

IFALDA (The International Federation of Airline Dispatchers Association) was formed in 1961 as CALDA (Canadian Airline Dispatchers Association and ALDA (the former American Airline Dispatchers Association) teamed up to establish the group.

Although CALDA and ALDA were Flight Dispatch Trade Unions, IFALDA was formed solely for the purpose of advancing the interest of Flight Dispatchers on a worldwide basis. IFALDA is therefore not a Union, but a Professional Association.

Since 1961, IFALDA has conducted their AGM (annual general meeting) at different locations worldwide. Most recently, the AGM was held in Toronto, Canada in May of 2022.

The AGM includes a complete review of IFALDA's activities throughout the year. This event also features industry speakers and is a gathering for Flight Dispatchers to connect and observe the proceedings as members. Membership is open to Flight Dispatch Associations as well as on an individual basis.

The next AGM will be held in Paris, France in May of 2023.

IFALDA has recognized Observer status with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). IFALDA participates in many ICAO work groups including North Atlantic Operations, Search and Rescue and various Task groups. IFALDA notably participated in an Aircraft Tracking group that was formed following the loss of flight MH370.

Perhaps IFALDA's most significant accomplishment was the development of the ICAO Flight Dispatch Training Manual in 1975. This was updated as Document 7192 in 1998. The most recent version of the Flight Dispatch manual was developed in 2019 as an ongoing online document. IFALDA is very proud to have been significantly involved with all three of the ICAO Training manuals.

IFALDA remains involved with updates on the current manual.

In 1990, IFALDA branched out to include two other groups. The Airline Dispatcher Federation (ADF), who are focused on FAA Flight Dispatcher issues and the European Federation of Airline Dispatchers (EUFALDA), who are focused on European Flight Dispatch issues. IFALDA remains focused on international issues.

IFALDA appreciates and welcome the opportunity to provided Flight Dispatch material for FD. In future articles, there will be specific reports on IFALDA working groups and activities.

In the meantime, the AGM in Paris in May 2023, promises to be a well-attended event with several keynote speakers and vendors participating. All Flight Dispatchers are welcome to join IFALDA and be part of our network.

Russ Williams
IFALDA President
www.ifalda.org