

IACA VP of Membership Campaign Statement & Bio 2025

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Thank you for your time and I look forward to the opportunity to represent you all as the Vice President of Membership in the upcoming election.

Data-informed and evidence-based policing strategies are at the core of everything we do as analysts, and that is also how I approach duties as a member and volunteer with IACA. This is the mindset I use when asking questions about how best to serve IACA and how I have developed my four main initiatives for how I would like to see the VP of Membership and the Executive Board continue to develop and thrive. Those initiatives include:

- Creating more opportunities for members to be involved and volunteer
- Enhancing our academic partnerships
- Continuing to lobby for the position of Crime Analyst in jurisdictions where they do not currently exist
- Increasing non-U.S. representation among IACA Committees

I have been fortunate enough to be a part of the Mentorship Committee as well as the Ethics and Elections Working Group in the past year. Positions on these groups can be competitive due to the amount of interest the membership has shown when there are open calls for volunteers. I would like to leverage this willingness of the membership to create more opportunities to be involved. There are a variety of ways to go about this, from expanding the Executive Board, adding more Chairs, to expanding or establish new Committees. I don't believe in creating new positions for the sake of adding more bodies, but I do believe in empowering those with ideas to run with them. We know too well that we have relatively low turnout for voting in elections, so I think we need to make sure and include those who have expressed interest in serving the Association.

The increase in membership IACA has experienced since the onset of the pandemic (from a low of around 4,000 members, to now over 7,000) is commendable and reflective of both the growth of our field as well as the effectiveness of the Membership Committee. Continuing great customer service should be the top priority of the Membership Committee. A majority of our membership comes from law enforcement agencies, which will continue to be our main focus, but I would like to make additional efforts to incorporate more academics to join our ranks. Although many of our agencies are well equipped to conduct studies and implement evidence-based practices, some of the most impactful work in our field comes about when we collaborate with our partners in academia. I would like to explore ways to accomplish this, ranging from the potential creation of a Research Committee to assist in connecting departments with academics, to enhancing communication between researchers and agencies in targeted forums or formal outreach.

I think we can all agree that agencies with analysts see an immediate benefit in efficiency of processes, enhancement of investigations, and as the de-facto 'brain trust' of the department. In addition to targeted outreach to academia I would like to focus on campaigning for the creation of crime analyst positions in jurisdictions that do not have them. IACA leadership attends and participates in other conferences, such as the IACP, but I believe we need to find additional ways to lobby for the creation of new analyst positions. To better advocate on behalf of analysts to decision makers I have been working with several other members on an international survey which will be coming out within the next year. One of the intentions is to be able to use the results as a tool to share with the industry a 'census' of crime analysts. This will aid in providing data-driven facts about analysts based on type and geography, as well as providing specific insights into the benefits of IACA membership. This is just one way to be more targeted in our approach, and I will be looking for additional innovative strategies to make it clear that analysts are not just a necessary part of any organization fighting crime but should be involved in decision-making at the leadership level.

I feel strongly about having representation from as many countries as possible at the committee level, so would look to include additional Membership Committee members from non-U.S. countries. The creation of a chair of International Development in recent years has been a great start, so I would also like to solidify this position more fully and work closely with them to understand the needs of the international community and how we can best serve them. At minimum, a non-U.S. member should be actively involved and working with the Executive Board and the Committees, so I would like to field more ideas from the international members themselves to see how best to incorporate them into ongoing decisions and the direction of the Association.

Having gone to the national conference several times over the past several years as a speaker and attendee and spoken at my regional conference (NORCAN) this past summer, I have had the pleasure of speaking with a wide range of analysts and researchers. At the end of the day, the main reasons why individuals are members of IACA are to continue to develop their skills and coordinate and collaborate with other analysts. I believe these things should be at the forefront of any and all decisions by the Executive Board, and how I intend to operate. I also believe in the spirit of open and respectful debate. There are always going to be discussions about the best direction of IACA, and there will continue to be disagreements. Debate is a necessary and healthy way to come to the best conclusions, which should incorporate compromise. Something I found when working with the IACA Working Group this summer is that there was a wide range of opinions, many very strongly held, but we were able to provide concise and targeted recommendations through a democratic process. That is also how I will approach this leadership role; with spirited debate, with respect, and with the best interests of the membership from an evidence-based lens. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the upcoming months and years.

Professional Bio:

- Crime Data Analyst, Portland Police Bureau, 8 years
- IACA Mentorship Committee member
- IACA Ethics and Elections Working Group member (2025)
- Previous Analyst positions at National Insurance Crime Bureau, FNMA, Charles Schwab Financial, and AIG
- Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, Marymount University
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting & Business Administration, Washington & Lee University