

# BONFIRE

volume 1

BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

number 4

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H. Jenkins, Jr.

## President's Report -

THIS ISSUE OF BONFIRE will be distributed among a number of fans who are not yet members of the NFFF, and it seems desirable, therefore, to preface this report with a few words to such new-comers into the fold. You will find in these pages several references to the difficulties with which the NFFF has been faced during the first half year of its existence. That the formation of a truly national organization should be attended with problems is not difficult to understand. The really significant point is, not that the NFFF has encountered such problems, but rather that they have been, or are in the process of being, satisfactorily threshed out. I would particularly like to call the attention of our new members and prospective members to the splendid work done by the Planning Committee, and to the first concrete results of its work, as discussed further on in my report. The Constitution which is being prepared for approval merits careful consideration, also, and those not particularly concerned with the technical set-up of the organization are strongly urged to read at least Article II, dealing with the purpose of the NFFF. I feel sure that the several provisions of this Article merit the full support of every interested fantasy fan.

AT THE TIME of the previous issue of Bonfire, there were 68 members of the NFFF; of these, 35, or slightly more than 50%, failed to vote in the special election on the Constitution called at that time. In some cases, copies of Bonfire were delayed in the mails owing to the Christmas rush, or lost altogether. Donn Brazier, now in Panama, and our English member, Mike Rosenblum, could not, of course, meet the time limit. This still leaves us with a significant number of members whose interest in the NFFF seems open to question. However, the fact that the previous Constitution offered to the members called for a broad scheme of taxes on fan activity may have been in large part responsible for the dismal showing. A number of the votes actually received were negative, and the Constitution accordingly failed to pass by quite a margin.

TO END THESE TROUBLES, I have, after consultation with the Advisory Board, acted upon their suggestions as follows: Because it is the aim of the NFFF to unite fantasy

fans, the NFFF will not adopt, and has no intention of ever adopting, any measure repugnant to a considerable element within fandom. The tax scheme proposed in the previous Bonfire evoked considerable opposition, since many fans felt it would not be fair to tax activity and so place a monetary premium on doing nothing for fandom. Accordingly, this objectionable section of the Constitution has been stricken out. Henceforth, the NFFF will raise money only by an equal imposition on all members, and money will be raised only for specific purposes clearly stated when the tax is announced. Voluntary contributions to the Treasury, will, of course, be acceptable at any time, and may or may not be publicly acknowledged, as the donor prefers.

THIS SOLUTION of the tax difficulty will, I believe, meet with general approval. As regards the problem of "getting out the vote", it is clearly stated in the Constitution that voting in the elections is an activity requirement for the maintenance of NFFF membership. At the suggestion of the Advisory Board, the ballot for this special election is being mimeographed on return-addressed postal cards, enclosed with this issue. There will thus be little excuse for a failure to vote, and it is hoped that all the members will vote this time. Frankly, there is general agreement among the officers that non-voting members be stricken from the rolls of the NFFF, as provided in the Constitution. The NFFF, you must remember, is not just another club to join, but a society of active fans, fans interested in doing something for the benefit of fandom, or in helping to support each worthwhile activity. I am not so much concerned with the numerical strength of the NFFF as with the interest the members feel in the activities the NFFF is helping to promote, and will promote in the future.

BECAUSE this report must be prepared a couple of weeks before publication date (Feb. 15), it is being written in ignorance of the decision of the Fourth WSFCS regarding the ultimate fate of the Pacificon. When this decision is made known to fandom at large, I will discuss with the Advisory Board any steps the NFFF may be able to take in support of it, or in modification of it if a suitable agreement can be reached with the officers of the 4th WSFCS. Details will be given in the succeeding issue of Bonfire.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE has unanimously recommended, the Advisory Board has approved, and I have started to put into effect, the following projects:

(1) Establishment of a Welcoming Committee. Each member shall submit a monthly report to the chairman, listing names of addresses of letter writers in the pro magazines who are not fans, but seem to be prospective fan material. Members are not, of course, asked to read all the sf magazines, but merely those they read anyway, in order to discover such letter-writers. The Chairman will then correlate the results, and notify the members of the chosen 5 or 6 prospective fans (PFs) for that month. Each member will then write the PFs short, friendly letters, welcoming them into fandom. The sub-chairman will then send the PFs samples of various fanzines, donated by the editors thereof (most have already promised full co-operation). In this way it is hoped that a constant influx of new blood into fandom can be maintained. At the time this report is written, the membership of the committee has not been finally named, but the selection of members is expected to be completed within a week or two; if possible, a last-minute bulletin will be included elsewhere in this issue.

(2) Preparation of the first Fantasy Fannual, the Yearbook of 1941, will in all likelihood be well under way by the time you read this. This Yearbook will be comprehensive in scope, and not restricted to merely NFFF activities. It will be financed by the NFFF and sold at a nominal price to NFFF members, a higher price to non-members. Three leading local fan groups are being asked for bids on the publishing end--The Golden Gaters, the Michifans, and the Columbia Camp; definite news as to the Editor in Chief and his publishing group will be available in the next issue of Bonfire. It is my hope that this Yearbook will be a credit to fandom in every way, and that fandom at large will support the measure. Remember, though the project has been planned, is being executed, and will be financed by the NFFF, it will be a Yearbook of Fandom, not a NFFF Review. As members of the NFFF you will, however, not only know

that you are helping support this project, but also will be enabled to buy the finished Fannual at a reduced price.

(3) Establishment of Annual Awards. Yearly, at the national convention, the NFFF will sponsor awards for the following: Most Popular Fan; Editor and Publisher Award (best fan magazine); Author of Best Pro Story of the Year; (the three major awards); and also minor awards for these: Best Fan Author; Best Fan Artist; Best Fan Reporter; and a special award for the best single piece of work done by a fan during the year. In this way we hope to enlarge upon and continue the work started by Daugherty on his own initiative at the Donvention last year. All these awards will be based on the results of a poll taken among members of the NFFF. By means of these awards we will be able to encourage and foster the ideals which governed the organization of the NFFF (Article II of the Constitution.)

I REGRET TO SAY that even at this late date, there remain some members — too many, in fact! — who have not responded to the first tax call for 25¢, which was made in #2 and reiterated in #3 Bonfire. With this issue, members will have received 4 copies of Bonfire, and if they have paid their taxes, 4 issues of a fanzine for 25¢ is scarcely an excessive tariff. In fact, it would not have been possible to issue some of our earlier numbers at all if certain individual fans had not been willing to donate time, labor, and money to the cause. As one who has devoted a good deal of energy to the interests of the NFFF, I cannot feel much sympathy with those members who have proved unwilling to pay what is unanimously agreed to be a fair tax. The constitution provides for the expulsion of such delinquent members and it is only fair to state that the Advisory Board as well as myself is definitely in favor of cleaning out the dead wood in the organization.

OUR PRESENT financial situation is good enough to pay for this issue of Bonfire, and possibly the succeeding one, though it looks as if money may have to be privately donated or advanced for #5. For the efficient functioning of the NFFF in the next few months, considerably more funds will be required, to help keep Bonfire going, help meet pre-publication expenses of the Fantasy Fannual, pay for the Annual Awards, the polls, etc. The next issue of Bonfire will undoubtedly contain the proclamation of the second general tax, of an amount to be determined after consultation with the Treasurer and the Finance Committee, and consideration of the probable cost of the Fannual. The tax is not, however, likely to exceed 50¢, provided that a majority of the present membership resolves to continue their active support of the NFFF, financially as well as verbally.

IT IS WORTHY OF MENTION that the Planning Committee submitted an unanimous recommendation of the proposal that a History of Fandom be prepared and published. After discussion with the Advisory Board, however, it has been decided, that while this would be a fine thing to have, at present it would seem more sensible to conserve the energies and resources of the NFFF to carry through the Yearbook to a successful conclusion, before anything concrete is done about the History. If the Yearbook is sufficiently successful to break even, or do a little better, on the financial end, then it will be in order to give the proposed History earnest consideration. For the moment, however, the recommendation has been pigeonholed, pending outcome of the Yearbook publication plans.

LOUIS GOLDSTONE is to be commended for the energy and interest in the welfare of the NFFF displayed in his circular to the membership on the subject of the Constitution. In principle, circularizing the membership, either independently or concurrently with Bonfire as provided in the Constitution, is not only quite legal, but also may be desirable. However, in this case, it is necessary to say something about the language employed, which even Lou has admitted "may seem" excessively strong. There is no question but that the Finance Committee was acting in perfectly good faith in preparing the tax report in question. They were, in fact, acting upon explicit instructions from me to investigate the possibilities of such taxes. I think they did an excellent job on this assignment. No taxes were imposed, or could have been imposed, without the consent of the membership at large; the open discussion in the pages of Bonfire of the tax-scheme served to draw a number of perfectly reasonable

pages of Bonfire of the tax-scheme served to draw a number of perfectly reasonable objections from members other than Goldstone; in view of these reasonable objections, the Board came to the conclusion that it would be to the best interest of the NFFF to abandon the proposed suggestions and rely instead on the straight per-capita tax. Incidentally, Sections A and B of Article IV in the previous Constitution were written in by myself, for the purpose of giving the Finance Committee sufficient authority to initiate the levy of taxes, once we had been able to work out a scheme acceptable to the membership. I will take full responsibility for this action. The Finance Committee had nothing to do with the presence of these sections in the Constitution, except insofar as I based the sections in question on certain features of the Fincom's PRELIMINARY report. The language Lou employs with reference to "some shining intellect in the NFFF" and the 'Finance Committee' therefore applies to myself, if it applies to anything. I cannot remember that my character or the sincerity of my interest in fandom has ever needed defending — or needs it now! To conclude this discussion, let me give a word of advice: Criticize, by all means. Progress results from constructive criticism. But it is quite safe to assume that the officers are interested in the welfare of the NFFF, so — think twice, boys, before you throw them thar bricks.

AT THIS TIME I am calling a special election on the Constitution, which will become legal only when it has received a majority vote of the ACTIVE members. Ballot enclosed, mimeographed on return-addressed postal cards. TO BE COUNTED, YOUR BALLOT MUST BE SIGNED. Voting is secret; that is, no news will be released regarding any individual's vote on any topic, but it is essential that we know which of the members fail to vote, and are hence inactive. (See Constitution, Article IX, Section B), Polls close March 21.

IN CONCLUSION, best wishes to all of you for 1942, with this, our first 1942 number. The fifth edition of Bonfire will be sent out on schedule April 15th; the sixth, in June, will complete our first volume, just one year after the issuance of Bonfire #1. It is my hope that the remainder of the year will see the continued growth of the NFFF, and the accomplishment of many useful things for the benefit of fantasy fandom.

-- Louis Russell Chauvenet  
President, Jan 31, 1942

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*Advisory Board Report —*

RESULTS of the Constitutional Election:

29 in favor

5 opposed.

Total membership — 68. Number voted — 34.

WHEN PRECISELY half of the members of an organization vote in a constitutional election, there is something wrong somewhere. Because of this apathy, the entire election must be repeated.

I HAVE ASKED the president whether it would be possible to include on the next election the following statement:

"I, the undersigned, wish to remain a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation."

THOSE WHO FAILED TO REPLY would automatically become non-members. Whether or not this is used, I wish to give notice that those who fail to vote in both elections are liable to expulsion by the unanimous consent of the officers.

WE MUST KEEP this organization going, and we are not going to be balked by those who are too lazy to address and stamp an envelope. Those who do not have the energy to lick a postage stamp will please signify their desire to discontinue receiving

Bonfire

I UNDERSTAND that several members failed to receive copies of Bonfire #3. They cannot be blamed for having failed to vote, but they might have (1) inquired when they heard that Bonfire was out and/or (2) given notice of change of address.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK those who responded in regards to the trial entrance exam. I was not able to prepare as scientific exam as I would like to have done, but I am fairly well satisfied with the one that finally came through the mill. It is much more compact than the trial one, for many questions were combined and still more eliminated. It will soon be mimeographed and will be available for use by those prospective members who care to take it.

THERE HAVE BEEN two new members accepted since the last Bonfire: Louis C. Smith, and Lorraine Smith, of 1845 Prince St., Berkeley, California. Six applications are at present pending approval by the Advisory Board.

THE ADVISORY BOARD DISCUSSED with the President the report of the Planning Committee and made various suggestions. I believe that a complete report on that business will be made by the President.

EXPENSES INCURRED by the advisory board to date are as follows:

250 forms for use in approving new members . . . . .	\$0.50
	0.40
	<del>\$</del> 0.90

-- Milton A. Rothman,  
Chairman. Feb. 2,  
1942.

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*Finance Committee Report* —

YOUR COMMITTEE has been unable to secure definite figures on the probable routine expenses of the Federation for a normal year, but the following very rough estimates are submitted:

Mimeographing (assuming an 8 page official organ six times a year, and average two pages of forms, to a circulation of 100)				
Stencils @ \$ .12	Reams paper @ \$1.00	Postage @ \$0.15	Ink @ \$1.00	
Approx Qty 50	Quantity 5	600	2	
\$6.00	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$2.00	

Stickers, (stationery?), postage for official correspondence, -- Quien sabe?

YOUR COMMITTEE'S REPORT, however, is not based upon any specific amount to be raised. Certain proportions of taxation on certain sources are proposed, and the rate will be varied to suit the need.

THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN has found all the officials of the Federation who have mentioned their opinions to him to be opposed to taxation, preferring rather dues. However, vox populi, vox dei; taxation must be given the best try possible.

IT WILL BE APPRECIATED that each fan, as he sees the tax rates published, may feel that they bear particularly heavily on him, or seem to discourage the enterprise which is the lifeblood of fandom. The power to tax involves the power to destroy (McCulloch vs Md), but it should be realized that somebody must pay, and the most active fans are the logical ones to do so. Fans are not in fandom to help the other fellow; each one gets a great deal out of it personally, and has to pay something for his fun as it is. The Federation merely hikes the ants a bit, and it is supposed that it will in return increase the benefits derived from the hobby. If one or two publishers of marginal-value fanzines feel that the game is no longer worth the cost, H. C. Koenig for one will not weep to see them discontinue publication.

THERE ARE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES on which taxes might be based, of which the most apparent are publishing and authoring (including artwork, poetry, etc). Possibly it may at a later date be found desirable to levy taxes on other aspects of fan activity to fulfill the requirement that a good tax system should be varied, but the Committee presently recommends that taxes, other than the head tax proclaimed by the President, be laid only on members as authors and publishers. The tax on publishing is very roughly proportional to ability to pay, that on authorship recommends that the amount to be raised be divided equally between these two sources of revenue, and tax rates assigned to each sufficient to raise half the amount.

IT IS PROPOSED that all publishers of fanzines who are members of the NFFF regularly submit reports of what they have published in the preceding period, and detailed tabulation of authorship of material in those publications. This will be checked by someone in the Treasurer's office, who will add to it figures on material authored by NFFF members which has appeared in any fanzines that may have been published by non-members of the NFFF. The necessary rate to raise the required amount will then be computed, after which our publishers and authors will be billed individually, each for what is due from him, and must pay within a reasonable time to retain his membership.

PUBLISHERS OF FAN PUBLICATIONS which sell for a price (gratis pubs, including purely FAPA ones, excepted) will each pay a given amount for each issue of their publication, regardless of size or price. Authors (including artists, etc), will pay in proportion to the quantity of fan material by them published within the period, regardless of what fan publication it appeared in (FAPA, subscription, or otherwise). (Dissenting opinion: Authors should pay a flat rate for each piece published; thus a half-page poem would pay the same as a three-page article).

NO RELIABLE ESTIMATES can be given of the amount of material available on which the \$25 or so annual routine expense may be raised. If there are an average of twelve subscription fanzines published by NFFF members per month, the levy might be 10¢ an issue for the publishers. If there is an average of 120 pages of material written by NFFF members per month, the corresponding charge for authors would be 1¢ per page. These figures are given merely by way of illustration; only experience will give a basis for determining the proper rate of levy.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that when a treasury has been established, and there are funds on hand over and above those required for current operations, they used to purchase stencils and paper at the best obtainable price for satisfactory material to be resold to members at cost. This will at the same time achieve the long-desired centralization in purchasing of those supplies, which very greatly in cost from place to place, and also provide a cushion for readjustment of plans of the fan publishers in the event paper prices go sharply upward or the threatened stencil shortage materializes.

IF THE CONSTITUTION published in #3 Bonfire is adopted, your Committee expresses preference for the following plan of financing the NFFF:

YOUR COMMITTEE'S REPORT, however, is not based upon any specific amount to be raised. The constitution permits varying of the assessments to meet the need.

IN VIEW OF THE GREAT OPPOSITION expressed to a plan for taxing activity, it is recommended that sections A and B of Article IV be treated as a dead letter for the present at least, and NFFF expenses paid by an equal levy on all members, as authorized by Section C, Article IV.

WHEN DEFINITE ESTIMATES of the Federation's expenses for the next half-year are available, the amount to be raised should be divided by the number of prospective payees, and the levy proclaimed by the President. The routine expenses for a six-month period could probably be covered by 25¢ from each member; the Finance Committee

has no information of the probable cost of awards and other projects under consideration by the Planning Committee.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL LEVYING OF THE TAX is recommended, since in a shorter period, like three months, not all members (considering the many who do not answer correspondence promptly) would comply before another assessment was due, and annual dues do not seem adapted to an active organization whose plans develop and change greatly within a twelve-month period.

THERE IS NO CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION at present for extending any exemption or reduction of taxes to very active members.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that when a treasury has been established, etc. . .

— Jack Speer, Chairman  
Finance Committee.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE NFFF — February, 1942.

All the original members, and those who have to date been officially admitted as new members, are here listed in alphabetical order. Due to inactivity, the status of some members is open to question.

If the name is preceded by a ?, it indicates the member has neither paid the 25¢ tax nor voted. Such members are in danger of being dropped unless they vote in the present election & pay their 25¢ tax. They can be sent no further issues of Bonfire until they have regained good standing.

Where the address of a member is followed by \$, it indicates this member has voted, but not paid his tax. V means the tax has been paid, but no vote received. In either case, the individual in question is cordially urged to remedy the deficiency and become fully active, though he is not at the moment in definite danger.

Where an E follows a name, it signifies the member has failed to fill one or both of the activity requirements, but that there are extenuating circumstances (such as residence abroad, or failure to receive a copy of Bonfire #3. In the latter case, duplicates have been supplied.)

Members whose names are accompanied by no symbols, or by an E, are at present the only members in good standing. Members whose names are preceded by a ? are in extremely poor standing. The remainder of the membership stands somewhere between these extremes.

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1. Ackerman, Forrest J 236½ N. New Hampshire, Hollywood, Calif.
2. Ackermann, Henry A. 5200 Maple Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.
3. Ashley, Abbey Lu 86 Upton Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan.
4. Ashley, Laverne 86 Upton Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan.
5. ?Bradbury, Ray D. 3054½ W. 12th St., Los Angeles, Calif.
6. Beling, Charles A. La Roche Ave., Harrington Park, N. Jersey.
7. ?Brady, Franklin 140 S. Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.
8. Brazier, Donn ("Somewhere in Panama" — % Harry Warner) E
9. ?Bridges, Lynn 7730 Pitt St., Detroit, Michigan.
10. ?Bronson, Phil 224 W. 6th St., Hastings, Minnesota.
11. ?Bush, James 1978 36th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
12. Chauvenet, L. R. Box 1431, Univ. Sta., Charlottesville, Va.
13. Conner, Edward C. 929 Butler St., Peoria, Ill.
14. ?Counts, Edwin F., 298 N. Washington St., Battle Creek, Mich.
15. Cunningham, John M. 2050 Gilbert St., Beaumont, Texas.
16. Evans, E. Everett, 191 Capital Ave., SW, Battle Creek, Mich.
17. Farsaci, Larry B. 48 Lewis St., Rochester, N. Y.
18. Feldman, Scott 67-69 Amboy St., Brooklyn, NY.
19. ?Fields, Jack 831 Escobar St., Martinez, Calif.
20. Fortier, Joe 1836 39th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
21. Freehafer, Paul 349 S. Rampart, Los Angeles, Calif.
22. Gilbert, Joseph 908 Lloyd Court, Columbia, SC. V
23. ?Gillespie, Jack 89 Wadsworth Terrace, New York, NY.

- 24. Goldstone, Louis 269 16th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
- 25. Hansen, Charles F. Route 1, Box 103, Woodland, Washington.
- 26. Hanson, Earl B. 228 SW 34th Ave., Miami, Florida. V
- 27. Hurter, Fred St. Andrews College, Aurora, Ontario, Calif.
- 28. Jenkins, Harry 2409 Santee Avenue, Columbia, SC.
- 29. Jones, Robert 281 14th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
- 30. ?Jordon, Robert 831 Central Ave., Alameda, Calif.
- 31. ?Jorgenson, Eugene 2015 Harrington Ave., Oakland, Calif.
- 32. ?Kenealy, Nicholas E. Co. K, 30th Q'master Reg't, "Plum", %P'master, S.F., Calif.
- 33. ?Knight, Damon % C. Cohen, 311 E. 61st, Apt. 17, New York, NY.
- 34. Koenig, H. C. 2 East End Ave., New York, NY.
- 35. ?Kuhn, Richard J. 13598 Cheyenne, Detroit, Mich.
- 36. Kuslan, Gertrude 170 Washington Ave., West Haven, Conn.
- 37. Kuslan, Louis 170 Washington Ave., West Haven, Conn. \$
- 38. ?Kyle, David Monticello, New York.
- 39. Lowndes, Robert W. 136 E. 28th St., New York, NY. \$
- 40. ?Madle, Robert A. 333 E. Belgrade St., Phila., Pa.
- 41. Martin, Lew 1258 Race St., Denver, Colorado.
- 42. Massion, Charles 38 S. 4th St., E, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 43. ?Millard, John L. 917 W. Ganson St., Jackson, Mich.
- 44. Moffat, Leonard J. 419 Summit Ave., Ellwood City, Pa.
- 45. Morojo, Bx 6475, Met. Sta., Los Angeles, Calif.
- 46. ?Mulrain, Chris Barrack 787, 30th School Squadron, Scott Field, Illinois.
- 47. ?Paro, Francis 125 W. 6th St. So. Boston, Mass.
- 48. Perdue, Elmer 1218 S. Cedar St., Casper, Wyoming.
- 49. Robson, George % Tom Wright.
- 50. Riggs, Jack 1620 Chestnut St., Berkeley, Calif.
- 51. ?Rocklynne, Ross 1110 Wm. Howard Taft Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 52. Rosenblum, J. Michael 4 Grange Terrace, Chapeltown, Leeds 7, England. E
- 53. Rothman, Milton 1730 P, NW, Washington, D. C.
- 54. ?Schumann, Phil 2767 N. 41st St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 55. ?Sehnert, Art 791 Maury St., Memphis, Tenn.
- 56. ?Sienkiewicz, Ray J. 312 Elm St., Scranton, Pa.
- 57. ?Smith, C. M. 313 Homecrest Rd., Jackson, Mich.
- 58. Smith, E. E. 313 Homecrest Rd., Jackson, Mich.
- 59. Smith, Lorraine 1835 Prince St., Berkeley, Calif.
- 60. Smith, Louis C. 1835 Prince St., Berkeley, Calif.
- 61. Speer, Jack F 3416 Northampton, NW, Washington, D. C.
- 62. ?Studley, Bob 210 W. 109th St., New York, NY.
- 63. Swisher, R. D. 15 Ledyard Rd., Winchester, Mass.
- 64. Tanner, C. R. Branch Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 65. Tarr, Dale 1110 Wm. Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio. \$
- 66. Thompson, D. B. 1903 Polk St., Alexandria, La.
- 67. Tiger, Hyman % Scott Feldman.
- 68. Tucker, Bob Box 260, Bloomington, Ill. \$
- 69. Unger, Julius 1702 Dahill Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 70. Warner, Harry, Jr. 303 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Maryland.
- 71. Widner, Art jr. Box 122, Bryantville, Mass.
- 72. Wiedenbeck, Jack 115 Marjorie St., Battle Creek, Michigan.
- 73. Wilson, Richard 311 E. 61st St., New York, NY. \$
- 74. ?Wollheim, Donald A. 244 W. 74th St., New York, NY.
- 75. Wyers, Everett 1414 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, Calif.
- 76. Wright, Tom 3618 Maple Ave., Oakland, Calif. \$.
- 77. Wood, Mrs. Russell E. 846 Gulf Ave., Wilmington, Calif. V

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 Since stenoiling the Advisory Board report, Rothman sends news that six more new members have been added: Wyers, Riggs, Conner, the Ashleys, and Wiedenbeck. Welcome!  
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LATE NEWS FLASH! -- (L. R. Chauvenet)  
 Lou Goldstone has accepted the Chairmanship of the Welooming Committee, and John M. Cunningham has been appointed to distribute the fanzines to the various PFs. Some of the members of the committee have been appointed already. The next Bonfire will carry the names of committee members and accomplishments.

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NFFF

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

Article II. Purpose. The purpose of the NFFF shall be:

A. To unite all local and solitary fans into a single organization capable of making single decisions representative of the majority.

B. To prevent confusion and misunderstandings among fans, and to prevent local groups or cliques from exerting disproportionate influence on fandom.

C. To sponsor and help finance worthy fan projects with the exception of subscription fanzines, or any projects not wholly amateur in intent.

D. To better conditions with fandom and the sf and fantasy field, by speaking approval or disapproval of outstanding conditions in a strong and united voice.

E. To provide an efficient administration of this federation, based on the democratic theory of self-government.

F. To encourage and promote the growth of local clubs and sectional federations, and to cooperate with and assist the said organizations whenever possible.

G. To formulate and put into effect all possible activities of present and future benefit to fandom.

Article III. Membership.

A. The Advisory Board of the NFFF shall pass upon all applications for membership, which should be submitted to the Chairman.

B. In order to be eligible for membership, the applicant must be able to meet any two of the following three requirements:

1. Give proof of activity in the fan field, such as literary, artistic, or other journalistic work, attendance of conventions, active membership in fan organizations recognized by the NFFF, etc. Further definition of activity shall be left to the discretion of the Advisory Board.

2. Secure the recommendation in writing of three incumbent members, residing in any three states.

3. Pass an examination testing the prospective member's knowledge of science or fantasy fiction, and fandom. The grading of these tests and determination of the passing mark shall be left to the Advisory Board. (Article VI, Section D)

Article IV. Finances. Funds sufficient to pay the routine expenses of the NFFF, such as the issuance of the official bulletin, mimeographing examinations and forms, etc., shall be raised by taxation, as follows:

A. A per capita tax shall be levied at need upon the general membership of the NFFF. The amount of this tax shall be determined by the finance committee.

B. Taxes shall become effective when recommended by the Finance Committee, approved by a majority of the Advisory Board, and proclaimed by the President in the official bulletin.

Article V. Officers.

A. The effective officers of the NFFF shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and an Advisory Board of five. In each case the term of office shall be one year; incoming officers shall assume their duties one week after the polls are closed.

B. The appointive officers of the NFFF shall include: The Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, and not more than twelve nor less than four additional members of the same; the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and not more than four nor less than two additional members of the same; the Chairman of the Advisory Board, to be appointed from the five duly elected members of the same; the Official Editor, and such assistants as may be deemed necessary; the Chairman of the Welcoming Committee, and not more than twelve nor less than eight additional members of same; and any additional officials who may be required to perform the work of the NFFF.

C. Appointive officers shall be appointed by the President, and with the exception of the Official Editor, their terms of office shall be co-terminous

with his. Article VI, Section F controls the term of the Official Editor. Any incumbent member of an appointive office may be reappointed at the discretion of the incoming President. The Advisory Board shall be promptly notified of all appointments made under this Article, which shall be considered approved unless a majority of the Advisory Board returns an adverse decision within one month from the time of such notice. In the latter case, another candidate, acceptable to the Advisory Board, shall be named to fill the vacant post.

Article VI. Duties of Officers. The duties of the officers shall be:

A. The President shall direct the activities of the NFFF; at the commencement of his term make the appointments required by Article V, Sections B and C; appoint members to fill vacated offices until the next election; call special elections, and in conjunction with the Advisory Board, authorize polls; put the recommendations of the several committees before the Advisory Board; announce the dates of the annual election; be the official voice of the NFFF in decisions involving contacts outside the organization; and perform such duties as devolve upon an executive officer. He shall have all the necessary powers to deal with situations not covered by this constitution or subsequent amendments.

B. The Vice-President shall take over the President's office in case it shall be vacated; be the President's consultant and advisor; assist the President in the execution of his duties as is needful; and keep the Archives of the NFFF. The Archives shall consist of the permanent records of the NFFF; the membership list at each publication of the official organ; the list of officers and committee members each year; the list of affiliated organizations, together with officers, membership and activities of the same; a record of activities engaged in by the NFFF and their results; and any other information relating to the NFFF which is of permanent interest.

C. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect and record all payment and non-payment of authorized dues, taxes, or appropriations; prepare the ballot for the Official Editor; inform the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the names of those members who fail to pay authorized taxes twice in succession; and perform all other duties of a similar nature which may be required of him.

D. The Advisory Board shall investigate the credentials of all prospective members; pass upon the recommendations of the several committees; take action regarding members who fail to pay taxes or vote in elections; act upon requests for the expulsion of any member or the impeachment of any officer; devise examinations for prospective members, altering at least 20% of the questions therein each year; act as a check on the other officers; and act as the judiciary of the federation. The Board shall have sole jurisdiction over the acceptance or rejection of new members, and the devising and alteration of the entrance tests. All other Board decisions shall become final only when approved by the President; or when not vetoed within two weeks of the time the President is notified of the decision. A Presidential veto may be over-ridden by a four-fifths majority of the Board, after which the decision stands.

E. The Long Range Planning Committee shall devise, ask for, and investigate the possibilities of all ideas, suggestions, and proposals tending towards the benefit of fandom and the NFFF in the immediate and distant futures. The Chairman shall correlate the work of the several members of this committee, and submit frequent reports of the Committee activity to the President. When the Committee has worked out the practical application of a specific idea, the Chairman shall send the President full details and request that the Advisory Board be asked to act upon the matter. The Chairman shall also, when asked to do so, prepare a report of current committee activity for inclusion in the official bulletin.

F. The Official Editor shall edit and publish the official organ of the NFFF at intervals of not more than two months. A consistent failure to maintain this publishing schedule shall be construed as grounds for removal from office by action of the Advisory Board, unless such failure be due to delays of the other officers, or can otherwise be shown not to be the fault of the Editor. The material for inclusion in the official organ shall consist of the reports of the several officers. Other material may be included in the official bulletin at the discretion of the Editor provided that the Chairman of the Advisory Board approves. Other fanzines or material may be sent out with the official bulletin on

the same conditions. Members submitting such material or fanzines to the Official Editor are advised to mail a copy to the Chairman of the Advisory Board. The Official Editor shall also reproduce the ballots from copy supplied by the Secretary-Treasurer, and mail them out with the proper issue of the official bulletin. The term of office of the Official Editor shall not expire until he has issued the official bulletin listing the results of the annual election of officers.

G. The Finance Committee shall investigate the probable costs of all activities to be undertaken by the NFFF, and recommend the periodic imposition of a general per-capita tax sufficient to raise the estimated amounts. The Chairman shall have the duty of writing a report for the issue of Bonfire announcing the tax, which report will give the purposes for which money is being raised, and other such pertinent details. Recommendations of this Committee shall be submitted to the President for action by the Advisory Board.

Article VII. Privileges. All active members in good standing shall be entitled to run for office, vote in all elections, receive all official publications, use the name of the organization on stationery, letterheads, or any other honorable way, be granted appropriations for the furtherance of approved NFFF projects; and participate in all activities or benefits.

Article VIII. Elections.

A. Elections of the elective officers shall be held annually, and the date of such elections shall be announced in the official bulletin two months before the said date. Ballots shall be distributed with the copies of the succeeding issue of the official bulletin, which may contain election platforms of the several candidates. Balloting shall be by mail, and the ballot shall contain the name and address of the officer in charge of the polls. Candidates for office shall secure nominations by filing their intentions, signed by ten members, with the Secretary-Treasurer at least three weeks before the date of the election. All votes to be counted must be in the hands of the designated officer four weeks after the ballots are mailed. No votes received later shall be counted.

B. To be elected to office, a candidate for President, Vice-President, or Secretary-Treasurer must receive a majority of the votes cast, which must amount to at least 40% of the total active membership at the time of election. Failing these conditions, a re-election limited to the two candidates with the highest totals must be ordered. In the event that there are more than two candidates for any of these posts, the Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare a proportional-representation (multiple choice) ballot, allowing each voter to list the candidates in order of preference.

C. To be elected to the Advisory Board, a candidate must be one of the five candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. A tie for the fifth position shall be broken by vote of the other four members; if they divide equally, the President's vote shall decide.

D. Candidates for re-election to the same office must obtain twenty signatures of members for their re-nomination.

E. As voting in elections is an activity requirement for the maintenance of NFFF membership (Article IX, Section B), members shall mail their ballots in envelopes plainly marked with their names and return addresses, but the balloting shall be secret, and the officer in charge of the polls shall record only the fact that the several members have voted. He shall keep no record of the actual vote of any member, nor publish or mention the actual vote of any member, unless for any reason the Advisory Board has ordered an open ballot for that particular election.

F. Special elections or polls called at times other than that of the annual election shall be conducted under the same rules which apply to the annual elections.

Article IX. Expulsions.

A. Any officer or member may be expelled from the organization by a majority vote of the entire membership. Any member (not an officer) may be expelled by the unanimous vote of all the officers. Full report of such action and the grounds thereof should be published in the issue of the official bulletin

immediately following. (This last sentence applies to the next two sections of this Article.)

B. A member who is reported by the Secretary-Treasurer to have failed to pay two consecutive tax assessments shall be liable to expulsion by 4/5 vote of the Advisory Board. A member who is reported by the official in charge of the polls not to have voted in three consecutive elections, including special elections, is automatically suspended from active membership. Such a member shall twice be listed in the official bulletin under the heading "Inactive Members" and shall then be dropped, unless he shall meanwhile give the Advisory Board satisfactory evidence of his intention to become active in the future, when he may be re-instated by vote of the Board.

C. Any member exposed as using a pseudonym or fictitious character as another member of the NFFF for any purpose whatsoever shall automatically become ineligible to hold office, and may be expelled from membership if a majority of the active members so vote.

D. No member shall be expelled or suspended without having been duly notified in advance of proposed action to be taken against him, and given ample chance to offer a defense.

E. Any member may submit to the Chairman of the Advisory Board reasons why he believes another member should be expelled for the good of the NFFF; but an accusation proven to be false may in itself be taken as grounds for expulsion, if the Advisory Board so decides.

Article X. Amendments. Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed in writing, signed by five members, and submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer, who shall include such amendments in the copy for the ballot which is to be sent to the Official Editor. At the request of the proposers of the amendment, the President may order a special vote on the amendment, if he believes it advisable. Otherwise the balloting on amendments shall take place at the time of the annual election. A majority vote of the entire active membership shall be necessary for the adoption of amendments.

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Don't Forget -

YOUR  
VOTE

A-6  
Am 8

Must be in by  
March 21st!

VOTE NOW!

