

# Are You Ready to Join IABC's International Executive Board?



Apply now for the 2026-2027 IABC International Executive Board (IEB) or Region Vice Chairs. Beginning in January, we welcome applications from senior business leaders worldwide who are ready to serve our international community at the highest level.

## What is the role of the IEB and Region Vice Chairs?

- To develop the strategic plan and guide the direction for the association
- To actively pursue the association's purpose
- To determine and uphold policy within limits of the law, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation
- To uphold the IABC Code of Ethics for communication professionals
- To supervise disbursement of the association's funds
- To serve as the Board of Trustees for the IABC Foundation\*

\*International Executive Board only

## Vacancies on the 2026-2027 IEB include these positions:

- **Vice Chair** with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair (three-year term)
- **Secretary/Treasurer** (two-year term)
- **Director at Large** (three-year term)
- **Region Vice Chairs** (three-year term)

Visit [www.iabc.com](https://www.iabc.com) to learn more about the IEB open call and submit your application today – nominations are open through 15 February 2026.

## Who We Are Looking For:

IABC is committed to operating as a diverse and inclusive organization, including appointing a diverse board who together collate a range of perspectives, wisdom and abilities to enable the association to achieve its strategic goals.

We are seeking candidates who demonstrate:

- Senior leadership experience
- Belief in IABC's vision and purpose and embodiment of IABC shared values
- Global experience and understanding of trends impacting the communication profession
- The business acumen required to fulfill the board's fiduciary duties and organizational oversight. This includes strategic business thinking, management and business oversight experience, deep expertise in the communications profession, and risk management

**To be eligible to serve, you also must be an IABC member in good standing.**

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# Board Candidate Briefing

International Executive Board & Region Vice Chair

International Association of Business Communicators



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in serving on the board of directors for the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

IABC is setting the global standard for the communications profession with a vision for professional communications at the heart of every organization. As an organization, our higher purpose is to be a leader and a conduit for utilizing the power of communication to deepen understanding, inspire action, and transform our worlds.

This Board Candidate Pack outlines the expectations for serving on the IABC International Executive Board (IEB), along with the timeline for the nomination process. Please study it carefully and don't hesitate to reach out to [Leader\\_Centre@iabc.com](mailto:Leader_Centre@iabc.com) if you have questions.

IABC is at a strategic turning point with exciting changes and opportunities in the coming years. As a member of the IABC global board, we will be looking to you to help us move this plan forward through your expertise, networks and resources.

Thank you for your leadership in our industry and considering contributing your time and talents to advance IABC and our purpose at the highest level.

Kamyar Naficy

Immediate Past Chair, International Executive Board

Chair, IABC Nominating Committee

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## About the IABC International Executive Board

The International Executive Board (IEB) is the global governing body and fiduciary of IABC. It is accountable to the members and has supervision, control and direction of the affairs of the association. It actively pursues the association's purpose and determines its policy within the limits of the law, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation. It upholds the IABC Code of Ethics for professional communicators and supervises disbursement of the association's funds. The IEB develops the strategic plan and direction for the association under the guidance of the association Bylaws approved by the IABC membership. In addition, the IEB serves as the Board of Trustees for the [IABC Foundation](#).

### Our Vision

Professional communications at the heart of every organization.

### Our Purpose

Use the power of communication to deepen understanding, inspire action and transform our worlds.

### Our Philosophy

We pledge to:

- Represent the global profession
- Foster a diverse community
- Focus on insights and results
- Honor our Code of Ethics

We will achieve this by being open, contemporary and professional.

### Why Serve?

Volunteer leadership can be an exceptionally rewarding experience both professionally and personally. As IEB members, you donate your time, expertise and energy to shaping the future of IABC's impact on the global profession.

The opportunity to serve offers you:

- Opportunity to help set the course for the association.
- Visibility within a global community as a leader advancing change and driving impact.
- Expansion of your personal network and ability to grow your reputation.
- Experience as a fiduciary of a global association board to enhance your resume.
- Opportunity to give back to the profession.

### IABC Regions

- Africa
- Asia Pacific
- Canada East
- Canada West
- Europe and Middle East
- United States

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## Board Responsibilities

### As the governing body of IABC, the board is responsible for:

- Setting the strategic intent, vision, and purpose of the association
- Selecting and evaluating the performance of the Executive Director
- Strategic planning and organizational oversight
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Approving and monitoring the organization's programs and services
- Managing organizational risk and upholding the public trust
- Assessing its own performance as the governance body of the organization

## Regional Board Responsibilities

### As the governing body of an IABC Region, the board's responsibilities include:

- Executing the strategic intent, vision, and purpose of the association
- Strategic planning for the region
- Organizational oversight for the region, including the chapters and communities within the region
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management for the region, including the chapters and communities within the region
- Approving and monitoring the region's programs and services
- Managing organizational risk and upholding the public trust
- Assessing its performance as the governing body of the region

### Board members are expected to:

- Know the organization's vision, policies, programs and needs.
- Faithfully read and understand the organization's financial statements.
- Serve as active advocates and ambassadors for the organization and fully engage in identifying and securing financial resources, such as the sponsorship and partnership potential needed to achieve outcomes.
- Prepare for, attend, and conscientiously participate in board meetings.
- Act as liaison to one or more standing board and/or programmatic committees at the chair's direction.

### Duty of Care

Board directors must give the same care and concern to the International Executive Board as any prudent and ordinary person should. Board members should actively participate in meetings and on committees and actively work with other IEB members to advance the mission and goals of the association. Board directors should be able to read and understand financial reports and be willing to question expenditures and examine variances.

### Duty of Loyalty

Board directors must place the interests of the organization ahead of their own interests at all times. Duty of loyalty means publicly disclosing any conflicts of interests and not using board service as a means for personal or commercial gain.

### Duty of Obedience

Board directors must make sure that IABC is abiding by laws and regulations and does not engage in illegal or unauthorized activities.

[Learn more about Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty, and Duty of Obedience here.](#)

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# Are You Ready to Lead IABC?

## Who Should Apply

### Eligibility to serve on IABC International Executive Board

**To be eligible for service on the IABC International Executive Board (IEB), the applicant must:**

1. Be a current IABC member in good standing.
2. Have prior fiduciary board experience on a non-IABC board. (\*IEB requirement)
3. Have no conflict of interest (May not serve concurrently on a competitive industry board or have another IABC commitment unless service term will end in time for the new IEB board year in June 2026.)
4. Complete all application requirements by the 15 February 2026 deadline.

**Candidates not meeting the above eligibility criteria will not move forward for consideration.**

## Who We Are Looking For



IABC is committed to [diversity and inclusion](#). Our ultimate goal is to achieve a diverse mix of board members who together provide a range of perspectives, wisdom and abilities to steward the global association and accomplish its strategic purpose.

IABC looks for candidates who are strategic thinkers and demonstrate:

- Proven leadership ability.
- Belief in IABC's vision and purpose to serve the profession.
- Embodiment of IABC shared values.
- Global experience and understanding of trends impacting the industry.
- A range of business acumen essential to fiduciary duties and organizational oversight, including strategic planning, financial and business acumen, risk management, and more.

*Position selections are competency-based. The [Nominating Committee](#) screens candidates against the established competencies using a rubric. The rubric ensures a consistent and fair process of evaluation of available candidates. A specific score is not required for selection. Consideration is also given to geography, demographic, and cultural diversity.*

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## IEB Commitments | Time and Out-of-Pocket Expenses

The board will meet monthly and additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. The video-conference meetings average 90 minutes. Typically board members meet in person for 1 or 2 days at the IABC World Conference in June. In addition, members of the board are assigned to serve as a board liaison to a committee or task force. These teams usually meet monthly for 60-minute video-conference calls and will require additional responsibility.

All board and committee calls require preparation time, follow-up, and various action items as assigned.

Executive Committee members (chair, vice chair, past chair, secretary/treasurer, and one appointed IEB director) convene via video calls in the months when the board does not meet.

Generally, the IEB has an in-person meetings each term – usually in advance of the World Conference. If funds are available, IABC provides some level of support for board travel, however, a board member should expect some out-of-pocket expenses that could average \$1,000 USD per year.

## Region Chair Commitments | Time and Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Regional boards typically will meet monthly and additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. Meetings are primarily virtual. However, some meetings may be in-person or be hybrid. A regional board member may need to pay for any needed travel and expenses for in-person meetings.

Board calls require preparation time, follow-up, and various action items as assigned.

Upon completion of the application, you will be asked to accept the following statement:

**I realize that service in a leadership role involves a financial and time commitment. I realize that serving on a regional board may require out-of-pocket expenses and that attendance at board meetings and other IABC business meetings is expected throughout the term of office.**

### Average time commitment per month on IEB:

- Chair: 40-50 hours
- Vice Chair: 40 hours
- Past Chair: 30 hours
- Secretary/Treasurer: 15-20 hours
- Director at Large: 5-10 hours

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# How to Apply

## Your Application to the IEB

Please fill out the [online application form](#). Applicants may be contacted by the Nominating Committee for an interview via video or telephone call.

**Deadline: Sunday, 15 February 2026 at 11:59 p.m. CT**

## Board Leadership Roles

**Click on the role below for a description of each:**

- [Chair](#) (one-year term)
- [Vice Chair](#) (one- year term – 3-year commitment serving as chair, vice chair and past chair)
- [Past Chair](#) (one-year term)
- [Director at Large](#) (three-year term)

## Vacancies on the 2026-2027 IEB include:

- **Vice Chair** with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair (three-year term)
- **Secretary/Treasurer** (two-year term)
- **Director at Large** (three-year term)

## Applying for Regional Vice Chair

Please fill out the [online application form](#). Applicants may be contacted by the Nominating Committee for an interview via video or telephone call.

Please address any questions about how to apply to [leader\\_centre@iabbc.com](mailto:leader_centre@iabbc.com).

Regional Vice Chairs go through a three-year\* progression:

- **Year 1** as Regional Vice Chair and as member of the International Membership Committee
- **Year 2** as Regional Chair and as a member of the International Nominating Committee
- **Year 3** as Regional Past Chair, a Director on the International Executive Board, and a member of the International Committee Nominations Committee

\*Please note that the IABC Africa Regional candidate will serve two years in each role above for a six-year commitment.



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# Application Process and Targeted Timeline

- Closing date for application ..... 15 February 2026
- Peer evaluation process ..... 17 - 23 February 2026
- Candidate Interviews ..... 2 March - 13 March 2026
- Nominating Committee selection meeting ..... 18 March 2026
- Final appointment and approval by the full IEB ..... 2 April 2026
- Outreach to all candidates ..... 6 - 10 April 2026
- Ratification of IEB Slate during Annual General Meeting .... June 2026

