

The National **84**Fantasy Fan Years

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars Volume 84 Number 8 August 2025

President's Message

Good things are happening in the N3F! Jason Hunt proposed that the N3F Powers That Be should meet and strategize about promoting the N3F and making better use of social media. Jean-Paul Garnier set up the Zoom meeting. We met and strategized. Perhaps ten of us – people drifted in and out depending on the hour – appeared and participated. As N3F President, it was really exciting to see a bunch of our dues-paying members come together, spontaneously prepared to do work for the N3F.

Welcommittee

Welcome to new members Caitlin Walsh, Bryan Knight, Gerald Stratton, Benjamin & Uuldrik Boekweg, Marion Harmon, Jarrett Keene, Brian Love, and Joy Drake. Greetings also to Mark Nelson for renewing and to Patrick Ijima-Wshburn and Sam Lubell for upgrading to voting memberships! The WelCommittee urges you: Get active in N3F activities. You can make an important change for the better for our club.

Welcommittee is for welcoming new members into the N3F, and following up with them. In the past the WelCommittee has welcomed new members with a "welcome" letters. Being on the WelCommittee is a wonderful way to be "on the front lines" of meeting new friends in our club! The Welcommittee is looking for new members. Please contact Judy Carroll blueshadows2012@gmail.com to volunteer.

Directorate, Officers, Editors, and Life Members Meet Report by President George Phillies

For the first time in living memory, active N3F members held an (electronic) face-to-face meeting. The proposal came from Jason Hunt, who wrote "Might we look at setting up a Zoom session amongst The Powers That Be at N3F to strategize a little with regard to promotion and better use of our social media? Perhaps even a discussion about something more formal with Neffercon."

Jean-Paul Garnier set up the Zoom meeting. To my ear, the meeting was successful.

Our objective to discuss what we could do to improve the N3F. Some invitees were unable to attend, or lacked the technology to attend, but between those who were able to attend there was a lively discussion. I did take considerable notes on our meeting, which I have tried to put into some sort of order.

Now we actually need people to put these ideas into practice.

We discussed bookmarks as an advertising scheme. Jean-Paul Garnier proposed these. He has designed the bookmarks. They are very pretty. The Directorate has voted to appropriate \$164.22 to cover printing 2500 of them and also handle shipping as needed.





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Your Volunteer Team

Directors

Jean-Paul Garnier spacecowboybooks@gmail.com Steve Condrey steve.condrey.tnfff@gmail.com Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com (Treasurer)

Officers

President George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Treasurer Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com Membership Secretary Steve Condrey steve.condrey.tnfff@gmail.com

Editors

TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com Artists Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner N'APA: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com Tightbeam: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net, Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com Eldritch ScienceSteve Condrey steve.condrey.tnfff@gmail.com

Mangaverse: Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com @gmail.com

The N3F Review: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net FanActivity Gazette: Mindy Hunt mindyhunt@scifi4me.com Films Fantastic: Jason Hunt <jphunt@scifi4me.com> Origin: Jean-Paul Garnier spacecowboybooks@gmail.com Keeper of the Passwords: Jessi Silver belindabird@gmail Keeper of the URLs: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Host of the Web Site: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Bureau Heads

Anime: Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com Art Bureau: Jose Sanchez jose77sanchez@yahoo.com Birthday Cards:

Book Review Bureau: G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Comics:

Convention Calendar: Mindy Hunt

Club News:

Correspondence Bureau: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Election Teller: Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau: FanZine Review Editor:

Film Bureau: Jason Hunt < jphunt@scifi4me.com> Forwarder Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com Franking Service: George Phillies phillies @4liberty.net Games Bureau:

Gourmet Bureau: Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com

Historian: Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com

History and Research Bureau:

Information Technology: George Phillies

phillies@4liberty.net

Kaymar Award: Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com

Continued Next Column, Middle

I was asked to supply a list of our social media locations, the site names, the user IDs, and the passwords. These have been sent to Jason Hunt and Jean -Paul Garnier. The list of those locations include two locations on mewe, namely N3F and NefferCon, several locations on Facebook, in particular the N3F group, the N3F page, the other N3F group, and the location of N3F Adult. N3F Adult appears to have died; the admins vanished. I did find the old X.com site, the @Tightbeam site, and confirmed that the password still works. Our webpage is hosted on bluehost. I forwarded the UID and password, but

Your Volunteer Team

Laureate Awards: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net Lord High Proofreader: Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com Lady High Proofreader: Jean Lamb

Membership Recruitment: Kevin Trainor wombat.socho @gmail.com Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com Outreach Bureau:

Pro Bureau: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Round Robins Inactive

Short Story Contest: J. Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com

Social Media:

Video Bureau: Heath Row, kalel@well.com

Welcommittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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there is two-factor identification in the way. Any member who wishes to join the Discord site needs to send me a note; I will respond with a Discord invite. Finally, there is the Science Fiction Facebook group, with 80,000 members, on which we are the admins. On most of the facebook groups, simple ask to join.

The tnfff.org/N3F.org web site could use upgrading. Our advertising fliers have now been given a dropdown location on the web page header so people can find, download, and print them. One of the rotating banners was defective; it got the club's name wrong. That banner has now been deleted.

Discussion somewhat focused around the idea that we could usefully have at least four more-or-less new bureaus. Details of the Bureaus had not been completely worked out. As examples, there could be a Social Media Bureau to maintain and support our text-based social media locations, those being the ones listed two paragraphs up. There could be a Multimedia Bureau to handle YouTube, Pinterest, Twitch, Odyssey, Kick, and other videofocused social media sites. We need a NefferCon Bureau to bring NefferCon up to speed again. NefferCon might do better in a different location, we weren't sure what the location should be. Kevin Trainor proposed a Professional Support Bureau of which he is now Bureau Head. His description of what his new Bureau proposes to do is his announcement elsewhere in this issue.

We discussed improving membership participation in the Laureate awards. Of course, we don't don't have all that many voting members, and only some of them read books or do other things for which there are awards, so the historical average has been that about a third of all dues-paying members participate in Award Voting. This year, there were a large number of possible awards with zero or one nomination. When there is no choice of nominee, there is little interest in voting.

We discussed opening either the nominations or the final vote on the Laureate Awards to Public as well as dues-paying members. Kevin Trainor proposed allowing Public (non-dues-paying) Members to nominate and vote for the Laureate Awards on payment of a \$1 fee. A related issue was that there are not many things that dues-paying members receive as privileges for paying dues. Ten of the thirty dues-paying members are Regular Members and receive the National Fantasy Fan by paper mail. Some but not all of those Regular Members also receive the National Fantasy Fan by email. Dues-paying members can serve as officers, Directorate members, or Bureau heads, can edit N3F zines, can vote in N3F and Laureate elections, and can contribute to N'APA or A Gentle Stroll. That's not a very impressive list, when you get down to it.

Adding a website listing of directories of clubs, magazines, and people willing to be alpha or beta readers are serve as editors or artists for our writers was noted as a possibility. Indeed, the magazine list is already advancing. More activities for the Pro Bureau, namely providing a clearinghouse for information on print and electronic SF magazines, a list of artists willing to do book covers and otehr illustrations, a listing of volunteer and paid editors, listings of paid and volunteer alpha and beta readers (overlaps also with the Writer's Bureau). On a more ambitious note, provide an emergency fund to help writers with catastrophic expenses (there was some back and forth on implementation. For all of these, provide an alternative to SFWA that is resolutely apolitical. This proposal ebcame the Professional Support Bureau.

We need more members. Membership recruitment matters! Face-to-face recruitment is important. Jacqueline Lichtenberg said of her joining the N3F: "It found me!" Putting the N3F out in front of the fannish public was seen as critical. A welcoming committee that led people to the door, in addition to the Welcommittee the greets members after they have joined, might be a step. It would be good if people attending SF cons would speak up, so that I could send them fliers advertising our zines

There are a lot of opportunities for video outreach and fan panels. The panels run by Fanac.org were noted as being important. Supplying our own panels would be a useful add-on to Neffercon. A new member guide that was quite short and said just a bit about what the N3F did might be useful. That

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guide might perhaps be lengthened by including the covers of our fanzines, a front shot of our website, and front shots of some of our social media sites.

The utility of targeted advertising on Facebook and Twitter was noted. There are some affordable magazines and websites to advertise on. For instance, Utopia SF Magazine (who won this year's laureate) has full page ads for \$10. The site https://www.worldswithoutend.com/ is also affordable to advertise on.

There is an easy fundraising site that connects directly to paypal https://ko-fi.com/.

We agreed that we will meet via Zoom on a regular basis, to report what we have done and consider what to do next.

View from the Directorate By Jefferson P. Swycaffer

I'm up to chat about the N3F, the Directorate, Fandom, and SF/F in general. Not much to say. The club is weak and underutilized, with too few members, and too little participation. I don't know how long the wounded soldier can limp along. I'm not ready to call for a "Blighty Ticket," a pass home and out of service – I'm not ready to give up the ship. (I'm always ready to mix metaphors!)

The good news is that, in last year's Short Story Contest, the few entries we did get were brilliant! The new writers, up-and-coming contributors to the genres we love, are out there, creating, demonstrating originality and invention, literary genius, and good old-fashioned hard work. A devoted reader could not find better!

The Directorate is holding a meeting via Zoom, but I can't attend it, not having Zoom technology. I'm happy to participate in email discussions, round-robins, and the like. It doesn't matter a whale of a lot, as I do not have a single durned thing to say. I flunked Marketing and Promotion in Business School. (Okay, I never attended Business School at all...) I do not know Jack Sparrow about how to get our name out in front of the peo-

ple who need it most – and whom we need the most. In the words of Al Khwarizmi, I got nothin'. (Math Joke: he was the one who introduced "zero" to our counting system.)

In terms of the Literature of Ideas, this is the summer of our discontent. There isn't a lot out there, and what there is, is hackneyed tripe. The same old same old. Empires and Starships SF, owing a mortal debt to Ancient Rome. (And, yes, I'm guilty as sin!) Vampires and Werewolves grunge regurgitating motifs that have already been thrice-digested. And subgenres like "Cozy Fantasy" that might as well be written by AI, so rigidly they follow the established formal outlines. Back in the last century, it was Romance Novels that seemed to be written by a computer – and computers were a lot less sophisticated then. Now, AI is the rage, and AI writes as well as a goodly number of published authors.

The N3F Short Story Contest squeaked by last year with just enough entries for a viable contest. If we don't get at least eight entries this year, I'm going to have to pull the plug and cancel the affair. And at this point – August! More than half the year is gone! – I've got Al Khwarizmi's number of entries. That is to say, none at all.

Directorate Appropriates Funds

By votes of 4-0, the Directorate has voted to appropriate \$164.22 to print bookmarks advertising the N3F, and to appropriate up to \$500 for electronic advertising of our club. The electronic motion reads "I move to allocate up to \$500 for advertising on Twitter and Facebook, so soon as we determine who is in charge of designing and placing the ads and ad appearance. These people should tell us what they plan to do before they do it. As we saw with the bookmarks and fine suggestions by Sam and others, several pairs of eyes are better than one."

Bureaus

Professional Support Bureau

Our newest Bureau is the Professional Support Bureau, Kevin Trainor being the first Bureau Head.

Kevin writes: I have been asked to take on the role of

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Bureau Head for our new Professional Support Bureau. Since I have been muttering about getting the N3F to pick up this role after SFWA forgot what it was supposed to be about and (as far as I can tell) stopped doing it, I might as well add this fez to the collection.

I'll be contacting our members who are also professional writers and editors to see what exactly they want from the N3F's PSB going forward. We are currently at work assembling a list of pro markets, artists, editors, and proofreaders for publication in the next issue of Ionosphere. The idea was gloated that we should start an Emergency Medical Fund, but the devil is in the details for that.

Origins

Origins had been on hiatus for some years, but has been revived by Sam Lubell as our zine focused on the history of science fiction and science fiction fandom, primarily of the previous millennium. His first issue just appeared.

Short Story Contest

We have a yearly short story contest, open to non-professionals. For details, please contact our professional writer and judge, Jefferson Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com or read the description on the penultimate page of this issue.

Ionisphere

Jean-Paul Garnier (spacecowboybooks.com) has revived Ionisphere, the ionic sphere that draws together all fen and pros. Ionisphere (note the second "i") is the revived bimonthly zine of the Fan-Pro Activity Coordinating Bureau. The Bureau and its zine exist to increase interactions between readers and writers, publish interviews with writers and fen, promote contact information and web locations, and support convention activities. He is now working on the next issue. For that publication he will have a Directory of active SFFH magazines. So far he has about 60 of them, including professional, semiprofessional, and amateur magazines, but the count has tended to increase. He reports finding a large number of other resources. At some point a web page entry listing

resources would be desirable.

A Gentle Stroll

A Gentle Stroll is our new role-playing games APA, appearing on a monthly publication schedule. Unlike all of our other magazines, A Gentle Stroll is sent on request. You have to ask the collator (George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net) to put you on A Gentle Stroll's mailing list. Subscriptions are currently free. If we see that the project is successful, contributors (but not readers) will in a few months be asked to join the N3F as electronic members (50 cents a month; six dollars a year). All issues are available on N3F.org. The deadline for the next issue is Sunday August 31. Send your contributions as page-size PDFs – size limit, about 1 Mb - to George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net.

Writer's Exchange Bureau

Members of the Writers' Exchange Bureau read each other's manuscripts and offer friendly suggestions. Right now we have a surplus of readers and a shortage of writers, so feel free to accept criticism without offering any. Contact Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com for more information.

Book Review Bureau

We continue to publish The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono, now on a bimonthly schedule. The most recent issue, for June 2025, was 92 pages in length. More book reviews are always welcome.

Social Media

A largely complete list of N3F Social Media sites is:

N3F.org Our web site. facebook.com/groups/n3flist/ – Our Facebook group

 $facebook.com/The N3F-The\ Facebook\ announcement\ page$

Science Fiction, the FaceBook science fiction page, is owned and largely administered by Neffers. N3F.org -- Our web site.

facebook.com/groups/n3flist/ – Our Facebook group facebook.com/TheN3F – The Facebook announcement page

mewe.com/group/5cd109edfff67f1e08e43120 is NefferCon, our electronic SF convention.

We also have the N3F Mewe Group. https://mewe.com/group/5cd109edfff67f1e08e43120

Discord.Com – we have a discord group. Contact George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net to be invited to join.

Eldritch Science

Eldritch Science is our art and fiction zine, edited by Steve Condrey <u>gscondrey@gmail.com</u>. After years of limited activity, Steve has successfully transformed it into a bimonthly zine. An issue will appear within a month. He welcomes new fiction submissions from members and non-members alike.

Artists Bureau

Artists from this bureau supply much artwork for the club zines. Technique, subject matter, and publication will also be a part of the discussions of this bureau. If you have an interest in science fiction/fantasy art, and are wanting to share that interest, this is the bureau for you!! Contact Art Bureau Head Jose Sanchez jose77sanchez@yahoo.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau

The Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau exists to promote relations between fen and writers. It publishes Ionisphere.

Films Fantastic

Jason Hunt writes: If you have any film reviews in your in-box, I'm happy to add them to the pile for this issue of Films Fantastic. Send them to Jason Hunt jphunt@scifi4me.com.

Franking Service

The Franking Service performs the original purpose of the N3F, redistributing fanzines to our membership. Our work is purely electronic, using the internet to retransmit fanzines. It functions by collecting fanzines, compressing all zines received in a given month into a single downloadable file, and announcing that the file has been made available for download. The downloadable files comprise Frankinzine, available by download at N3F.org.

Laureate Awards

The N3F Laureate Awards, first given in 1941, are the oldest awards in SF Fandom. They are given for expecially meritorious contributions to science fiction, broadly defined, over the past year, on a wide range of topics, such as best fanzine and best novel.

Jean-Paul Garnier sent press releases for the Laureate Awards to Locus, File 770, and Ansible. So far File 770 has used the release. The Zoom meeting discussed opening either the nominations or the final vote on the Laureate Awards to Public as well as dues-paying members. Kevin Trainor proposed allowing Public (non-dues-paying) Members to nominate and vote for the Laureate Awards on payment of a \$1 fee. Member discussion is needed.

N'APA

N'APA is our traditional APA. To contribute, send pdf pages of your zine to Jefferson Swycaffer, abontides@gmail.com Published bimonthly, it covers all topics of possible interest to fen. Founded in 1959, at different times it has been a letter zine, a center for discussing the future of the N3F, with reviews and fiction also common. Our recent experiment is to encourage members to publish fan fiction, stories of almost-familiar characters with the serial numbers sanded off

Web Pages

The list of Laureate Award winners has been filled in and brought up to date. The issue of TNFF with the Award announcement has been posted on the web

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pages. Other zines are approximately up to date. A drop-down list linking to advertising fliers has been added.

Tightbeam

Tightbeam continues to appear monthly. We try to review all manner of fannish activity, with some (e.g., anime, SerCon) being better represented than others. We also cover books, comics, films, videos, TV shows, poetry, short stories, and would happily cover cosplay if submissions became available.

Historian

The N3F was founded in 1941, before almost all living fen were born. We actually have a club historian, Jon Swartz. who is always looking for more material on our past. He can be reached as Jon Swartz at judgeswartz@gmail.com.

The National Fantasy Fan

Our 85th year of existence approaches. I have made some modest changes in the appearance and contents of TNFF, which I will leave you to find. I hope that you like them.

Mangaverse

Mangaverse is the revived magazine of the N3F anime and comics bureau. Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com is the BuHead; Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com@gmail.com is the zine editor.

Gourmet Bureau

The Gourmet Bureau presents wonderful recipes, in particular recipes inspired by famous authors. Cedar Sanderson publishes on this.

Correspondence Bureau

The Correspondence Bureau sets up N3F members of similar interests to correspond with each other.

Contact Judy Carroll Blueshadows2012 @gmail.com for more information.

Treasury

Paypal balance \$343.38

In: \$36 for membership (less fees)

NSB balance: \$2532.34

2 life members

16 electronic + 11 regular + 1 household = 30 voting members

8 archive members + 274 public members = 282 non -voting members

Voting memberships expiring this month: John Coker and Jonathan Nevair

Thanks to Mark Nelson for renewing and to Patrick Ijima-Washburn & Sam Lubell for upgrading to voting memberships! Welcome to Caitlin Walsh, Bryan Knight, Gerald Stratton, Benjamin & Uuldrik Boekweg, Marion Harmon, Jarrett Keene, Brian Love, & Joy Drake, who joined at Son of Silvercon III!

Games Bureau

The Games Bureau supports the play of games by N3F Members. Board games, rolegames, miniatures, diplomatic games, live action roleplaying,...We occasionally publish lists of forthcoming game conventions. We publish A Gentle Stroll.

Anime/Comics Bureau

Anime, comics, and manga are a core part of the fantastic literature, providing inspiration for many of the SF motion pictures that dominate the silver screen. The Anime/Comics Bureau supports discussion of all aspects of this branch of our hobby. Contact BuHead Kevin Trainor wombat.socho@gmail.com for more information.

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Letters of Comment

Jacqueline Lichtenberg wrote:

Yes, N3F found me and I joined because it offered something I could not get anywhere else - intelligent informed conversation. And Fred Pohl was a member even if not active. That thrilled me every time I looked someone up on the roster. So I want my name on the roster just in case there's another me growing up in isolation. Instagram and TikTok are the current watering holes.

Jacqueline Lichtenberg

Dear George and Jon:

http://Jacquelinelichtenberg.com

Thank you for the July TNFF, Vol. 84, No. 7, and I know I am late...lots of Amazing Stories responsibilities to take care of. Anyway, this will probably arrive just as you are sending out the next issue, that's the way it usually works.

First of all, congratulations to all Laureate Award winners! A little bit of recognition goes a long way.

We've all made science fiction very big through being as productive as possible in an infinite number of ways. I prefer to see the authors build each other up with each other, Tuckerizing each other, and the readers, too. SF is big, but we have our comfort zones, like hard SF, fantasy, quest, etc. I tend to stay with my own comfort zones, because I can't possibly cater to all of them. There's only so much time and money. With my Amazing activities, I must shift my interests more to the literary side of things, and will try to pay more attention to Canadian novels and short stories.

Josh Kronengeld...Heliosphere! I met Debi Chowdhury at World Fantasy Con (or was it NASFiC? All blends together), I know she runs Heliosphere, and I would love to go and see how it works. Again, time and money, and the border holds hidden dangers. Many conventions are going away. It was a shame to hear about Lunacon years ago, and just recently, Chattacon in Chattanooga announced that their next con, Chattacon 50, will be their last.

Every so often, Yvonne and I chat about reviving our own local convention, Ad Astra, but when we do the costing and math, an at-the-door membership could be more than \$100, and most people I know are not able to pay that kind of money to get in, and then there's gas and parking and the room costs...the most we could do is a one-day event, and even then, affording a decent bit of function space is difficult. Now to get this to you before the next issue arrives! Many thanks and see you again soon. Yours, Lloyd Penney

Son of Silvercon

Kevin Trainor runs a science fiction convention in Nevada. It is not an N3F Convention, but we are happy to report on what our members are doing.

From the Desk of the Chief Wombat

In last month's episode... "So: we are set for July 17-19 2026, we have our Guest of Honor set, and we're working on the hotel." You will all be happy to hear that we have a contract from the Best Western Plus in Henderson. The Ballroom (the enormous space we had in our first year) will be ours again, though this year I think we'll divide it up between programming space and vendor space unless everyone wants to just keep everything in one room as we traditionally have. Rooms are \$129/night plus tax for a total of \$146; there is no resort fee or parking fee. Frank has been working on the Son of Silvercon website (not to be confused with the Friends of Fission-chan site) and it already looks a lot better.

Soon we'll have a new flyer from Caitlin to post on its front page!

Finally, the N3F is standing up its Professional Support Bureau. Some of you will have gotten the e-mail about this already, but for those of you that didn't: we are compiling a list of prozines, artists, editors, proofreaders, and alpha/beta readers to help independent authors. If you are one of the preceding or want more information, email me or wait for your copy of Ionisphere to show up in your email. And that's it for this month.

2025 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

To enter a story, on a separate page, please supply the following information, followed by your story:

- 1) Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:
- 2) Answer DO or DO NOT I do/do not with to became a public (no dues, no vote) member of the N3F and receive for free all N3F magazines.

Testify: I have read the above rules for the 2025 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them. Signature/Date:

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; or email abontides@gmail.com

We are here to encourage new writers, to reward the new kids on the block. we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. We want stories from guys and gals nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will.

- 1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
- 2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
- 3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
- 4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
- 5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at aboutides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
- 6. There are no entry fees.
- 7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
- 8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@ gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2025.
- 9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
- 10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
- 11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2026. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2025. Good luck!



President's Message Welcommittee

Directorate, Officers, Editors, and Life Members Meet — View from the Directorate by Jefferson Swycaffer Directorate Appropriates Funds

Bureaus

Professional Support Bureau — Origins — Short Story Contest — Ionisphere A Gentle Stroll — Writer's Exchange Bureau — Book Review Bureau Social Media — Eldritch Science — Artists Bureau
Fan-Pro Coordinating Activity Bureau — Films Fantastic — Franking Service Laureate Awards — N'APA — Web Pages — Tightbeam Historian — The National Fantasy Fan — Mangaverse Gourmet Bureau — Correspondence Bureau — Treasury Games Bureau — Anime-Comics Bureau

Letters of Comment
Jacqueline Lichtenberg — Lloyd Penney
Son of Silvercon
2025 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest