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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

# 2025 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

• • • • • PACKET



## INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103

Dear Tribal Leader,

We are pleased to invite your Tribe to join or renew its status as a General Member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC). Founded in 1987, IAC was formed by a coalition of federally recognized Tribes in response to a Congressionally directed report calling for an assessment of agricultural needs in Indian Country. Since its founding, IAC has been guided by its member Tribes, as we work to advance agricultural priorities across more than 56 million acres of land under Tribal jurisdiction with Tribal water rights, which serve as the foundation of Tribal agriculture.

Your Tribe's input as a General Member ensures the Tribe is represented, your voice is heard, your regional food system challenges are addressed, and Indian Country's agricultural future remains strong. Membership is more than a partnership—it is a commitment to growth, resilience, and self-determination.

In addition to elevating Indian Country's agricultural priorities among policymakers, IAC provides practical support to Tribes and producers, including technical assistance, market and trade development, natural resource conservation, small agribusiness support, and youth leadership opportunities.

### **Key Membership Benefits**

- Share regional concerns at IAC's Annual Conference
- Influence federal and regional agricultural policies
- Access resources to advance agricultural practices
- Connect with other Tribal leaders
- Advocate for agricultural support in Indian Country

### **IAC Services**

- Policy education and advocacy support
- USDA technical assistance
- Natural resource conservation
- Increased market access
- Youth leadership development in agriculture

We deeply value your participation and collaboration in advancing Tribal agricultural priorities. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Indian agriculture and for considering this invitation to join our shared efforts.

Respectfully,

Kari Jo Lawrence  
Chief Executive Officer, Intertribal Agriculture Council

## BACKGROUND

In 1987, IAC's founding Tribes established IAC for the following purposes, generally:

- To pursue and promote the conservation, development, and use of the agricultural resources of Indian Tribes.
- To provide a forum for Indian Tribes and Indian and Alaskan Native Producers to realize areas of mutual concern and exchange ideas and information on matters relevant to the management of Indian/Alaskan Native agricultural resources through unified input at the national level.
- To assist in the development of federal and tribal policies to improve opportunities for management and increase productivity from Indian/Alaskan Native agricultural resources through unified input at the national level.
- To gather and disseminate information concerning legislative and federal policies affecting Indian/Alaskan Native agricultural interests.
- To advise and work with federal, state, local, and Tribal governments to develop the full potential benefits attainable to Indian/Alaskan Natives in the agricultural professions and related areas of expertise, and use all possible resources available to assist in expanding Indian/Alaskan Native agricultural markets and opportunities.
- In furtherance of these purposes, IAC is guided by delegates who are appointed by their respective Tribes and is governed by a Board whose Directors are elected by and among the Tribal delegates from their respective regions. This organizational structure uniquely positions the IAC to inform policy related to Tribal agricultural needs in USDA and BIA programming based on direct guidance from the IAC's General Member Tribes.



FOLLOW THE LINK TO SUBMIT A CAUCUS ISSUE: [bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue](https://bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue)





## ELIGIBILITY

General membership is open to federally recognized Tribes that submit a resolution or similar official action from their governing body that meets the requirements outlined below.

## JOIN IAC'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AS A VOTING MEMBER TRIBE

A federally recognized Tribe may become a voting, general member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council by completing the following steps:

- 1. Submit Tribal Resolution (or something equivalent) to the IAC that expresses the Tribe's intent to join the IAC as a General Member:** This document should comply with your Tribe's requirements for authorizing official actions by the Tribe's governing body. This authorization reflects a Tribe's intent to join the IAC will remain in effect until officially withdrawn by the Tribe.
  - \* Two template resolutions are included at the end of this packet that Tribes may use at their discretion.
- 2. Designate Delegate to Represent Tribe's Interests Within the IAC:** Formally appoint the Tribe's delegate to represent the Tribe's interests and vote at IAC meetings.
  - \* A template letter for designating a Tribe's delegate is included at the end of this packet.
  - \* The template can also be used to update delegates and assign alternate delegates for the Tribe.
- 3. Pay Membership Dues:** IAC will send an electronic invoice or assist your staff in sending invoice paperwork for payment processing via physical check to complete the dues payment. Memberships run from January 1st through December 31st annually.
  - \* General Membership dues are set at \$200 annually.
  - \* **Tribes can opt for 5-year (2025-2030) General Member-In-Good-Standing status for \$1000.**

## GOOD STANDING

Upon meeting the three requirements outlined above, a Tribe is considered "in good standing" as a General Member of IAC entitled to vote upon matters brought before the General Membership and within a Tribe's respective regional caucus. For more information, please contact Nicole Charley, Membership Relations and Board Affairs Manager, at [nicole@indianag.org](mailto:nicole@indianag.org) or by phone at 503-927-8686.

Membership documents may be submitted by email, or you may complete the information on the form at this link: [bit.ly/IAC-member-form](https://bit.ly/IAC-member-form). Nicole will follow up directly to confirm receipt and next steps.

## ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 IAC Annual Conference will take place December 8–10, 2025, at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas! The Annual Membership Meeting will follow on Thursday, December 11, 2025, immediately after the conclusion of the conference. Additional details will be shared with General Members. For the latest updates and information, please visit: [indianag.org/annual-conference](https://indianag.org/annual-conference)

## CAUCUS INFORMATION FOR IAC MEMBER TRIBES

The IAC regional caucuses are integral to our information sharing, policy development, and support structures benefiting our Member Tribes and Indian Country as a whole. During these meetings, General Member Tribes within the same region discuss and vote on their priority issues to advance to the General Membership meeting at the conclusion of IAC Annual Conference.

### By-Laws Article VI - The Regions - 6.03 Regional Caucus Meeting Protocol

- A. Role of IAC Staff Members:** IAC staff will be responsible for supporting each regional caucus meeting, providing advance notice to eligible attendees regarding the details of the caucus meeting, and assisting with election protocols as outlined in Section 4.03. IAC staff will be in attendance to record the actions in the IAC's standardized format, and will then submit the caucus report to the presiding Board Member for final approval. Staff may not offer issues for consideration, but may offer their perspective on issues raised.
- B. Role of Members of the Executive Board:** Regional caucus meetings will be presided over by the Board Member for that region. The Board Member from that region will present the caucus report to the General Membership for consideration for adoption as IAC Policy for the year.
- C. Role of Conference Participants:** All conference participants are invited to attend their respective regional caucus and may submit issues for consideration. If no duly appointed delegates move to support the issue it will not be discussed, nor included in the caucus report offered to the membership.
- D. Voting:** Issues may be adopted by the IAC by a vote of the delegates at the membership meeting. A majority of the duly appointed delegates attending the caucus may approve an issue, or the caucus report in its entirety.
- E. Elections:** Elections will take place at regional caucuses in accordance with the protocol outlined in Section 4.03.

**Participation Benefits:** As a General Member, your Tribe is entitled to participate in your regional caucus and vote on what IAC's priorities will be for the year ahead.

**Caucus Participation Requirements:** In order for a Tribe to be represented by their appointed delegate during a regional caucus, a delegate's Tribe must meet the three requirements to be a General Member in good standing, outlined on page 4 of this packet, at the time of the caucus meeting.

## REGIONAL CAUCUS PROTOCOL

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

### Caucus Process:

- General Member delegates bring forward their Tribe's specific agricultural concerns or issues.
- General Members in good standing can submit issues for consideration during the regional caucus sessions held during IAC's Annual Conference. **General Members in good standing may also submit caucus issues via resolution or by completing the online caucus form prior to the regional caucus meeting: [bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue](https://bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue).**
- The Board Member or Board Member-Alternate for your region is responsible for presiding over the regional caucus.
- An IAC staff member will be in attendance to record the actions taken during the regional caucus.
- It is generally accepted that all conference participants may attend the regional caucuses, *HOWEVER*, only General Members in good standing may offer issues for consideration via their appointed delegates.
- Attendees not constituting General Members in good standing may only be permitted to offer their perspective on issues raised when asked to do so by a General Member from the respective region for which the meeting is being held.

The Board Member from each respective region will present the regional caucus issues report to the General Membership at the annual Membership Meeting following the conclusion of IAC's Annual Conference. The General Members in good standing will vote on each regional issue presented for the purpose of determining what regional caucus issues will be included among IAC's priorities for the next year.

Issues not receiving consensus approval at the in-person caucus may be voted on in a manner as determined by the presiding officer, for reporting out to the Membership Meeting. A majority of the duly appointed Member Tribe delegates attending the caucus may approve an issue or the caucus report in its entirety.

### SAMPLE CAUCUS ISSUE

**ISSUE:** Less than 40 Tribes are able to utilize FRTEP due to the funding limitation to the program. Member Tribes request an increase in funding directly to their congressional representatives to \$10 M.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:** IAC advocacy for 2023 Farm Bill will include mandatory funding for 100 FRTEP agents.

# CAUCUS MEETING STRUCTURE

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

## ROLES SUMMARY

- IAC Board Member Facilitates Meeting
- IAC Technical Assistance staff (TA) takes notes, offers context on USDA resources as necessary, fields pertinent questions—does not direct conversation or have the floor for any length of time

## INTRODUCTIONS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

- Member Tribe Delegates: Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business
- General Attendees (only if size of caucus permits and this will not take away from primary scope of this meeting): Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business
- REVIEW OF PREVIOUS CAUCUS ISSUES (IAC BOARD MEMBER/IAC Technical Assistance Specialist)
- Present IAC accomplishments relevant to caucus issues raised last year

## REVIEW OF PRESUBMITTED CAUCUS ISSUES (IAC BOARD MEMBER/IAC TA TAKES NOTES)

- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

## ROUND TABLE MEMBER TRIBE DELEGATE DISCUSSION (IAC BOARD MEMBER/IAC TA TAKES NOTES)

- State name, Tribal affiliation, issue or concern, possible remedy or solution
- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

## VOTE ON CAUCUS ISSUES RAISED (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA)

- Clarify notes in support of generating the caucus report

## FINAL THOUGHTS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

## ADJOURN

# TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION - 1

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

## TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

This resolution template was created by the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) to serve as a model with which federally recognized Tribes can base their own resolution for membership of IAC, along with identification of delegate and alternate. Users are encouraged to modify the template as needed to better represent the priorities of the Tribe.

Throughout the template, there are identified areas in which the user should replace with their own information. For example, wherever “The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe” occurs, the user should input the name of their federally recognized Tribe in the blank space.

For questions, contact the main office at 406-259-3525 or Membership Relations and Board Affairs Manager Nicole Charley at [nicole@indianag.org](mailto:nicole@indianag.org).



FOLLOW THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE: [bit.ly/tribal-resolution-template](https://bit.ly/tribal-resolution-template)





## TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION - 2

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

### TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe is the duly constituted governing body within the exterior boundaries of the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Reservation, and

**WHEREAS**, The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe has been organized to represent, develop, protect and advance the views, education and resources of the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Reservation and

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Constitution and By Laws, Article\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Council has the power and authority to negotiate with the federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe, and

**WHEREAS**, The Intertribal Agriculture Council is a non-profit national Indian agriculture organization formed in 1987 to advance agricultural interests of Indian Tribes and Tribal agriculture producers nationwide, and

**WHEREAS**, The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe has been a member of the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and

**WHEREAS**, It is essential to the agricultural development of the \_\_\_\_\_ Reservation that the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe maintain membership with the IAC and joins with other member Tribes to provide a unified effort to promote change and improvement in Indian agriculture, now

**WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Council, acting for and in behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe, does hereby approve membership in the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and thereby approves payment of the [2025] membership fees in the amount of \$200.00, which shall thereafter be paid annually before November 15 of each year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Council hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as official delegate and \_\_\_\_\_ as the alternate for the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe to the Intertribal Agriculture Council with all privileges afforded member representatives.

#### ATTEST:

THE \_\_\_\_\_ TRIBE OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# TEMPLATE TRIBAL DELEGATE DESIGNATION LETTER

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

## TEMPLATE TRIBAL DELEGATE DESIGNATION LETTER

Dear IAC Chief Executive Officer:

The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Council has designated \_\_\_\_\_ to the Intertribal Agriculture Council as the official Tribal Delegate and \_\_\_\_\_ as the alternate affording all privileges of member representatives.



FOLLOW THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE: [bit.ly/tribal-delegate-template](https://bit.ly/tribal-delegate-template)





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**Please remit payment to:**  
Intertribal Agriculture Council  
Attn: Accounts Receivable  
PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103

**For information on wiring your membership payment,  
please contact:**

Jesirae St. Goddard, Associate Finance Director at:  
[jesirae@indianag.org](mailto:jesirae@indianag.org)

**IAC membership information can be found at:**  
[indianag.org/membership](http://indianag.org/membership)



**BECOME A MEMBER**  
[bit.ly/IAC-member-form](http://bit.ly/IAC-member-form)

Scan the QR code or contact the Member Relations and Board Affairs Manager, Nicole Charley, at [nicole@indianag.org](mailto:nicole@indianag.org) to learn more. We look forward to collaborating with your Tribe.