



February 14, 2020

Dear IBA Member,

With 2020 well under way, we have a few announcements on IBA business of the new year.

Transition News: Meet Christopher Kelley, our Executive Director. As of January 2020, we met the projected date to hire an Executive Director who started on January 1, 2020: Christopher Kelley. Chris has 32 years of professional experience in the not-for-profit sector, all in senior management and ED/CEO positions with numerous employers, half of those years representing organizations whose mission was to protect and conserve wildlife and the environment. These include the National Audubon Society, the Greater Farallones Association and the current, part-time Executive Director of Conservation Earth/Wildmind Science. In addition to his work in conservation, Chris has worked in international development, healthcare, and social service sectors and has provided capacity building, fundraising, volunteer management, marketing, and strategic planning services to local, national and international organizations. IBA is a perfect fit for Chris's skills, interests, and passion for wildlife conservation. Chris is married (22 years), has two boys, aged 10 and 14, and resides in San Anselmo, CA, about 15 miles north of San Francisco. He is excited to be a part of IBA and wishes to thank the IBA membership for its dedication to such a vital organization.

These first several months, Chris is diving into getting to know IBA, working to develop a foundation for short-term and long-term fundraising. These funds will help to grow IBA's grant programs and develop more member capacity building programs. He is working closely with Julia Bevins, Chair of the IBA Bear Conservation Fund, members of Council, and IBA's Director of Transition, Jennapher Teunissen van Manen. Chris will attend the IBA Kalispell, Montanan, USA conference and we encourage all members at the conference to introduce yourself to Chris.

New Council Member Appointed: As a remedy for underrepresentation on the Council of either species or region, the bylaws provide for Council to appoint up to two additional voting members, one during each election cycle. This is found in Article III. Organization Section 2.

Russia has the largest population of bears in the world and IBA Council recognizes the importance of having a representative on Council from Russia. In the past, IBA has tried to increase participation from Russia, but not always successfully. IBA Council recognized the opportunity with a candidate recently running in the last election for Council and voted to appoint [Konstantin Tirronen](#) to the 2020 Council term. Konstantin is an enthusiastic professional working with the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Welcome, Konstantin!

Conference Update: Early registration is now open for the IBA 27th conference in Kalispell, Montana, USA. Those registering early for the full conference will receive a Patagonia conference fleece. Conference dates are 21 September – 25 September 2020. Abstracts are currently under review and authors will be notified as soon as possible.

We will send out information to all members when the application for travel grants open. The conference organizers will provide travel grants to attendees from the Americas and IBA will provide travel grants to attendees from all other regions. Please make sure you apply to the appropriate source for your travel grant.

If you will need a letter of invitation for VISA applications or work requirements, IBA will provide the letters. You can contact Jennapher Teunissen van Manen for the letter. We hope to see you at the conference!

All the best, IBA Communications Team,

[*Agnieszka Sergiel, Councilor and Communications Team Co-Chair*](#)

[*Alexander Kopatz, Secretary and Communications Team Co-Chair*](#)

[*Andreas Zedrosser, Past-President*](#)

[*Jennapher Teunissen van Manen, Director of Transition*](#)

Council Motions Voted and Passed Since November 2019 Update to Members

- **69-2019:** The IBA Executive Director position will be set as an achievement-based position with a minimum of 25 hours/week with a review at the required six-month period probationary period by Montana employment law.
Result: 9 Votes in the affirmative, 2 Votes in the negative, 1 Council Member Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **70-2019:** IBA writes a position statement on the current Forest Service's DEIS for removal of the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest (Alaska, USA) and the consequent logging that would ensue, delivering the science on potential impacts of proposed logging, likely large scale industrial timber extraction and how that will affect a huge population of North American black and brown bears which inhabit the bear-rich habitat of Southeast Alaska.
Result: 10 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 2 Council Members Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **71-2019:** the position of Jennapher Teunissen van Manen as Director of Transition be extended until June 30, 2020.
Result: 9 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 3 Council Members Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.
- **72-2019:** IBA Council approves submitting comments to the current US Forest Service's DEIS for removal of the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest (Alaska, USA), as articulated in the draft comment letter circulated to Council on December 3, 2019, pending the incorporation of Council's final suggestions for improvements to that letter. Due to the imminent deadline for submitting comment letters to the US Forest Service, Council grants IBA President the authority to approve and sign the final draft of that letter, including final edits, to the US Forest Service on

behalf of IBA and prior to the December 17, 2019, deadline.

Result: 11 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 1 Council Member Not Voting, Motion is Adopted.

- **73-2020:** Increase hourly rate by 8.64% for Ursus Technical Editor to account for inflation and cost of living increase since 2013.
Result: 8 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 3 Council Members Not Voting. The motion is Adopted.
- **74-2020:** Konstantin Tirronen is appointed as voting member to IBA Council for the term beginning as soon as the vote is finalized until January 9, 2023, in the interest of achieving better regional representation and more knowledgeable input for international concerns of bear conservation.
Result: 12 Votes in the affirmative, 0 Votes in the negative, 1 Council Members not voting. The motion is Adopted.

[Visit the IBA website](#) for more information on your elected council members and how to contact them if you have questions or suggestions.

You currently have a <<Membership Description>> membership with IBA which is current until: <<Membership Due Date>>. If you have any questions about your IBA membership, [contact Jennapher Teunissen van Manen](#). You can [renew your membership online here](#).
