

indianag.org

*Yakama Nation Farms preparing asparagus in
Toppenish, Washington*



*Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Board Members and
attendees of the 2026 IAC MPPTA Fly-In at Missoula
School Farm, a public high school program, in Missoula,
Montana*

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

2026 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PACKET ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*Youth attendees of the 2025 IAC Great Lakes Regional
Summit at Whirling Thunder Ranch operated by the
Ho-Chunk Nation in Tomah, Wisconsin*



INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103

Dear Tribal Leader,

On behalf of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), I invite your Tribe to join or renew membership for the 2026-2027 membership year.

The IAC is a 501(c)(3) with a general membership composed of federally recognized Tribes. Since its founding in 1987, the IAC has been guided by its member Tribes, advocating for the agricultural interests of Indian Country and advancing agricultural priorities across more than 56 million acres of land under Tribal jurisdiction in the United States.

Membership in the IAC is open to all federally recognized Tribes. A Tribe does not need to currently engage in agricultural production, operate an agricultural enterprise, or maintain an agriculture department to be eligible for membership. The IAC recognizes that Tribes are at varying stages of agricultural development and welcomes all federally recognized Tribes that share an interest in advancing Tribal agriculture, natural resources, food systems, economic development, and stewardship of Tribal lands.

Today, that mission is as critical as ever. Across Indian Country, Tribal leaders and producers continue to navigate complex and evolving challenges—from drought conditions and rising production costs, to barriers in federal program access, infrastructure gaps, and the need for meaningful consultation and coordination with federal agencies. At the same time, there are growing opportunities to strengthen Tribal food systems, expand market access, and advance policies that recognize Tribal sovereignty and self-determination in agriculture.

The importance of coordinated Tribal advocacy, regional engagement, and early input on policy priorities cannot be overstated. Your participation as a General Member ensures that your Tribe's voice is represented in these conversations and helps shape the direction of IAC's work on behalf of Indian Country.

Membership in IAC is more than participation—it is a commitment to collective action. Through your membership, your Tribe contributes to a unified voice advocating for Tribal agriculture at the federal, regional, and local levels, while also gaining access to resources, partnerships, and opportunities that support Tribal producers and communities.

For Tribes seeking a longer-term commitment, IAC also offers a 5-year membership option. This provides continuity in engagement and supports sustained participation in IAC initiatives, advocacy efforts, and planning processes over time.



In addition to elevating Tribal priorities among policymakers, IAC provides direct support to Tribes and producers through technical assistance, market and trade development, natural resource conservation, small agribusiness support, and youth leadership development. We also continue to expand opportunities for engagement through our quarterly Membership Roundtable Series, regional summits, and Annual Conference.

Key Membership Benefits

- Share regional concerns and priorities through IAC's Annual Conference and Regional Caucuses
- Influence federal and regional agricultural policy impacting Tribal lands and producers
- Access technical assistance and resources to strengthen agricultural practices
- Connect and collaborate with Tribal leaders and producers across Indian Country
- Participate in coordinated advocacy efforts to advance Tribal agricultural priorities

IAC Services

- Policy education and advocacy support
- USDA program navigation and technical assistance
- Natural resource conservation support
- Market access and trade development opportunities
- Youth leadership development in agriculture

We deeply value your Tribe's leadership, knowledge, and continued commitment to advancing Tribal agriculture. We encourage you to join us in strengthening this collective effort and ensuring that Tribal voices remain at the forefront of agricultural policy and practice.

If you have any questions about membership, our team is here to support you.

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



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 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 October 1st through September 30th 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 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. Nicole will follow up directly to confirm receipt and next steps.

ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We are pleased to announce that the 2026 IAC Annual Conference will take place December 8–10, 2026, at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas! The Annual Membership Meeting will follow on Thursday, December 10, 2026, 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

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 facilitated 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. *NOTE:* 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.**
- The Board Member or Board Member alternate for your region is responsible for facilitating 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 upcoming Farm Bill will include mandatory funding for 100 FRTEP agents.

CAUCUS MEETING STRUCTURE

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

ROLES SUMMARY

- IAC Board Member Facilitates Meeting
- IAC staff 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 Staff)
- Present IAC accomplishments relevant to caucus issues raised last year

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

- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

ROUND TABLE MEMBER TRIBE DELEGATE DISCUSSION (IAC BOARD MEMBER/IAC STAFF 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/IAC STAFF)

- Clarify notes in support of generating the caucus report

FINAL THOUGHTS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

ADJOURN



TRIBAL RESOLUTION

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 a delegate. 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.



FOLLOW THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE: bit.ly/tribal-resolution-template



TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

_____ TRIBE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: _____

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

WHEREAS, The _____ Tribe is a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe and is recognized by the Secretary of the Interior on the list of federally recognized Indian Tribes, under 25 U.S.C sec 479, 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 ByLaws, 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 national, Native-led nonprofit that was formed in 1987 by order of Congress and tasked with pursuing and promoting the conservation, development, and use of agriculture resources for the betterment of Indian Tribes and Tribal agriculture producers; and

WHEREAS, Since its formation, the Intertribal Agriculture Council has actively supported Native American and Alaskan Native Tribes and individuals across the country through on-the-ground technical assistance and services, and advocacy for improvements in federal and tribal policies that govern the agricultural landscape in which Native American and Alaskan Native Tribes and individuals must operate; and

WHEREAS, The priorities of the Intertribal Agriculture Council are set forth by member Tribes during the General Meeting in December of each year, and

TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

TEMPLATE TRIBAL RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

_____ TRIBE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: _____

WHEREAS, It is essential to the agricultural development of the _____ Reservation that the _____ Tribe proceed with membership of the Intertribal Agriculture Council to join with other member Tribes in guiding the organization's annual priorities, now

THEREFORE 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 membership dues in either the amount of \$200.00 annually or \$1,000.00 for a five-year membership term, for the Intertribal Agriculture Council membership year of October 1 through September 30, with dues to be paid no later than August 31 of the applicable membership year in order to maintain membership in good standing,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ Tribal Council hereby appoints _____ as official delegate for the _____ Tribe to the Intertribal Agriculture Council with all privileges afforded member representatives in good standing.

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 affording all privileges of member representatives.



FOLLOW THE LINK TO DOWNLOAD THE TEMPLATE: bit.ly/tribal-delegate-template





indianag.org

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:**
Tanisha Swanson, Finance Specialist at
tanisha@indianag.org

IAC membership information can be found at:
indianag.org/membership



Scan the QR code or contact the Member Relations and Board Affairs Manager, Nicole Charley, at nicole@indianag.org to learn more.

BECOME A MEMBER
bit.ly/IAC-member-form

We look forward to collaborating with your Tribe.