

IAAPA Board Update: Key Outcomes from Our January 2026 Virtual Meeting

In late January, the IAAPA Board of Directors convened virtually for its first Board meeting of 2026. The meeting focused on member feedback, strategic initiatives, governance modernization, and planning for our global events.

Listening to Members: Event & Content Insights

Ahead of the meeting, Board members reviewed survey feedback from **IAAPA Expo Europe**, **IAAPA Expo Orlando**, and the **Legends event**. We also shared an analysis of **Funworld** content to better understand how the magazine represents the different segments of our industry and where we can continue to strengthen coverage.

Professional Development & Engagement Highlights

The Board received updates on several member programs and organizational initiatives, including:

- **Mentor–Mentee Program:** Record participation in 2025 with **120 mentor-mentee pairs**, reflecting strong global engagement.
- **2025 Financials:** An update on IAAPA's financial performance and outlook.
- **Vision 2035 Taskforce:** Progress on the long-term visioning work, with the taskforce scheduled to be **officially launched in Q2 2026**.

Strengthening IAAPA Governance: A New Review Task Force

IAAPA operates under a framework of **Policies and Bylaws**, which have been updated regularly over the years. After continued improvements over time, the Board determined that it is now the right moment for a more comprehensive, fresh look at IAAPA's governance model. To support this work, the Board approved the formation of a governance review task force led by **Denise Beckson**, with a mandate to:

- Review IAAPA bylaws and policies in full
- Identify inconsistencies, redundancies, and outdated provisions
- Recommend revised language and structural improvements
- Validate proposed changes with legal counsel

The task force will include **current and former Board members** to ensure appropriate regional and segment representation, with support from **IAAPA senior leadership** and legal counsel as needed.

Regional Growth: IAAPA MENA and IAAPA ESA

The Board also approved the formation of a collaboration with **MENALAC** to establish a new region: **IAAPA MENA**, including its own governance structure.

At the same time, the **Brussels office** will continue to serve members in **Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa**, and will be referenced accordingly as **IAAPA ESA**.



Planning for IAAPA Expo Orlando 2026

Finally, the Board reviewed planning for **IAAPA Expo Orlando 2026**, including pavilion distribution, special events, and the overall attendee experience. The Board confirmed that the **strategy developed by the Task Force will continue** to guide this work. This task force, which was compiled of senior exhibitors from a variety of different areas plus buyer representatives, suggested the distribution of designated pavilions across two halls to offer the best attendee experience.