

## CONTINUE TO **GET INVOLVED**



It was wonderful to see so many IFEA members back in-person at the 65th Annual IFEA Convention, Expo & Retreat, presented by Haas & Wilkerson Insurance, as we were enthusiastically and warmly welcomed in McAllen, Texas by Mayor Javier Villalobos; our good friend, Joe Vera; and the entire city of McAllen. The tastes, sounds and spirit of McAllen were woven through the entire week. Inspirational speakers from the opening event to the closing session brought this Convention to a new level. Thank you to IFEA President & CEO, Steve Schmader, CFEE and the entire IFEA team for their hard work and dedication in the extensive planning and execution that brought us all together. It was such a pleasure to spend time with so many colleagues and engage in so many energizing conversations. The membership of this organization is truly the heart of IFEA and I am so grateful to have connected with so many of you and look forward to continued conversations throughout the coming year.

Thank you to IFEA Foundation Board Chair, Alison Barringer, CFEE, for her leadership, as well as the support of the entire IFEA Foundation Board. The Foundation Board worked throughout the year to present a fun and successful fundraising event that was a result of their dedication, creativity and hard work.

As we wrap up 2022, the IFEA World Board members would like to thank all IFEA members for your support and engagement throughout the year. We greatly appreciate your input and

participation as we all work together to strengthen and build this industry. Please remember not only to renew your membership, but I would like to encourage and challenge each and every one of you to reach out and bring one new member along with you for the coming year. The IFEA strives to invest in each one of their members and we hope you will continue to get involved and be a part of the growth and sustainability of the organization.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the IFEA World Board Chair this year. Thank you to all of our members who support this important organization and for many of who reached out to me during the year with input, feedback and contributions to IFEA. My hope is that the membership continues to be active and invests back in IFEA for the future.

In closing, I would like to welcome Karen Churchard, CFEE, Director of Tourism and Events for the City of Scottsdale, AZ, who is the incoming World Board Chair for 2023. We look forward to hearing more from Karen in the coming months.

Best wishes as you carry out your events this fall and plan and execute your events in 2023!

**Diana Mayhew, CFEE**

IFEA World Board Chair

President

National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, DC