Danish Government, at the moment trying to imply a new law, which is stricter than the old one and at odds with laws in the rest of the EU countries. Council indicated their wish that the president and his team continue to take up the cause of the Danish falconers and help them in whatever way possible.



Current President
Frank Bond

President-elect
Adrian Lombard

Vice-president
Americas
Ralph Rogers

Vice-president-
elect for Europe
Tom Richter

Vice-president
elect for Asia,
Africa, Oceania
Bakyt Karnakbayev

Current
Vice-president
Europe, Asia, Africa,
Oceania
Bohumil Straka

