

ORIGIN

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History and Research Bureau

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Get to know all of us.

EDITORIAL



Did You See the Last Issue?

I didn't, and I'm getting more and more concerned about the lack of contact I've been experiencing. I hope every member saw our last issue, because it was an especially good issue. Nor would I want any members to miss this issue, which has in it a big find, the original official NFFF constitution, an important matter in our history. You'll see some further important finds by Jon Swartz relating to the constitution as well.

We've been at it a year and a half, with this issue, and there's been a lot of changes going on around us. This bureau is stabilized enough that I see no reason to go on describing it and its functions; everybody should have the picture through and through by now.

In coming issues, you'll see further history being served up, and broader historical perspectives being taken. I think presenting that early constitution more or less substantiates what we're doing, and it shows an ability to find things. I feel myself that seeing that constitution gives us a greater grounding for the organization. And that's the first presentation for this issue, the original N3F constitution. With that in mind, I think you'll see what I mean when I say we're continuing to move.

FIRST CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION (Adopted July 31, 1945)

Article I. Name. The name of the organization shall be the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

Article II. Purpose. The purpose of the National Fan Federation shall be: To encourage the reading and collecting of fantasy and science fiction literature; greater creative expression in amateur journalism; further dissemination of all phases of fantasy information; and to enlarge, coordinate and preserve fantasy culture in general.

Article III. Administration. The Administration of the Federation shall consist of two (2) branches: the Executive, and the Directorate.

A. The Executive branch shall consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

1. The President shall:

a) Act in an executive capacity; direct the activities of the Federation; act as official voice of the Federation; appoint committee chairmen and special officers; call special elections when necessary; nominate members to fill vacated offices; and act in a coordinated capacity in promulgating fantasy fan activities;

b) Have the power to veto decisions of the Directorate;

c) Have the power to act in emergencies not specifically covered by this Constitution or subsequent amendments, subject to the review of the Directorate.

2. The Vice President shall:

a) Assume the office of the President or Secretary-Treasurer, in the event either shall be vacated, or restrained by the Directorate;

b) Advise and assist the President in his duties;

- c) Cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie in the Directorate.
3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall:
- a) Keep the permanent records of the Federation;
 - b) Prepare ballots for annual or special elections;
 - c) Maintain an up-to-date census of the names and addresses of all members, and submit a list of changes and additions there to the Official Editor one week before publication date of the Official Organ;
 - d) Collect, record, and disburse all monies of the Federation, upon order of the President, or an order signed by at least four (4) members of the Directorate shall be bonded in the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), fee for such bond to be paid by the Federation.
 - e) Submit a detailed report of accounts twice yearly for inclusion in the January and July issues of the Official Organ, and make a monthly statement of balance to the President and Official Editor.
- B. The Directorate shall consist of five (5) duly elected members; the member receiving the most votes shall be declared Chairman.
1. The Directorate shall:
- a) Grant membership upon proper application, and revoke membership for just cause;
 - b) Approve or disapprove the President's appointments for officers and committee chairman;
 - c) Act in advisory capacity to the Executive Branch;
 - d) Have the power to override a Presidential veto of their decisions by a vote of reconsideration having not more than one (1) dissenting vote;
 - e) Have the power to issue upon any member of the Executive Branch, minor official or Committee Chairman or member, an order of Restraint and Temporary

Suspension of Power, for considered cause. Such action shall be taken when any individual shall be deemed guilty of misappropriation of funds, assumption of powers beyond those delegated, errors of judgment and performance of acts deemed deleterious to the Federation and/or the best interests of the Fandom as a whole. If such said acts are not immediately corrected to the satisfaction of the Directorate, it shall be mandatory upon the Directorate to institute impeachment proceedings.

f) Decisions of the Directorate shall be by majority vote, unless otherwise directed herein.

Article IV. Membership.

A) Any person interested in any of the facets of Fantasy Fandom may, upon proper application and acceptance, become a member of the Federation.

1. Applications shall be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, accompanied by the first year's dues;

a.) Applicants for membership filing applications between July 1 and December 31 need send only one half-year's dues with application.

2. Upon acceptance, the applicant shall be notified by the Secretary;

3. All members shall be entitled to run for office, vote in all elections, receive official publications, participate in activities, use the name and emblem of the Federation on stationary or in any other honorable way.

a) The exception to the right to hold office shall be that no minor may hold the post of Secretary-Treasurer, who may be bonded.

4. Any member failing to pay dues and/or vote in at least one election during the year shall automatically be dropped from the rolls after due notice, except members of an Armed Forces who are serving outside the boundaries of their country.

a) It shall reside within the powers of the Secretary-Treasurer to extend special consideration where circumstances warrant such action, subject to the review of the Directorate.

5. Membership shall be subject to revocation for cause by the Directorate.

Article V. Elections.

A) Annual elections of officers of the Federation shall be held the First of November of each year; and all ballots to be counted must be in the hands of duly appointed tellers not later than December 10th of the same year.

1. Names of the candidates and their platforms shall be printed in the October issue of the Official Organ, said issue to be in the mails by October 10th.

a) Any member desiring to qualify as a candidate for any office shall submit to the Secretary-Treasurer the signatures of two (2) other members endorsing his candidacy, together with a short platform stating in general his policies if elected.

b) Nominating petitions and platforms must be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer by October 1st, with copies minus the endorsing signatures in the hands of the official editor by the same date;

c) The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the newly-elected officials not later than December 20th, and they shall assume office on January 1st of the following year, which shall constitute the beginning of the fiscal year of the Federation;

d) No member may hold two (2) elective offices at the same time;

e) Elective offices shall be eligible to succeed themselves once;

f) Candidates, to be elected, must receive a plurality of the votes cast in that election for that office;

g) In the event of a tie vote, the incumbent Directorate shall cast the deciding vote;

h) Ballots, to be valid, must be signed by the voter.

Article VI: Finances.

A) Dues shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per year, due January 1st, with sixty (60) days of grace, except that new members joining after July 1st shall be required to pay but Fifty Cents (50c) for the balance of that first year.

B) The President shall have the power to raise additional funds at need, in any honorable manner deemed feasible, subject to the approval of the Directorate.

1) Direct and additional assessments of the members cannot be made without approval of the membership given by ballot, but donations may be asked for and received if the Directorate approves.

Article VII: Official Organ.

A) There shall be issued at least six (6) times yearly, and monthly when feasible, an Official Organ to be known as "The National Fantasy Fan", for the purpose of keeping the membership completely informed of the activities of the Federation.

1) Dates of issuance shall be as close to the fifteenth day of the month as possible, except the October issue, which shall be in the mail by the tenth day of that month;

2) The Volume Number shall change with the January issue each year;

3) The January issue shall contain, among other information, the official results of the annual elections; the reports of the concluding matters by the outgoing officers and committees; a complete report of the Treasury accounts, and a complete list of all members together with their addresses.

4) All other regular issues shall contain, among other information, the names and addresses of newly-admitted members; change of addresses as received; the names of members whose membership may have been revoked since the preceding issue; reports of the officers, Directorate and Committees as received; statement of the Treasury balance and other such information as the officers shall deem proper and pertinent.

a) The pages of the official organ shall be open to the members at all times for brief, concise, and pertinent discussion of any phase of activity beneficial to the Federation and/or Fandom in general.

5) The first issue after July 1st shall also contain a detailed financial statement by the Secretary-Treasurer, and a complete list of names and addresses of the members,

a) It is understood that members serving their country in foreign service shall not have their addresses printed, for security reasons, but that they shall be furnished by the Secretary-Treasurer upon request.

Article VIII. Amendments.

A) Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed in writing, signed by at least five (5) members, to the Chairman of the Directorate.

1) Such proposed amendments shall receive the immediate attention of the Directorate, and upon their approval shall be printed in full in the next issue of the official organ, ballots for voting thereupon to be marked out one (1) month later.

a) If disapproved by the Directorate, the proposing members may override their decision by obtaining fifteen (15) additional signatures and sending them to the Secretary-Treasurer, whereupon it shall be mandatory to submit the proposed amendment(s) in the next issue of the official organ, with ballots for voting thereon to be marked one (1) month later.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation, September 1945.

Stenciled by Bob Tucker

Cover by W. Dunkelberger

Mimeographed and assembled by K. Martin Carlson and W. Dunkelberger.



VIGNETTES FROM N3F HISTORY: **LIN CARTER'S (IN)FAMOUS STATEMENT**

By John D. Swartz, N3F Historian

Note: This historical vignette was written years ago. Therefore, its contents are not current.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s it was widely reported in science fiction (SF) fandom that a person joined the National Fantasy Fan Federation (NFFF, N3F) for about a year and then got out. Why? Because the club had nothing to offer beyond that first year! Current members of the N3F bridle when they hear this and wonder where such a spurious statement came from.

The blame falls squarely on SF/fantasy personality Lin Carter. From April 1966 through May 1968 Carter wrote a series of articles on various aspects of SF fandom in **Worlds of If**. In the June 1967 issue of this SF prozine appeared his "The N3F and Others", a brief article on the history of fan clubs in the United States. Carter was a former N3F member, and the section on the club was quite factual (and even could be described as complimentary) until he made the following statement:

"I suggest you stay in the NFFF for no longer than a year, for the valuable 'introduction to fandom' material I've described above is about all you'll really get for your membership. Unhappily, Damon Knight's dream of a central fan organization never got off the ground. The NFFF never actually *did anything* in fandom. It just sits there, big and old and full of members, but never does much."

Conclusion

Despite what Carter wrote in 1967, the N3F has proved to be a stable and enduring national Sf organization for the past 60+ years. Current activities of the club include its quarterly fanzine, **The National Fantasy Fan**, an annual short story contest, the Neffy Awards (annual awards presented in a variety of categories), and 25 different bureaus/activities (including N'APA) participated in by the membership. A current member of

N3F can pick from these and many other club activities. In particular, there are always publishing opportunities for those who like to draw and write.

Lin Carter (1930-1988)



Lin Carter receiving the Grand Masters Award

SF personality Linwood Vrooman Carter began his fannish activities as a writer of LoCs to SF magazines. He became a professional author in 1957 with a story in **F&SF**, "Masters of the Metropolis" (written in collaboration with Randall Garrett). Carter's professional writing was mainly in the field of heroic fantasy, where he created the character of Thongor the Barbarian and collaborated with L. Sprague de Camp on the revival of Robert E. Howard's Conan the Barbarian. Carter was the force behind Ballantine's Adult Fantasy series (1969-1972); and, also beginning in the late 1960s, he edited more than a dozen SF/fantasy anthologies and collections.



art: Morris Scott Dollens

Harry Warner, Jr. on the N3F Constitution

by John D. Swartz, N3F Historian

Excerpts from Warner's ALL OUR YESTERDAYS (Advent, 1969) on the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) Constitution:

N3F Founder Damon Knight was quoted by Warner as saying: "The association would be organized with one purpose only: to supply the fantasy fans of America with those services with which they cannot supply themselves singly or in local groups."

Charter member Art Widner, in his fanzine **Fanfare** (that published Knight's original letter) proposed a constitution that stated the club's purpose: "To unite all existing fan organizations that are willing to cooperate with other fan organizations into a federation which can be recognized as the official organization of fandom, representative of the majority of fans. It shall set about bettering the conditions within fandom itself, and those of science and fantasy fiction in general."

Louis Russell Chauvanet was our club's first president, and the one who coined the name **Bonfire** for the club's fanzine, the first issue of which went into the mails in mid-1941. Chauvanet's platform, when he ran for president, stated that no one associated with feuding should hold an important club office.

According to Warner, who edited the first issue of Bonfire, the club's constitution (after revision) had been approved by a vote of 52 to 1. The major revision had been to scrap the method set up to finance the club (a tax on each fan, its size determined by his amount of fanac)! By the end of the year, only eight of the sixty-four charter members had paid a twenty-five cent fee that was to take care of operating costs.

Warner then states that, with E.E. Evans as chairman, a planning committee was set up and had gone to work "on the pastime that was to recur as the NFFF's major function, that of rewriting the constitution."

Warner himself was asked to revise the constitution in 1942 by the then president, Evans, who didn't like Warner's version and revised the constitution himself, sent it to the directors for comment—and then, according to Warner, "vanished in magical manner from fandom." Bob Tucker took the reins just long enough to get Al Ashley appointed as acting president. Ashley announced that the Evans version of our constitution was "the sole salvation for the club", but then drew up an emergency version by himself which appeared in the December 1943 issue of Bonfire.

Confusion continued until the early part of 1944, at which time there were only two members of our club in good standing! Things were better by the end of the year, however, and an "emergency constitution" passed by a vote of thirty-two to four.

The Emergency Constitution, a seven-part document, consisted of the following: 1) duration of this constitution, 2) purpose, 3) club officers and their duties, 4) requirements for membership in the club, 5) dues, 6) means of amending the constitution, and 7) the purpose of Bonfire, the club's official publication—"which shall be issued monthly".

In 1947 the club published a "proposed new constitution that had been drawn up by Hevelin and Tarr on the skeleton of Speer's brief proposed constitution, which in turn had been written as a contrast to Evans' long constitution, after that had been amended." About this time, according to Warner, the N3F began to separate itself from general fandom.

About Harry Warner



Harry Warner, Jr., and his fanzine Horizons

Harry Warner, "The Hermit of Hagerstown", was a charter member of the N3F, editor of the first Bonfire, member of an early club Advisory Board, and the author of two histories of fandom: ALL OUR YESTERDAYS (1969) and A WEALTH OF FABLE (1992). According to BNF Wilson "Bob" Tucker, who wrote the introduction to All Our Yesterdays, Warner was a packrat who owned thousands of records, thousands of books and magazines, and millions of fanzines.

Note: By rumor there have been several different constitutions since the times noted, one said to have been done by Sime-Gen, and intervening mutations produced by changes being allowed as well as amendments; we're still looking.-JT

Growing Up With Science Fiction by Judy Carroll



Disneyland

I love science fiction. I haven't always felt that way. When I was a child I loved fantasy and really fell for Disney's version of popular fairy tales. When my family visited Disneyland I was fascinated with Fantasyland. The other lands were fine, but my heart was with Peter Pan as we flew through the sky and saw London below us, and Snow White with the wicked hag beckoning us to come to her while enticing us with a poisoned apple as we sped by in a mining cart. Years later we returned to Disneyland. I still had a soft spot for Fantasyland but my main interest was Tomorrowland with spaceships and aliens and visions of the future.

Something happened during the years between visits to Disneyland, besides my growing older. I had discovered Science Fiction. Science Fiction was the realm where writer and reader exchange thoughts, wishes, visions and dreams. Adventure awaited. Visits to other planets. First contact with strange and beautiful beings. Unknown powers and strange philosophies. Friendship and kindness. Hatred and death. All so familiar—yet so strange.

Since reading science fiction can be so rewarding and the N3F was founding in 1941—I thought it would be interesting to look up popular science fiction books from the 1940s to the 2010s. Following is a list for each decade with two books each.

1940s—The Big Jump by Leigh Brackett & 1984 by George Orwell

1950s—Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes & Star Man's Son 2250 AD by Andre Norton

1960s—The Ship Who Sang by Anne McCaffrey & Way Station by Clifford D. Simak

1970s—Ringworld by Larry Niven & The Lathe of Heaven by Ursula K. LeGuin

1980s—The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood & Hyperion by Dan Simmons

1990s—Robot Visions by Isaac Asimov & To Say Nothing of the Dog by Connie Willis

2000s—The Seed of Dark by Elizabeth Moon & Old Man’s War by John Scalzi
2010s—The First Fifteen Lives of Henry August by Claire North & Dark Matter by Blake Crouch

I changed over the years moving from fantasy to science fiction.

I wonder how science fiction books have changed, developed, grown over the last eighty plus years since the N3F was founded. I’ve given you a starting point. You can discover for yourself the old and recent worlds of science fiction.



Walt Disney

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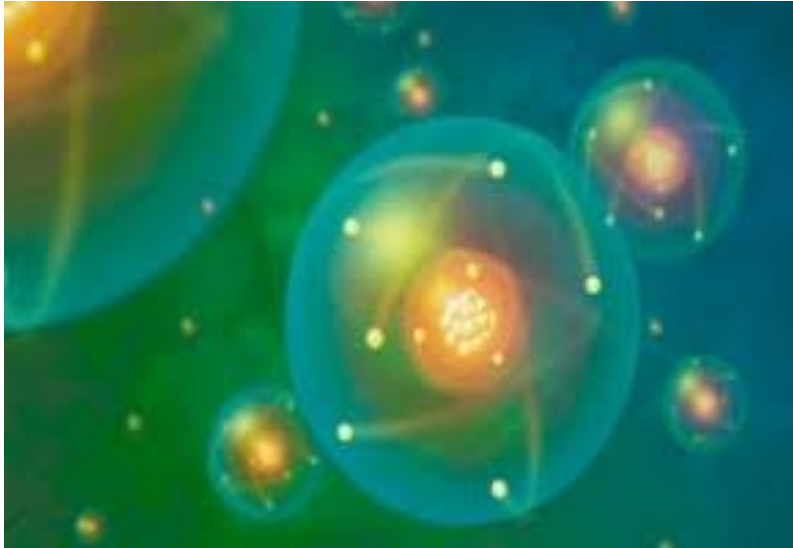
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