



PAA News and Updates

Photographic Alliance of America (PAA)

By Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP

President, Photographic Alliance of America • FIAP Liaison Officer for the United States of America

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Photographic Alliance of America (PAA) was held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, during the annual Photo Festival of the Photographic Society of America Worldwide (PSA). The meeting was called to order by PAA President, **Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP, HonFPAA**, who welcomed everyone to PAA's eighth Annual Meeting!

Joanne presented a PowerPoint program describing PAA and the PAA services available for individual PSA members in the USA. The PAA Executive Committee members and the PAA Service Directors were introduced and, while the three locations for PAA information were identified, the **new PAA Web Site was introduced: paausa.org**.

Joanne reported to the members PAA's activity during 2024-2025. 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 participation in the FIAP Photo Academy programs by USA photographers; PAA's participation in the 2024 FIAP Congress in India; PAA's participation in the 2025 FIAP Youth Biennial using award images from the PSA Youth Showcase (**added recognition for USA youth participants**); and a review of the seven PSA Annual Exhibitions that received PAA and FIAP Patronage with an analysis of the significant increased net profit.

The 2025 PAA Honors were awarded. **Larry Cowles, HonPSA, GMPSA/P, EFIAP/d3**; **John Andrew Hughes, FPSA, PPSA, AFIAP**; **Elena McTighe, HonFPSA, MPSA, ESFIAP**; and **Sharon Prislipsky, APSA, EPSA, AFIAP**, received the SSPAA for Significant Service to PPA. **Michael Jack, QPSA, AFIAP, SSPAA**; and **JR Schnelzer, FPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP, SSPAA**, received the RSPAA for Relevant Service to PAA. **Nan Carder, HonPSA, GMPSA, EFIAP/p, RSPAA**, received the XSPAA for Exemplary Service to PAA.

Honorary PAA recognition for Advisory Service to PAA by non-PAA members, the HonAPAA, was awarded to **David Laronde, APSA, MPSA, SPSA, EFIAP/d3**, of North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and **Buket Ozatay, APSA, EPSA, EFIAP/d2**, of Nicosia, Cyprus.

An analysis of the 2025 PAA FIAP Distinction applications and comparisons with the applications from previous years was presented.

The presentation of the 2025 PAA FIAP Distinctions was next. Before each Distinction, e.g., AFIAP, EFIAP, and ESFIAP Levels, the requirements for applying for that Distinction were delineated. Following the requirements, each recipient was introduced with their name, city and state, and headshot; followed by each of the images they included with their application; and ending with their introductory slide that now included their FIAP Distinction certificate. Those attending the meeting were formally presented with their certificate by Joanne Stolte, HonFPSA, MPSA, EFIAP, ESFIAP, HonFPAA, FIAP Liaison Officer for the USA; and their photo was taken.

A review of the 2026 FIAP Distinction registration and application process, including a description of the required Word document with thumbnails and titles for all images included with FIAP Distinction applications submitted by that person concluded the meeting. PAA 2026 FIAP Distinction Registration opens November 1, 2025.



PAA Executive Committee. Photo by Lewis Choi.



PAA President Leading the 2025 Annual Meeting. Photo by Lewis Choi.



John Andrew Hughes Receives SSPAA. Photo by Lewis Choi.



Sharon Prislipsky Receives SSPAA. Photo by Lewis Choi.



Michael Jack Receives RSPAA. Photo by Lewis Choi.



JR Schnelzer Receives RSPAA. Photo by Lewis Choi.



Buket Ozatay Receives HonAPAA. Photo by Lewis Choi.



Fred Doerfler Receives AFIAP. Photo by Lewis Choi.



Don DeDonato Receives EFIAP/s. Photo by Lewis Choi.



Lillian Roberts Receives EFIAP/s. Photo by Lewis Choi.