

# U.S. AQUACULTURE SOCIETY

Over the past 30+ years, I have seen aquaculture throughout the world change immensely. The growth of aquaculture has even surpassed cattle production worldwide in 2012 and is the fastest growing sector of agriculture today. More importantly, the recent growth now focuses on responsible production, sustainability, the environment, workers health and safety and the plants and animals. There is still much more to do to grow this industry in the US and create an environment where aquaculture is a common word, products are readily acceptable, raised sustainably, and healthy economies grow within the industry, all while growing high-quality protein sources locally and nationally.



It is an exciting time to be involved in the aquaculture industry and even more to be in a position to assist on a national level to educate and participate in this fast-paced growth. Thank you to all USAS members who supported me in my effort to become President of our chapter. I'm honored to fill this role and serve the aquaculture community. In my shadow year as President-Elect, I realized the significant time and dedication the board members have committed to carrying out the work of the chapter. Dave Straus did a great job as President in keeping all Board Members on task and streamlining the Policy and Procedures to make future transitions seamless. He has left big shoes to fill and I thank him for all his hard work and guidance.

When given the gavel, I was asked what my goals are for the next year. For me it was a turning point. Having been elected as President of USAS, it made me think deeply about the future of US aquaculture and the ways we can improve the image and quality. My response was to help change the negative perception of aquaculture and educate consumers of the positive attributes of US aquaculture, not only in the context of increasing production and availability of fish and seafood products, but to highlight the many species available for production, the environmental remediation potential, economic growth, job creation and the increase of high-quality protein availability through aquaculture and associated industries. My goal through networking, training and experience can foster further growth and achieve the goals of USAS through education and exchange of information from research for farmers and students to continue to develop a stronger industry and more opportunities.

This aligns with the USAS priority to maintain the good progress that all members of the USAS board and committees have been working on: grow the membership (which reached 1252 for the 2019 New Orleans meeting, up from 896 in 2018) and increase student membership, participation and awards. We would also like to include awards for research in the social sciences pertaining to aquaculture, communities and gender. (Student awards information and applications can be found at: <https://usaquaculture.org/student-awards>.) We will achieve this in part by continuing to support growth and development of university sub-units, of which we have four active and two in development.

The WAS triennial meeting with USAS was held in New Orleans in March of 2019. It was a great success with high attendance and 210 booths. One of the highlights was the Distinguished Lifetime

Achievement Award recognizing experts in the United States through research, education, extension and/or industry development. This award recognized Les Torrans, James Tidwell and Craig Tucker for their long-term commitment and service to aquaculture. Professional award information can be found at: <https://usaquaculture.org/professional-achievement-awards>. My hope is the USAS 2020 meeting will be even more positive and exciting.

**Board of Directors.** The USAS 2019-2020 has an awesome Board of Directors including our incoming

President-Elect Matt Parker, Secretary/Treasurer Kwamena Quagraine and new Directors Lauren Jescovitch and Matt DiMaggio. Their first task was to populate their committees with some of the best talent within academia and the industry to further the workshops, webinars and educational goals of the chapter. They have all done a great job.

**Workshops and Webinars.** Two workshops for Aquaculture 2020 in Honolulu, Hawaii on Aquaponics and Aquatic Animal Health are in development and planning is well underway. Three webinars are in line for development and hosting. These topics are based on the survey that went to members in 2018 and include Aquaculture Feeds, Local Foods and Aquaculture Products and Basic Recirculating Aquaculture Systems. Keep checking the USAS website for updates (<https://usaquaculture.org/>).

**Marketing.** Collaborating with the USAS Past Presidents, we are looking at different ideas about continuing to work on a possible "coffee table book" or a media campaign about aquaculture activities in each state of the U.S. The goal is to change the perception of aquaculture by highlighting each state's aquaculture industry, the species grown and the economic farm-gate value and multiplier in each state. The book would illustrate aquaculture facts throughout the US and include vibrant photos and statistics of the economic value and production and look to supporting other media marketing venues to educate consumers, representatives and legislators of the benefits of supporting and moving aquaculture forward. Discussions continue and we hope to complete this project next year in time for Aquaculture America 2020 in Honolulu. High-quality photos, information and economic information from your state or identification of a knowledgeable contact are much appreciated and can be forwarded directly to me.

**Education Initiative.** A sub-committee has come together to identify key players, to include lawmakers, policymakers and decision-makers in Washington, D.C., that could benefit from an educational symposium on aquaculture. This will include scientific information and farmer perspectives and will be presented to detail the industry as is, what it could become in the future, and what the value of aquaculture is in each state. This is still in the planning stages, but very exciting.

We continue to work closely with the National Aquaculture Association (NAA) as legislation is introduced that will directly affect the industry to get the word out to members and to encourage comments and input.

There have been great discussions and interest in some sort of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 72)

## ADVERTISER'S INDEX

• Aller Aqua.....	9
• Aquaculture America 2020 .....	4
• Aquaculture Systems Technologies.....	33
• Aquafauna Biomarine .....	53
• Biomin .....	22
• Biorigin.....	59
• Blue Aqua International.....	<i>Inside Front Cover</i>
• Darling Ingredients.....	43
• Extru-Tech .....	68
• Kemin.....	29
• LACQUA19.....	21
• Natural Environmental Solutions, Inc. ....	20
• Northern Aquaculture .....	63
• Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc. ....	<i>Back Cover</i>
• Tyson Foods .....	<i>Inside Back Cover</i>
• USAS Sponsored Publications.....	47
• WAS Conference Calendar.....	70
• WAS Future Meetings.....	71
• WAS Online Store .....	69
• World Aquaculture 2020 .....	11
• World Aquaculture Society 50th Anniversary .....	14
• Zeigler .....	34

## USAS CHAPTER,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

one-stop website or fact sheet to address the misinformation that is out there so we can direct the inquiries like “I don’t eat farmed fish because it is full of antibiotics and bad for you” to a science-based rebuttal to many of those ill-informed consumers. There is so much great research and factual, science-based information available; we just have to figure out how to get it directly to consumers. I believe this is happening through membership growth, academic programs and social media. However, an organization is only as strong as its members and it is empowered by their input and participation. I encourage members to become involved, volunteer on committees and send thoughts and comments to the USAS board.

Finally, it is vital that we continue working together to change the negative perception aquaculture has had to battle against to move forward. We must continue our efforts by having good educational information for the industry, consumers, bankers, doctors, educators and present science-based facts, the growing opportunities within the aquaculture industry and the future.

Again, thank you and I look forward to an exciting year of hard work alongside you to meet and exceed the goals of the USAS Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society to promote U.S. aquaculture through increased educational efforts. Thank you for your support and ideas and input because they are always welcome and appreciated.

— Angela Caporelli, USAS President

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – WORLD AQUACULTURE SOCIETY

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:** Quarterly issues of the magazine, *World Aquaculture*; discounts on WAS books; electronic access to the *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society*; access to “members only” section of the website; and discounts for WAS meeting registrations.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**

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_____ Lifetime	\$1,100	Individuals only, for lifetime membership <i>(includes one chapter)</i>
_____ Corporate	\$255	For-Profit Companies only (assign one individual to receive mailings) <i>(includes one chapter)</i>
_____ Sustaining	\$105	To support our continuing membership-benefit programs <i>(includes one chapter)</i>
_____ Individual	\$65	Regular individuals Membership (one person’s name only) <i>(includes one chapter)</i>
_____ Student	\$45	Attach copy of Student ID or letter regarding status from major professor <i>(includes one chapter)</i>
_____ E-Member	\$10	No publications, meeting discounts, voting privileges or chapter affiliation and not an active member in last five years

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES OPTIONS:**

- \$45 annual payment for mailed *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society (Hard copy)*

**CHAPTERS:** (includes one chapter; add \$5 each additional chapter) Must be an active member of WAS to join. *(Please choose chapter)*

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- Latin American/Caribbean (LACC)
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- Korean
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