



PAA News and Updates

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA)

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PAA Website: paausa.org

2026 PAA Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Photographic Alliance of America (PAA) was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada, during the PSA annual Photo Festival. The meeting was called to order by PAA President, **Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP, HonFPAA**, who welcomed everyone to PAA's ninth Annual Meeting!

Joanne presented a PowerPoint program describing PAA and FIAP. The three locations for PAA information were identified, and the PAA Executive Committee and the PAA Service Directors were introduced.

Joanne reported to the members PAA's activity during 2025-2026. This review included: a description of the publication in the FIAP News of Mini-Recommendations of photo opportunities in the USA written by PAA members with the articles shown; the PAA Student Members who were published in the FIAP News Youth Gallery; and the article about the 2025 PAA Annual Meeting that was in the FIAP News. PAA's participation in the FIAP Photo Academy programs was described. PAA's Third Place in the 2025 FIAP Youth Biennial was recognized when Joanne Stolte presented **Signe Emmerich, HonPSA, EPSA**, Director of the PAA Youth Biennial Entry, with a FIAP 2024-25 FIAP Biennial Book and Riccardo Busi, FIAP President, presented Signe and Joanne with a FIAP Silver Medal for Third Place. The new PAA website Youth Programs webpage was shared and the August 2025 webinar presented by Joanne was reviewed with the link to view this webinar.

The 2026 PAA Honors were awarded by **Lisa Schnelzer, APSA, EPSA, EFIAP, PFIAP**, PAA Honors Director. **Angela Poggioni, APSA, GMPSA/P, EFIAP/d1, PFIAP**; **Lisa Schnelzer, Larry Tho Dao, PPSA, EFIAP/g, PFIAP**, received the SSPAA for Significant Service to PPA. **John Andrew Hughes, FPSA, PPSA, EFIAP**; **Elena McTighe, HonFPSA, MPSA, ESFIAP**; and **Sharon Prislipsky, APSA, EPSA, AFIAP**, received the RSPAA for Relevant Service to PAA. The XSPAA for Exemplary Service to PAA was awarded to **Michael Jack, APSA, PPSA, AFIAP, PFIAP**, and **JR Schnelzer, HonPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP/b, PFIAP, ESFIAP**.

Honorary PAA recognition for Advisory Service to PAA by non-PAA members, the HonAPAA, was awarded to **Jef Lemmons, APSA, GMPSA/S, SPSA, EFIAP/d3**, of Leuven, Belgium, who was in attendance via Zoom.

The new PAA Service Award to recognize PAA members who provide considerable, meaningful

service to PAA, but have had no cause to obtain a FIAP Life Card was introduced. **Signe Emmerich** received a PAA Service Award for providing outstanding service to PAA directing the image selection and entry submission to the FIAP Youth Biennial. **Donna Paul** received a PAA Service Award for providing outstanding, substantial service to PAA in the creation, development, and maintenance of the PAA website. Donna attended via Zoom.

The 2026 PAA Distinctions were presented by JR Schnelzer, PAA Distinctions Director. **Rowshan Akhter, GMPSA, SPSA, EFIAP/d1, PFIAP**; **Nan Carder, HonPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP/p, PFIAP**; **Bob Chiu, GMPSA/P, GPSA, EFIAP/d1, PFIAP**; **Larry Tho Dao, Donald DeDonato, GMPSA/S, SPSA, EFIAP/g, PFIAP**; **Jie Fisher, GMPSA/B, BPSA, EFIAP/g, PFIAP**; **Angela Poggioni**; **Gary Potts, FPSA, GMPSA/B, SPSA, EFIAP/p, PFIAP**; **Lillian Roberts, APSA, GMPSA/G, EFIAP/G, PFIAP**; **Mohammad Ali Saim, APSA, GMPSA, GPSA, MFIAP, EFIAP/d4, ESFIAP**; **JR Schnelzer**; **Inge Vautrin, EPSA, EFIAP/s**; **Jiahong Zeng, GMPSA, BPSA, EFIAP/s, PFIAP**.

The FIAP Honors program was revised this past year and someone judging 30 FIAP Patronage salons is now recognized with the ESFIAP (Excellence for Services Rendered). Riccardo Bussi presented Mohammad Ali Salim with the ESFIAP.

The tremendous improvement this year in access to your FIAP acceptance records was reviewed. The steps for persons with a FIAP account to login and click on "My Salon Participations" where all information regarding acceptances in FIAP Patronage salons can be found were reviewed and sample webpages were shared.

The increase in FIAP Patronage in salons held in the USA was described and graphs showing steady growth were shown. The S4C Pictorial Circuit, closing April 2026, with PSA Recognition and FIAP Patronage experienced a **234% increase in net profit** from the previous year with only PSA Recognition and was shared to encourage other USA salons to have both PSA Recognition and FIAP Patronage.

Announcements were made regarding activities to **celebrate PAA's Tenth Anniversary September 2026 to October 2027**, and the anniversary logo was displayed.

PAA participation in the new FIAP Portfolio Distinction was reviewed. FIAP Portfolio Distinctions awarded in January and May totaled 25 for the USA, and Turkey and the United Kingdom had the next number with 17 each.

An analysis of the 2026 PAA FIAP Distinction applications and graphic comparisons with the applications from previous years was presented. There was steady growth in all FIAP Distinctions received by PAA members.

The presentation of the thirty-six 2026 PAA FIAP Distinctions was next, and twenty-five recipients were present to receive their certificate in person from Riccardo Busi, FIAP President, and David Tay, FIAP Vice President. Before each Distinction the requirements for applying for that Distinction were delineated.

Significantly PAA had one person earn the new introductory NFIAP distinction and two persons earned the new EFIAP/d4.

Next the 2026 FIAP Portfolio Distinctions to date were presented. Of the twenty-five FIAP Portfolio Distinctions earned by PAA members, sixteen members were present to receive their certificate in person from Riccardo Busi, FIAP President, and David Tay, FIAP Vice President. After the meeting concluded some group photos were taken.



PAA Executive Committee. Photo by Taraknath Day, APSA, GMPSA/B



Signe Emmerich receiving PAA 2024-25 FIAP Biennial Book from PAA President. Photo by Taraknath Day, APSA, GMPSA/B



Riccardo Busi presenting FIAP Youth Biennial Silver Medal to Signe Emmerich and Joanne Stolte. Photo by Gary Taylor, APSA



Signe Emmerich receiving a PAA Service Award from Joanne Stolte. Photo by Gary Taylor, APSA



Riccardo Busi presenting ESFIAP to Mohammad Ali Salim. Photo by Gary Taylor, APSA



Riccardo Busi presenting NFIAP to Gulshan Nandinee Salim. Photo by Gary Taylor, APSA



Riccardo Busi and David Tay presenting EFIAP/d4 to Larry Cowles. Photo by Gary Taylor, APSA



David Tay and Riccardo Busi presenting EFIAP/d4 to Mohammad Ali Salim. Photo by Gary Taylor, APSA