



OCIA

INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 11-12 , 2025

Holiday Inn & Suites at Ameristar

Council Bluffs, Iowa





OCIA INTERNATIONAL

5910 S. 58th Ste. B • Lincoln, NE • 68516
(402) 477-2323 • ocia.org • info@ocia.org

2025 Annual General Membership Meeting Notification

In accordance with Article 6.1 of the OCIA International Bylaws, OCIA International will convene the 2025 Annual General Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites at Ameristar in Council Bluffs, Iowa, February 11th-12th, 2025.

General information, a preliminary meeting agenda, proposed bylaw changes, official voting proxy forms and a Board of Director nomination form will be a part of the AGMM packet and distributed to members mid-December 2024.

If you are unable to attend this important event, please contact a delegate who will be attending and assign your proxy voting rights with clear instructions on your voting intentions as stated in the OCIA International Bylaws, Article 7.5.

7.5 PROXIES: Every member holding voting rights shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of OCIA International by proxy. This proxy must be assigned to a specific member (Chapter, Community Grower Group, Processor/Handler, or Producer At Large) or his/her delegate. No one is allowed to hold the proxied voting rights of more than two other members. A voting member (Chapter, Community Grower Group, Processor/Handler, or Producer At Large) may hold a maximum of two (2) proxies, plus their own vote. All proxies shall be in writing and signed and dated. Proxies are validated by the Election Committee for one meeting only.

7.5.1 Proxy Assignment: To establish quorum, proxy forms shall be mailed 45 days prior to AGMM. Members are encouraged to delegate proxies with specific voting instructions. All proxied voting rights not specifically registered with the Secretary or assigned prior to the call of the AGMM shall revert to the Election Committee solely for establishment of quorum.

The proxy form is to be completed and sent to the OCIA International office.

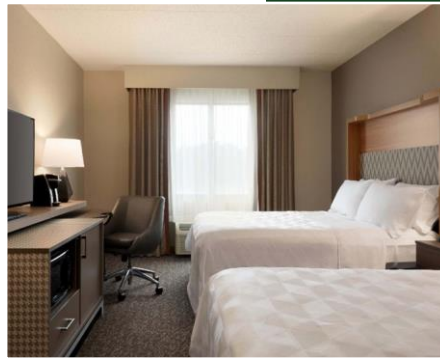
Sincerely,

Carolyn Lane
Secretary

OCIA International, Inc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

General Information



Hotel + Airport Information

DATE: February 11-12, 2025

LOCATION: Holiday Inn & Suites at Ameristar
2202 River Road
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

PHONE: 1-712-322-5050

GROUP NAME: Organic Crop Improvement
Association

\$107 USD/night

Room rate and availability cannot be guaranteed after Monday, January 20, 2025.

Airport shuttle from OMA available. Call hotel when flight arrives. Free on-site parking.

Registration

Registration for the Annual Membership Meeting is now open. Please mail in the registration form (located at the back of this packet) to reserve your seat.

Please Note: Accommodations at the Holiday Inn and Suites at Ameristar must be reserved.

OCIA International kindly requests all registrations be submitted by February 3, 2025.

Cost of attendance: \$100

Registrations received after February 3 will be subject to a \$50 late fee per attendee.

Registration Form

Complete the below registration form, and then mail with payment to OCIA International's Lincoln, NE office.

Main Contact Name: _____

Membership Type Direct Associate Chapter Supporting

Contact Mailing Address: _____

Town/City: _____ **State/Province:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Below, record the name and information of all attendees. If membership fee has been paid, any/all attendees listed below will have the right to use voting paddles during the general membership meeting.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Dietary Restrictions: 100% of food served will be organic. If you require a special meal, please check below:

- Gluten Free
- Vegan
- Other: _____

Registration fee for Annual General Membership Meeting (includes all meals, breaks, speakers, tours):

Number of attendees _____ X fee (\$100 before Feb. 3; \$150 after Feb. 3) _____ = _____

Make checks payable to OCIA International, and send to:

OCIA International
Attn: Deana McKinstry
5910 S. 58th Ste. B
Lincoln, NE 68516

AGENDA

TUESDAY, February 11

OCIA Board Meeting & Registration

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	International Board of Directors Meeting	Abraham Lincoln
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Registration	Outside Lewis & Clark

WEDNESDAY, February 12

OCIA AGMM General Session

8:30 AM	Registration	Outside of Lewis & Clark
9:00AM - 10:00AM	Welcome & Call AGMM to Order Establishment of Quorum/Election Committee Explanation of Minute Keeping Process & Referee Duties Approval of Minute Keeping Process Selection of Referees for Minutes (2) Approval of Recording the Meeting Approval of Proposed Agenda Approval of 2024 AGMM Minutes Election of 2025 Election Committee Reports: President, ED, Secretary, Treasurer, IRC, External & Internal Committees	
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Presentation of the 2025 Budget / 2025 Fee Schedule Budget Discussion & Approval Presentation of Board of Candidates, Ballot Explanation/Election	
11:00 AM - 11:20 AM	Break	
11:20 AM - 12:30 PM	R&E Presentation: Micro Grant & Scholarship Recipients, Farmer of the Year, R&E Budget, Visit R&E Auction	
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch	Kanesville
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Presentation of Bylaws/Standards Changes	Lewis & Clark
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	AGMM Policy Amendments & 2025 Policy Session Unfinished Business Announcements of New Board Members Adjournment of 2025 AGMM	
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	International Board Meeting/Election of Officers	
5:30 PM	Cash Bar Opens	Kanesville
6:00 PM	AGMM Closing Banquet/OCIA Auction	



OCIA INTERNATIONAL

Voting by Proxy

This proxy form is only valid for the 2025 Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM). Only a designated delegate of a member (Chapter, Processor/Handler, Producer-at-Large, Community Grower Group, General Member) may hold a proxy. A voting member (Chapter, Processor/Handler, Producer-at-Large, Community Grower Group, General Member) may hold a maximum of two (2) proxies, plus their own vote. (See OCIA Bylaw 7.5.) All proxy forms must be signed and dated by 1) the person assigning proxy rights and 2) the delegate receiving proxy rights.

You are encouraged to provide designated proxy holders with instructions on how you want to vote. Proxied voting rights must be registered prior to the Call to Order of the AGMM. (See Bylaw 7.5.1.) You may register your proxy by faxing a copy of the signed and dated proxy to the International office. To assist the Election Committee in assuring the establishment of a quorum so that transaction of AGMM business may begin on schedule, please register your proxy by January 18th, 2025. Bring the signed proxy form with you to the AGMM. If submitting proxy form by fax or scanned e-mail, the transmitted document must bear a header line indicating the date of transmission. The proxy assignor and the delegate receiving proxy should retain copies of the signed proxy form. However, if, for some reason, you do not wish your proxy voted, you may designate the Election Committee as your designated proxy holder and your vote will then be used solely for establishment of quorum.

Please note the record date for determining members entitled to vote shall be thirty days before the start of the Annual General Membership Meeting (See OCIA Bylaw 7.1). To participate as a member in the 2025 AGMM, dues must be paid by January 1st, 2025.

Please PRINT the following information completely and legibly.

I, _____ of _____, _____ hereby designate
Name of Member Assigning Proxy Rights Name of Entity Assigning Proxy Rights Country of Entity

_____, representing _____, a member of OCIA
Name of Delegate Receiving Proxy Rights Name of Entity Receiving Proxy Rights Country of Entity

International, to hold my proxy vote for the 2025 AGMM.

Signature of Person Assigning Proxy Rights: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Designated Delegate Receiving Proxy Rights: _____ **Date:** _____

Send Completed to OCIA International Office:

OCIA International
5910 South 58th Ste. B
Lincoln, NE 68516

**** BELOW FOR SECRETARY, ELECTION COMMITTEE, AND OFFICE USE ONLY ****

Received: _____ Proxy Assignor's Category of Affiliation: _____

Number of Proxy Votes Entitled: _____ Validated by Election Committee Member: _____

Membership Dues Paid: _____

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 1

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 3: Location, Fiscal Year, and Language, Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. *Italicized and bold text* reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words are represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article: 3 LOCATION, FISCAL YEAR and LANGUAGE

3.1.1 Satellite Offices: The OCIA International Board of Directors may authorize satellite offices to provide services to OCIA members (Chapters, ~~Processors/Handler~~ **Direct Associates**, CGG, ~~PAL~~, General) in a set geographic area. The management of a Satellite office shall be in conformity with the Standards, Bylaws and policies of OCIA International

3.1.2 Regional Offices: A Regional office is an ~~producer~~ **OCIA member**-owned and controlled legal entity ~~of producers, processors and/or handlers~~ which has received delegated authority from OCIA International to correlate paperwork needed for OCIA International certification decisions and directly deal with applicants to insure consistency. All certification decisions, oversight, review and audit shall be made by OCIA International, be it on site or at the main office. Regional offices may be organized along regional or national lines to include OCIA applicants within regions and/or nation states. Regional offices may directly accept applications and payment in US\$ dollars and/or local currency from producers, processors, handlers, brokers, traders and retailers subject to OCIA International oversight.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify current OCIA membership classifications. Accreditation requirements require amendments.

History

Over the years, the OCIA membership classifications have changed.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B-2

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 4: Certification, Sections 4.1a, 4.2, 4.3.2, 4.3.3** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article 4: CERTIFICATION

4.1 ACCESS TO SERVICES: OCIA makes its certification services accessible to all applicants who are in compliance with Organic certification program standards as offered by OCIA. There are no undue financial or other conditions. Access is not conditional upon the size of operation or membership in any association or group. Certification is not conditional upon the number of certificates already issued.

a. There will be a ~~limit~~ ***goal*** of sixty (60) days ~~maximum~~, from the time the International office receives a complete annual certification file, until the applicant is notified of the status of his or her certification file.

4.2 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION: Application for certification shall be made to ~~the~~ OCIA International ~~office, Satellite office or Regional office, which may review such applications for completeness. Notwithstanding the above t~~Ihe only body which currently holds the authority to make certification decisions is ~~the~~ OCIA International ~~office~~.

4.3.2 Annual certification fees shall be payable in US currency or equivalent to OCIA International or designated entity on or before the thirty-first day following application. ***New certification applications won't be accepted until payment is received in full.***

~~4.3.3—A Member in default of payment of certification fees for 90 days may be suspended or expelled in accordance with Article 5.2.2~~

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify current OCIA membership classifications. Accreditation requirements require amendments.

History

Clarifying accreditation requirement updates.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 3

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 5: Categories of Affiliation, Association Privileges and Responsibilities, Sections 5.1, 5.1.1 (b.), 5.1.1.1, 5.1.1.2, 5.1.1.3, 5.1.1.4, 5.1.1.5, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.5, 5.1.6, 5.1.7 and 5.2.4.3** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ***strikeout*** of existing Bylaws text.

Article: 5 CATEGORIES OF AFFILIATION, ASSOCIATION PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 AFFILIATION: *Affiliations are outlined below and will hereafter be referred to as OCIA Member*

5.1.1 Chapters: Producer-owned and controlled legal entities of at least five farmers which meet OCIA procedural, and organizational norms as detailed in the Bylaws, policies and Certification Standards, and which among other things:

- a. Provide an on-going program of organic crop improvement.
- ~~b. Facilitate impartial and independent third-party certification.~~
- c. Educate Chapter Associates as to the inherent value of use and promotion of the OCIA name, logo, and certification mark

5.1.1.1 Producer: A person whose activity consists of the production (including on-farm processing) and sales of food, feed, livestock, or fiber grown on his/her farm. ~~may apply for certification through an OCIA chapter unless he/she falls under one of the exceptions to this Article.~~ Chapter Producers' voting privileges within the Association are through the relevant chapter as described in Article 7.4.1.

- a. Total annual certified acres shall not exceed 10,000.

5.1.1.2 Producer/Processor: A producer who is also doing processing. ~~may apply for certification through the local chapter with the following conditions:~~

- ~~a. An inspector approved for both farming and processing operations must conduct the annual certification inspections.~~

Producer/Processors who meet the above conditions have voting privileges within the Association through the relevant chapter as described in Article 7.4.1.

~~If the above conditions do not apply, producers who are also doing processing may have their processing operation directly certified through OCIA International. Application for certification can be made through the relevant Satellite office or the relevant Regional office, as a Processor/Handler, but not through a chapter. In that case, their voting privileges within the Association are those of Processor/Handlers as described in Article 7.4.2~~

5.1.1.3 Chapter Processor/ Handler : A processor/ handler may ~~apply for certification through the~~ **be a member of the** local chapter if the following condition applies:

- a. Total annual OCIA certified revenues for processing services and/or products do not exceed US \$500,000.

~~5.1.1.4 Cooperative: A production or service providing organization owned and operated by OCIA certified growers in order to accomplish any or all of the following:~~

- ~~a. Gather and co-mingle product for sale.~~
- ~~b. Add value to product by cleaning, bagging, shelling, sorting, etc.~~
- ~~c. Appeal to buyers by providing consistent supply of product.~~
- ~~d. Process/manufacture product.~~
- ~~e. Slaughter, package and/or sell meat, poultry, fish and/or products therefrom.~~

~~Cooperatives may apply for certification through the local chapter. In that case, Cooperatives have voting privileges within the Association through the relevant chapter as described in Article 7.4.1~~

~~Cooperatives may become directly certified through OCIA International, as Processor/Handlers with the voting privileges described in Article 7.4.2.~~

~~5.1.1.5~~ **5.1.2 Community Grower Groups (CGGs):** Groups of growers/harvesters may become certified as CGGs through the OCIA International office, ~~and can apply for certification through the relevant Chapter or Regional office,~~ if they fulfill the following criteria:

- a. The group shall be constituted of producers with similar farming systems and production:
 - Growers/harvesters show commitment to sustainable agricultural practices suitable for their geographic region.
 - Growers/harvesters are located in the same geographical area and in close proximity to each other. The important factor is that the conditions influencing all members of the group might reasonably be expected to be similar throughout the region.
 - Agricultural practices within the group are uniform and reflect a consistent approach to cultivation.
- b. Each individual grower/harvester should have sales of OCIA certified produce of less than US \$5000.00. If over US \$5000.00 for two consecutive years, an individual inspection will be required.
- c. Management of grower/harvester group is centralized, i.e., formally organized as a crop improvement group, or they market their product through the same handler.
- d. The group has established and implemented a system to monitor their members with regard to organic agricultural practices (self-control or peer evaluation). Oversight must be provided by a local resource person, crop consultant or agronomist who must, in the course of a year, physically visit all farms in the area or in the group. These activities must be managed by the governing body.

CGG's voting privileges within the Association are as described in Article 7.4.4 ~~For those CGG's who are members of Chapters, their voting rights are reflected in 7.4.1.~~

5.1.3 Producer at Large: Direct Associate: ~~Farmers who operate in areas where there is as yet no OCIA chapter or Operations where there is no desire by the applicant to become a member of a chapter may become~~ **Directly** certified through OCIA International. They ~~are encouraged to form or join a chapter at the earliest possible date and~~ agree to use, promote and benefit the OCIA name, logo and mark. **Producer at Large Direct Associates'** voting privileges within the Association are as described in Article 7.4.3.

~~5.1.3—Processor/Handler: Merchants or processors of food, feed, or fiber that they did not themselves produce, who wish to carry on the OCIA certification guarantee for any product other than an unaltered package already bearing the seal may become directly certified through OCIA International. Processor/Handlers shall use, promote and benefit the OCIA name, logo and seal. Processor/Handlers shall respect producer independence and brand neutrality by developing and supporting chapters in those areas where they purchase or process product. Cooperatives as defined below shall be considered Processor/Handlers if their total annual OCIA certified sales exceed US \$500,000. Processor/Handlers' voting privileges within the Association are as described in Article 7.4.2.~~

~~5.1.4—Contract Growers and Contract Grower Groups~~

~~—Contract Growers and Contract Grower Groups are non-voting Associates whose products are indirectly certified under the sponsorship of a certified Processor/Handler. Such Associates may become indirectly certified only through the OCIA International office.~~

~~a. —Contract Growers and Contract Grower Groups are to be invited to become directly certified on their own at each anniversary of certification.~~

~~b. —The certification category of any Contract Grower or Contract Grower Group shall be reviewed annually.~~

~~c. —Contract Growers and Contract Grower Groups have the opportunity for participation and input into Association Standards, Bylaws, policies and procedures through their contract holder.~~

~~5.1.5—Contract Processor: Non-voting Associates who process for one or more OCIA certified Chapter Producers, Producers at Large, Processor/Handlers, or General Members. Contract processors must be inspected as part of each certified Associate's certification. To assure and maintain brand neutrality, Contract Processors are to be invited to become directly certified on their own at each anniversary of certification.~~

~~5.1.6~~ **5.1.4 Supporting Associate:** A non-voting, non-certified person or organization, who would like to support the overall goals and objectives of OCIA, may associate themselves with OCIA in this non-voting category.

~~5.1.7—General Members: Persons or organizations certified by OCIA to standards other than OCIA International Standards, who are not already represented as members elsewhere in these Bylaws. General members' voting privileges are described in section 7.4.5 of these Bylaws.~~

~~5.2.4.3 A member in default of payment of membership dues for 90 days may be suspended or expelled in accordance with Article 5.2.2.~~

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify current OCIA membership classifications. Accreditation requirements require amendments.

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 4

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 6: Levies and User Fees** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. *Italicized and bold text* reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article: 6 LEVIES AND USER FEES

The Board of Directors may implement such levies, fees, certification agreements, etc. as are deemed appropriate. Such revenue shall support the administration of OCIA International, promotion of the certification mark, ~~the work of the Certification Review Committee~~, crop improvement, and any other program, which the Board of Directors may approve. Levies and fees shall be payable in US currency, or its equivalent, as billed according to the certification mark agreement, invoice, or other instrument.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to remove certification review committee. Accreditation requirements require amendments.

History

Accreditation requirement, review committee no longer exist.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 5

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 7: General Membership Meetings, Sections 7.4.1, 7.4.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.5, 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. *Italicized and bold text* reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article 7: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7.4.1 Chapters: Ten votes for the first 10 members, 2 votes for each additional 10 certified members, ~~and chapter CCGs would be counted as 1 vote for each 3 chapter CCGs.~~

a. Chapter voting rights may be held by one or more Chapter delegates, according to the Chapter's wish.

a.b. ***Chapter Supporting members: 5 members may be accounted for towards the first 10 members of the affiliated chapter.***

7.4.2 ~~Processor/Handler~~ ***Direct Associate:*** One vote per member.

~~7.4.3—Producer at Large: One vote per member.~~

7.4.3 Community Grower Group: ~~Five~~ ***Ten*** votes.

~~7.4.5—General Members: Those affiliated through a Chapter shall count toward the votes of the Chapter. Those affiliated through International shall have one vote.~~

7.5 PROXIES: Every member holding voting rights shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of OCIA International by proxy. This proxy must be assigned to a specific **OCIA** member (Chapter, Community Grower Group, ~~or Direct Associate Processor/Handler, Producer At Large or General Member~~) or his/her delegate that is not a member of a specific group that is already carrying 2 proxies. No one is allowed to hold the proxied voting rights of more than two other members. A voting **OCIA** member (~~Chapter, Community Grower Group, Processor/Handler, Producer At Large, or General Member~~) may hold a maximum of two (2) proxies, plus their own vote. All proxies shall be in writing and signed and dated. Proxies are validated by the Election Committee for one meeting only.

7.6 QUORUM: The presence ~~in-person~~ or by proxy of one-third of the membership votes shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The members present at a duly organized meeting can continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum. If a meeting cannot be organized because a quorum has not attended, those present may, except as otherwise provided by statute, adjourn the meeting to such time and place as they may determine. Those who attend the second of such adjourned meeting, although less than a quorum, shall nevertheless constitute a quorum for the purpose of acting upon any matter set forth in the notice of the meeting, stating that those members who attend shall constitute a quorum for the

purpose of acting upon such matter. Notice and documentation shall be given to each member of record entitled to vote at such an adjourned meeting at least 10 days prior to the day named for the second meeting.

~~7.7 — SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: If conditions don't allow for a safe in-person AGMM, then an emergency remote AGMM is allowed, subject to a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors. This must be communicated to the membership at least 90 days in advance. When triggered, this supersedes the in-person requirement mentioned in bylaw 7.6.~~

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal to clarify current OCIA membership classifications. Accreditation requirements require amendments.

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 6

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 8: Board Membership Nominations and Elections, Sections 8.3.1, 8.3.1.1, 8.3.2, 8.4** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. *Italicized and bold text* reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the *strikeout* of existing Bylaws text.

Article 8: BOARD MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

8.3 NOMINATIONS OF ELECTED POSITIONS: The Board of Directors shall be elected by the Membership at the Annual General Membership Meeting.

8.3.1 Qualifications: Only OCIA Members (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, *or Direct Associate Processors/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members*) may be nominated. Nominees must forward to the Chair of the Nominating Committee a written petition signed by at least 7 OCIA Members (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members) prior to the closing of the nominating period. Each **OCIA Member** may have one nominee for the Board of Directors. If two or more people wish to be nominees and are members of different entities but are also members of the same entity, only one of them may be nominated.

8.3.1.1 In countries where only one OCIA member classified as a chapter is acknowledged by the OCIA membership, an exemption of bylaw 8.3.1 will be allowed as follows: No more than 2 members of the existing chapter will be allowed as nominees for the Board of Directors and qualify for an exemption to hold two seats on the board of directors.

8.3.2 Any **OCIA** member ~~(of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members)~~ may be nominated for an elected position. A member may be nominated by:

- a. The Nominating Committee;
- b. Any directly certified **OCIA** member ~~(of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members)~~ of the Association may nominate any other qualified **OCIA** Member ~~(of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members);~~
- c. Any directly certified **OCIA** member ~~(of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members)~~ may nominate by petition himself/herself.

8.4 ELECTION COMMITTEE SELECTION: The Membership at the Annual General Membership Meeting shall appoint three Election Committee members who shall referee the conduct of the elections.

a. **Qualifications:** Only OCIA Members ~~(of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processors/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members)~~ may be nominated to serve on the Election Committee.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal to clarify current OCIA membership classifications.

Allow for two nominations from one chapter in countries with only one chapter

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed. Canada Legal entity registrations require two members from Canada sit on the board of directors.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B-7

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 9: Board of Directors, Section 9.1** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article 9: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9.1 NUMBER OF MEMBERS: The Board shall consist of seven OCIA members ~~(of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processors/Handlers, Producers at Large and General Members)~~ who are to be elected by the general membership during the Annual General Membership Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall endeavor to assure diversity of representation by soliciting nominations from areas not sufficiently represented.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal to clarify current OCIA membership classifications.

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 8

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 11: Committees, Sections 11.1.1, 11.3 and 11.4** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflects changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article 11: COMMITTEES

11.1.1 Standing Committees: The President shall appoint committee members and chairs upon advisement and approval from the Board of Directors for the following standing committees: Internal Organization Committee, Internal Review Committee, and the External Advocacy Committee.

- a. The Internal Review Committee shall have five members. None of the members can also be serving on any other committee, board, or staff of OCIA.
- b. All standing committee appointments shall be made within 30 days of the close of the Annual General Membership Meeting.
- c. Committee members must be a current **OCIA** member ~~of OCIA, or an OCIA Chapter member,~~ to serve on committees, unless there are certain qualifications that require a non-member to serve on a committee.
- d. The Internal Organizational Committee shall oversee all bylaws, finance, standards, and accreditation issues.
- e. The External Advocacy Committee shall oversee all promotions, public advocacy, member/chapter development, and the AGMM.

11.3 PROCEDURES: All OCIA committees shall operate under the general guidelines of the OCIA ***Policy Governance Manual Quality System***. ~~This Quality System~~ ***The Policy Governance Manual*** is to be reviewed on an ongoing basis and can be amended by the Board of Directors or OCIA staff as delegated by the Board of Directors.

11.4 TERMS OF OFFICE: Appointments to committee membership will be for a term of three years. ~~Terms will be staggered and committee members will not serve more than two consecutive terms.~~ Any committee member who is unable or chooses not to fulfill duties of their office as defined in OCIA Bylaws and/or policies can be dismissed by the Board of Directors before the end of his/her term. Appeals for dismissal shall be handled by the Internal Review Committee.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal to clarify current OCIA membership classifications and to remove term limits for committees.

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed.
The Board President has had a difficult time finding volunteers to serve on the committees.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 9

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 13: Bylaw Amendments, Sections 13.1 and 13.2** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article 13: BYLAW AMENDMENTS

13.1 On the basis of written submissions, these Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by majority vote at any duly organized meeting of the Membership. All approved changes by the membership shall be reviewed and verified for accuracy by the ~~Bylaw Internal~~ ***Organization*** Committee and shall be distributed ~~in hard copy~~ to the membership as defined in section 5 of the Bylaws within 30 days after the close of the AGMM.

13.2 Proposed changes, except for minor alterations in grammar or word order for clarity, shall be mailed to the last recorded address of each ***OCIA*** member ~~of OCIA International~~ at least forty-five, and not more than sixty days, before the time of the meeting which will consider such changes.

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify current OCIA membership classifications. Also to remove hard copy distribution, as email is now main form of communication.

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 10

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtk@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **Article 15: VARIA, Section 15.3** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by the ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

Article 15: VARIA

15.3 MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER: OCIA shall electronically distribute a newsletter exclusively for its OCIA members, ~~including chapter members~~, a minimum of one in each quarter of the calendar year. ~~Members without access to this electronic publication may request a hard copy at no charge. The primary mission of the newsletter shall be to communicate information to OCIA members.~~ International office shall also translate it into Spanish and send it to the appropriate Latin American office. Each issue shall contain:

- a. President's Message
- b. Treasurer's Report on Income and Expenditures
- b.c. OCIA Executive Directors Report***
- ~~c. Minutes of all Board meetings including the attachments (if specifically requested), unless the attachment contains confidential information about a person or persons.~~
- d. All Policies passed by the Board***
- e.d.*** Accurate contact information for Board members, Committee members, and Staff **Liaisons**
- f.e.*** Crop improvement information
- ~~***g.f.***~~ Other information of interest to the membership

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to add the Executive Directors report to the newsletter in addition to removing the board meeting minutes. The minutes are already made available. Polices passed by the board are also included in the board minutes.

History

Updating the terms of the communicator.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

Bylaws Amendment Proposal

2025 AGMM B - 11

Name: Chris Jaworski on behalf of OCIA Board of Directors
Address: 7899 Regal Lane, Pulaski, WI 54162
Phone/Fax: 920-660-0236
Email: jaws8753radtke@gmail.com

Statement of Proposal

The following is a proposed amendment to **GLOSSARY OF TERMS** of the 2024 OCIA International Bylaws. ***Italicized and bold text*** reflect changes or additions to the existing Bylaws, and deletion of words is represented by ~~strikeout~~ of existing Bylaws text.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Associate: All Chapter ~~Producers~~ **members**, ~~Producers at Large, Processor/Handlers~~ **Direct Associates**, Community Grower Groups (CGG), ~~General Members, Contract Growers, Contract Grower Groups, Contract Processors~~ certified by OCIA International. ~~and Supporting Associates affiliated with OCIA.~~

~~**Farmer:** See definition of Producer.~~

~~**Grower:** See definition of Producer.~~

~~**Handler:** See definition of Merchant.~~

~~**Broker:** See definition of Merchant~~

~~**Trader:** See definition of Merchant~~

~~**Merchant:** A person who trades, brokers, sells, distributes, imports, exports, markets or maintains the chain of custody of bulk or prepackaged foodstuffs without blending, mixing, repackaging, re-labeling, or changing them in any way.~~

~~**Person:** A person, group of persons or legally recognized entity (e.g. corporation, cooperative, partnership, etc.).~~

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose of the proposal to clarify current OCIA membership classifications and to remove term descriptions.

History

Over the years the OCIA membership classifications have changed.

Related Effect of Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Other OCIA Bylaw Sections

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Summary Argument

None.

2025 OCIA INTERNATIONAL

Board of Directors

NOMINATION FORM

All board nominations must comply with the following OCIA International Bylaws:

8.3 NOMINATIONS OF ELECTED POSITIONS: The Board of Directors shall be elected by the Association at the Annual General Membership Meeting.

8.3.1 Qualifications: Only OCIA Members (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processors/Handlers, and Producers At Large) may be nominated. Nominees must forward to the Chair of the Nominating Committee a written petition signed by at least 7 OCIA Members (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members) prior to the closing of the nominating period. Each entity (Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members) may have one nominee for the Board of Directors. If two or more people wish to be nominees and are Members of different entities but are also Members of the same entity, only one of them may be nominated.

8.3.2 Nomination/Nominators: Any Member (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members) may be nominated for an elected position. Member may be nominated by:

- A. The Nominating Committee;
- B. Any directly certified Member (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members) of the Association may nominate any other qualified (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members);
- C. Any directly certified Member (of Chapters, Community Grower Groups, Processor/Handlers, Producers At Large and General Members) may nominate by petition himself/herself.

Send Completed to OCIA International Office:

OCIA International
5910 S. 58th Ste. B
Lincoln, NE 68516

Please print legibly.

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Member Type: *(check the box applicable to Nominee)*

Chapter Community Grower Group Processor/Handler Producer-at-larger General Member

Contact Mailing Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please submit a ***brief biography*** (maximum of one page) including your qualifications and previous/current involvement with OCIA International and state the reason why you decided to become a candidate. Your biography will be provided to voting members before the election.

Biography Attached? Yes No

Nominator designation based on Bylaw 8.3.2 A B C

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Affiliation: _____

Chapter, Community Grower Group, Processor/Handler, Producer-at-Large, General Member

I agree to be a candidate for the OCIA International Board of Directors election and will notify OCIA International in writing if I withdraw my candidacy.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SIGNATURES OF SEVEN OCIA MEMBERS (Petitioners) AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ENTITY

Name (please print)	Signature	Respective Entity
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____



OCIA

RESEARCH & EDUCATION

5910 S 58th Ste B • Lincoln, NE • 68516
(402) 477-2323 • ocia.org • info@ocia.org

2025 R& E Annual General Membership Meeting Notification

In accordance with Article 6.1 of the OCIA Research and Education Bylaws, OCIA Research and Education will convene the 2025 Annual General Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites at Ameristar in Council Bluffs, Iowa, February 11th-12th, 2025.

The packet of general information, a preliminary meeting agenda, proposed bylaw changes, official voting proxy form and Board of Directors nomination form will be mailed with the AGMM packets in December 2024.

If you are unable to attend this very important event, please contact a delegate who will be attending and assign your proxy voting rights with clear instructions on your voting intentions as stated in the OCIA Research and Education Bylaws, Article 6.5.

6.5 PROXIES: Every member holding voting rights shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of OCIA Research and Education by proxy. This proxy must be assigned to a specific member (Chapter, Community Grower Group, Processor/Handler, or Producer At Large) or his/her delegate. No one is allowed to hold the proxied voting rights of more than two other members. A voting member (Chapter, Community Grower Group, Processor/Handler, or Producer At Large) may hold a maximum of two (2) proxies, plus their own vote. All proxies shall be in writing and signed and dated. Proxies are validated by the Election Committee for one meeting only.

6.5.1 Proxy Assignment: To establish quorum, proxy forms shall be mailed 45 days prior to AGMM. Members are encouraged to delegate proxies with specific voting instructions. All proxied voting rights not specifically registered with the Secretary or assigned prior to the call of the AGMM shall revert to the Election Committee solely for establishment of quorum.

The proxy form is to be completed and sent to the OCIA International office.

Sincerely,

Michelle Carkner

Michelle Carkner
Secretary
OCIA Research & Education



Voting by Proxy

This proxy form is only valid for the 2025 Research and Education, Inc Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM). Every entity holding voting rights shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of OCIA Research and Education, Inc. by proxy. This proxy must be assigned to a specific member or his/her delegate. No member is allowed to hold a total of more than two (2) proxies. All proxies shall be in writing and signed and dated. Proxies are validated by the Election Committee for one meeting only.

You are encouraged to provide designated proxy holders with instructions on how you want to vote. To establish quorum, proxy forms shall be mailed to the membership 45 days prior to the AGMM. Members are encouraged to delegate proxies with specific voting instructions. Proxies may be:

- A. assigned directly to another member to be voted on the floor, or
- B. assigned to the Secretary to be held by the elections committee solely for the purpose of establishing quorum

You may register your proxy by faxing a copy of the signed and dated proxy to the International office. Bring the original with you to the AGMM. If submitting proxy form by fax or scanned e-mail, the transmitted document must bear a header line indicating the date of transmission. The proxy assignor and the delegate receiving proxy should retain copies of the signed proxy form.

Please PRINT the following information completely and legibly.

I, _____ of _____ hereby designate
Name of R&E Member Assigning Proxy Rights Name of Entity Assigning Proxy Rights Country of Entity

_____, representing _____ a member of OCIA
Name of R&E Delegate Receiving Proxy Rights Name of Entity Receiving Proxy Rights Country of Entity

Research and Education, to hold my proxy vote for the 2025 AGMM.

Signature of Person Assigning Proxy Rights: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Designated Delegate Receiving Proxy Rights: _____ **Date:** _____

Send Completed to OCIA International Office:

OCIA Research and Education
5910 S 58th Ste. B
Lincoln, NE 68516

**** BELOW FOR SECRETARY, ELECTION COMMITTEE, AND OFFICE USE ONLY ****

Received: _____ Proxy Assignor's Category of Affiliation: _____

Number of Proxy Votes Entitled: _____ Validated by Election Committee Member: _____

Membership Dues Paid: _____

2025 OCIA RESEARCH & EDUCATION

Board of Directors

NOMINATION FORM

All board nominations must comply with the following OCIA Research and Education, Inc Bylaws:

- 7.2 **NOMINATINGPROCESS:** The Nominating Committee may receive names from any member.
- 7.3 **NOMINATIONSOFELECTEDPOSITIONS:** The Board of Directors shall be elected by the Association at the Annual General Membership Meeting.
- 7.31 **Qualifications:** Only members of OCIA Research and Education, Inc. may be nominated. Nominees must forward to the Chair of the Nominating Committee a written petition signed by at least 7 members prior to the closing of the nominating period.
- 7.32 **Nominators:** Any member may be nominated for an elected position. A member may be nominated by:
- a. The Nominating Committee
 - b. Any member
 - c. Any member may nominate by petition himself/herself

Send Completed to OCIA International Office:

OCIA Research & Education
5910 S 58th Ste. B
Lincoln, NE 68516

Please print legibly.

OCIA Research & Education Nominee's Name: _____

Contact Mailing Address: _____

Town/City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please submit a ***brief biography*** (maximum of one page) including your qualifications and previous/current involvement with OCIA International and state the reason why you decided to become a candidate. Your biography will be provided to voting members before the election.

Biography Attached? Yes No + Reason: _____

Nominator designation based on Bylaw 7.3.2 A B C

Nominator's Name: _____

I agree to be a candidate for the OCIA International Board of Directors election and will notify OCIA International in writing if I withdraw my candidacy.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Continued on back of page.

SIGNATURES OF SEVEN OCIA MEMBERS (Petitioners) AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ENTITY

	Name (please print)	Signature	Respective Entity
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____

VOTING AND ELECTION

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are Voting Members?

Voting members are associates who have paid their dues according to their membership category as defined in article 4 of the OCIA Bylaws and have voting privileges as defined in articles 7.4.1-5.

In a nutshell voting members are Certified Producers-At- Large, Certified Processor/Handlers, Community Grower Groups, Cooperatives & Chapters who have paid their membership dues

How many votes do the different members get?

If membership dues are paid, Processors/ Handlers, Producers at Large & Cooperatives have one vote per member. Community Grower Groups are entitled 5 votes. Community Grower Groups or Cooperatives who are members of a chapter count only as a single member towards the chapters voting rights.

Chapters: Ten votes for the first 10 Members, 2 votes for each additional 10 certified Members, and Chapter CGGs will be counted as 1 vote for each 3 Chapter CGGs.

Who can be a Voting Delegate?

Delegates are individuals who are from within the member organization. For chapters and CGG's this implies that a delegate will be a member of the chapter or of the collective. For Processor/Handlers or Producers at Large; a delegate is an individual who has a structural link with the member such as an employee, shareholder, marketing agent, or a consultant under contract or retainer. Members can send as many delegates as they wish. Chapter voting rights/paddles may be held by one or more delegate.

If a Member has more than one vote, can the votes be split up between delegates?

Yes. At the time of registration, voting paddles can be divided between chapter delegates.

What if a delegate loses their voting paddle at the AGMM?

The voting paddles are a representation of the members vote. Each paddle will have the members name, and an Election Committee Members signature on it. If a voting paddle is lost, another delegate will not be able to use it for their votes, however, it will not be replaced.

What if a member can't attend the AGMM, can they still vote?

Yes. Every member holding voting rights are entitled to vote at the AGMM by proxy. The member must find a delegate of a member that would be willing to carry their proxy and vote according to their wishes. Remember, voting members can only carry two proxies in addition to their own votes. This means that a chapter can only carry two proxies and not each delegate of the chapter. Proxies must be fully completed and presented at AGMM Registration.

Meeting Policies

1989 AGMM - Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico -- February 16-20

89AGM006 While OCIA supports farmers in transition, especially at the chapter level, OCIA will not be involved in any labeling or oral representation of transitional products.

1997 AGMM - Cedar Rapids, Iowa -- March 11-15

97AGMM-01 That reciprocity should be expanded to recognize other certifying organizations. And to expand mutual recognition to other certifying organizations that are determined as equivalent through accreditation, with final approval by the Board.

97AGMM38 That the OCIA International Board of Directors as one body shall be required to attach their recommendation to all Bylaw amendment proposals when presented at the AGMM's.

2004 AGMM - Lincoln, Nebraska -- February 10-13

04AGMM-01 Each year The Board of Directors shall maintain involvement in the development of the AGMM packet/mail out and shall specially review the Standard amendments proposals to ensure their appropriateness.

2005 AGMM - San Jose, Costa Rica -- March 7-11

05AGMM-01 Certification complaints shall not be entertained on the floor of the AGMM.

2006 AGMM - LaCrosse, Wisconsin - February 20-23

06AGMM-03 The BoD annually at their November meeting evaluate the activity of Standing Committees, evaluate the needs of OCIA and the financial ability of the organization to determine which chairs and/or committee members receive financial reimbursement to attend the AGMM.

06AGMM-05 All policy amendments have to be written in a hard copy and handed in to the secretary and chair prior to being introduced to the floor.

06AGMM-07 It shall be the policy of OCIA that in the future, when the BoD and Finance Committee present the budget proposal for the current year that they also present a 1 year financial plan.

2007 AGMM - Lincoln, Nebraska -- March 1-3

- 07AGMM-01** All AGMM polices passed at an AGMM shall be published once in the next publication of the “Communicator”.
- 07AGMM-02** At the discretion of each year’s Board, a committee of the Board shall review the AGMM packet information for correctness prior to its printing.
- 07AGMM-03** Requests for Proposals for the location of the AGMM following the current year shall be solicited immediately following the AGMM with a closing date for consideration of July 1st of each year. Subsequently, the Board of Directors shall make a determination of the location and with the assistance of the AGMM committee office liaison make the appropriate arrangements.
- 07AGMM-04** A certified chapter associate shall pay User Fees at the current set rate for all products sold that were certified through OCIA to any of the certification/ verification programs offered by OCIA International. (JAS Certification being exempt due to MAFF regulations).
- This includes:
Transaction Certificate sales and non Transaction Certificate sales.
- A certified chapter associate does not have to pay User Fees to OCIA International when:
1. Any product is sold to the conventional (non organic) market or fed to the producer’s own livestock.

2008 AGMM - Huatulco, Mexico -- February 28-March 1

- 08AGMM-05** Direct the Board to construct the committee mandates in a way that will allow the committee members to understand that OCIA is governed by its Bylaws and that committee actions may not exceed the limitations of the Bylaws.”
- 08AGMM-07** Regionally specific approved product lists, if approved by the Certification Specialists and filed annually at the International office, will be allowed. If an input is re-evaluated and approval is removed, chapter administrators, regional offices and approved inspectors will be notified.

2009 AGMM - Lincoln, Nebraska -- February 7-9

- 09AGMM-04** It shall be the policy of OCIA Intl that Spanish translations of Standards, Bylaws, and AGMM Packets are completed and distributed with the timeline that is designated by our Standards and Bylaws for the original English documents.
- 09AGMM-04** It shall be the policy of OCIA INTL that simultaneous translation for all members be provided for the entirety of OCIA INTL AGMMs.
- 09AGMM-06** All AGMM meals to be organic when possible and to include as many local food sources as possible. OCIA R&E will facilitate in writing guidelines to work with local chefs to source and use local and organic foods.

2012 AGMM - LaCrosse, Wisconsin -- February 20-22

- 12AGMM-02** Move to make AGMM Policy, during budget discussion, when an additional expenditure or a decrease to income is proposed, it has to be offset by additional income or a reduction in an expense item. This will ultimately result in no negative effect in the bottom line.

2013 AGMM - Lincoln, Nebraska -- February 13-15

- 13AGMM-03** This AGMM requests that it is policy that OCIA's board policy of no net loss of income stemming from a budgetary change be sent out with the AGMM materials to the full membership.
- 13AGMM-04** Policy that the accounting department invoices producers on the highest value crop in multiple cropping situations. The accounting department will track the funds collected and report this information at the 2014 AGMM.

2014 AGMM - San Antonio, Texas -- February 5-7

- 14AGMM-01** Directs the OCIA International Board of Directors to look into how to and to start collecting sales figures from chapter processors. Then use the information to develop and present at the 2015 AGMM, a tiered fee schedule to possibly replace the current sales based user fees.
- 14AGMM-03** The OCIA Board of Directors and Staff continue to work with the world organic community to support the rejection and/or control of GMO technology and its adoption.
- 14AGMM-04** The AGMM minutes shall be available by request both electronically or in hard copy once refereed within 60 days of the close of the AGMM.

2017 AGMM - Council Bluffs, Iowa -- February 8-9

- 17AGMM-01** Whereas checkoffs have historically been damaging to small and medium sized farmers; Whereas the organic checkoff proposal was made with very little input from farmers; Whereas organic farmers are innovative and creative and have a history of finding solid solutions to the community's problems, we can do better at organic research and promotion than a mandatory adoption of a failed federal program. Resolution: The members of the Organic Crop Improvement Association oppose the creation of an organic checkoff.

2019 AGMM - Dubuque, Iowa -- February 6-7

- 19AGMM-01** As livestock producing members of OCIA, we must revise and/or simplify the organic system plan (OSP) so as to make effective organic livestock policies which in effect will strengthen all of organic agriculture. The current overly complex application process is vulnerable to industrial agricultural dominance

2021 AGMM - Online -- February 9

- 21AGMM-01** Have a virtual option for AGMM, for those who cannot be there in person, including participation but not voting.
- 21AGMM-02** Re-evaluate initiating the Rainforest Alliance application based on a cost-benefit analysis.

2022 AGMM - Online -- February 22

- 22AGMM-01** At least one board member attend at least one meeting sponsored by an organic regulator a year to gather information, network and represent OCIA members' policy perspectives. The attendee would report back on activities to the following year's AGMM.

2023 AGMM – Council Bluffs, Iowa -- February 8

- 23AGMM-003** Direct Election Committee to research electronic voting and report before the next Fall in-person board meeting.