



# The National **84** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication  
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars  
Volume 84 Number 12     December 2025

## Elections

Voting for President and Directorate members for 2025 has completed. Official Teller Jon Swartz reports the vote counts:

For the Directorate:

Kevin Trainor – 8 votes  
Jefferson Swycaffer -- 8 votes.  
Mindy Hunt – 8 votes  
Jason P. Hunt – 8 votes  
Steve Condrey – 8 votes

For President

George Phillies – 8 votes

No other votes were cast. The above persons were elected as our Directors and Officer for the next year.

## Presidential Year Report

We have had an interesting year. The N3F successfully produces a great variety of pieces of fannish literature, covering most if not quite all varieties of fannish activity. One of the consequences of this great expansion in literary production is that much material that once upon a time would have appeared in this zine now goes elsewhere, as a result of which

TNFF has become shorter. I do not off-hand see a way around this issue.

For the first time ever, our Officers, Directors, Bureau Heads, and Zine Editors were able to meet in virtual face to face via Zoom. Not everyone was able to attend, but there was a great deal of positive discussion. Ideas were generated; there was recognition that work would be needed to put them into place.

We discussed new active bureaus that the N3F would benefit by having, in particular a Welcoming Bureau, a Multimedia Bureau, a NefferCon Bureau, a Professional Support Bureau, and a Social Media Bureau. The Welcoming Bureau would target putting the N3F name in front of the fannish public, for example at cons. Indeed, we now have members who attend conventions regularly and have volunteered to take N3F Fliers and bookmarks to the conventions that they attend. The Professional Support Bureau is working on projects. Jason and Mindy Hunt expressed an interest in the Multimedia Bureau.

We asked what other fanzines we might add. There was a sentiment that the younger generation is entranced by graphic novels, and that, in addition to our zine Mangaverse which emphasizes Japanese graphic arts, a fanzine focused on graphic novels and comic books would be a possibility.

There had been concern that our emailing list and our membership list had gotten out of phase, but a



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## Your Volunteer Team

### Directors

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 Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com  
 Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com (Treasurer)

### Officers

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

### Editors

TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz judgeswartz@gmail.com  
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### Bureau Heads

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 Club News:  
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 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau:  
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Continued Next Column, Middle

careful check revealed that all is well.

On the less positive side, our web pages were hacked and destroyed by an unknown criminal. They are now being restored.

## Laureate Awards

We have reached the start of the cycle that leads to the annual N3F Laureate Awards. Our first step is a discussion of categories. Do you support these cate-

## Your Volunteer Team

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 Social Media:  
 Video Bureau: Heath Row, kalel@well.com  
 Welcomittee:  
 Writers Exchange: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@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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 Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, please do not send PDFs) to the Editor: George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net . The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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gories? Do you wish to add other stfnal categories? The current draft categories are

Best Fan Writer  
 Best Fan Artist  
 Best Fan Editor  
 Best Fan Poet  
 Best Fan Web Site  
 Best Non-N3F Fan Publication (electronic publication is allowed)  
 Best N3F Fanzine  
 Best Novel (over 100,000 words)  
 Best Shorter Work (under 100,000 words) or Anthology  
 Best Book Editor  
 Best Pro Artist, cover or otherwise  
 Best Television Show, Film, or Video  
 Best Animation (anime/cartoon)  
 Best Manga/Comic Book/Graphic Novel  
 Best Literary-Critical Work  
 Best Historical Work  
 Best None of the Above

There can be multiple Awards for 'Best None of the Above'. These are voted on as 'Yes' or 'No'.

A search of our back issues of The National Fantasy Fan finds from 1945 a list of award categories for 1944 work. These were Best Fiction Author, Best Non-fiction Author, Best Newsy, Fan of the Year, Best Fanzine Technically, Best story, Best article, Best Poem, Best Humor, Best Picture. Your author is not sure what a 'newsy' was, and suspects that 'picture' is a motion picture.

Please send your recommendations and discussion on award categories to the Tighbeam Editor, George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

## Treasurer's Report

N3F Treasurer Kevin Trainor writes

Paypal balance \$112.85  
 In: \$30 for memberships (less fees)

NSB balance: \$2604.34

2 life members  
 24 electronic + 12 regular = 38 voting members

8 archive members + 264 public members = 272 non-voting members

Thanks to Daniel Rego & Diane Blackwood for upgrading to voting memberships, and to Bob Jennings for renewing!

Voting memberships expiring this month: Jeffrey Redmond

Kevin Trainor adds: I'd like to put in a plug for Mike Williamson's Confinement VII, which like Son of Silvercon is a nice cross between large house party and small convention. It's at the Comfort Suites in Lebanon TN (a few miles outside Nashville) and memberships are \$45 in advance. Guest of honor is Devon Eriksen, author of the Prometheus Award-winning THEFT OF FIRE. I'm not a guest or anything, but I'll be there to promote the N3F and Son of Silvercon. More information at [confinementcon.org](http://confinementcon.org).

## Eldritch Science

N3F Secretary and Eldritch Science Editor Steve Condrey writes reports that he is packing for a January move. With respect to N3F activities, he writes:

"I continue to promote TNFFF every chance I get, and have distributed the bookmarks at various locations throughout the Omaha metro area. I have retained a few for personal use and gift them with books that I give to friends.

"Eldritch Science is coming together the way I'd like it to. I've standardized the template for each issue, which will expedite assembly. I need to get new cover art, as I've already utilized all of the artwork I was given when I took over. The January issue will go out on time; I am already reviewing stories for use. I am also going to impose some relatively simple submission guidelines: all stories are to be proofread to the greatest extent possible; any deliberate unusual spellings are to be flagged so that I don't accidentally correct them; standardization of formatting. All of these will be next month's issue. I am also going to make another pitch for reader input to determine what is and is not working.

“Other than that, much of my activity has been put on hold until after I finish moving. I may have some fiction submissions of my own soon, but not until I deal with that nasty thing called Real Life.”

He reports that he has received several older membership lists and when matters calm down he will be looking for former members who are not on the present membership list and therefore need to be contacted about returning.

## Ionisphere

Editor Jean-Paul Garnier writes that the next issue of Ionisphere will be all about the centennial of Amazing Stories magazine and the birth of SF.

The issue will also include a directory of contemporary SF/F venues and resources.

## Short Story Contest

Judge Jefferson Swycaffer writes “We have six stories... I think this is the bare-naked razor-edge minimum for the contest to be held and not be canceled.”

Clearly more entries would be a positive outcome. Write now!

## Tightbeam

Tightbeam continues its regular monthly appearance.

## The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono

The next issue of the N3F Review will be published in mid-January.

## The National Fantasy Fan

We are running slightly late but will catch up in due time.

## Postwarp

In the course of restoring our web pages, making them even better than before the disaster, I uncovered an entire N3F fanzine of the 1950s, a zine I had somehow missing seeing mentioned before, our letterzine Postwarp. You can now see a modest number of its issues at N3F.org. Fifteen years ago, N3F Historian Jon Swartz did a description of Postwarp, which follows.. Note that his article was written in 2009 or so, so some of its references are now out of date.

## Historical Vignette

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
N3F Historian

## Postwarp

Before there was *Tightbeam*, there was *Postwarp*, the first official N3F letterzine, known to club members of the time by the nickname “*Postie*” (and later called “*Posie*” or “*Posy*”). This historical vignette will look closely at some early *Postwarps* and then compare them with *Tightbeam*, which in 2010 was our letterzine.

*Postwarp, the N3F Letterzine* began in 1949, with the initial issue edited/published by Arthur H. Rapp. Rapp, later club president, eventually turned the zine over to Alan J. Lewis, who turned it over to Bob Johnson, who, in turn, turned it over to Doug Fisher – who, according to at least one letter writer, let it die.

## Contributors

Of particular interest to me were those club members who had the time and inclination to write lengthy letters during the early 1950s.

Letters from S. M. Carr. E. H. Appelman, Janie Lamb, Alan M. Grant, Shelby Vick, Derek Pickles, and Roger N. Dard were in an issue dated 7/6/1950. Only Dard, A. Edward Cooper, and Chas. Heisner had letters in a later issue also seemingly dated July,

1950 – but they were long missives, and there was also an anonymous letter ( that contained many negative comments about other members). Names such as Rick Sneary, Bill Berger, Grant, Ev Winne, McCain, Vick, George Andrews, and Lamb appeared in Vol. I, #3, dated 8/18/1950. At this time there were forty subscribers to *Postwarp*, and it sold for 10 cents an issue (or 6 for 50¢). Neil Wood, Eva Firestone, Vick, Winne, Paul Rehorst, Andrews, and Berger found time to contribute to Vol. I, #5.

All four of these so-called monthly issues were edited by Bob Johnson of Greeley, Colorado -- with the assistance of Ella Lee. Johnson's issues were oversize (14 by 8.5 inches), four to six pages in length, and sold for 10¢ to subscribers. Apparently, a sub was not included in the regular annual club dues, although *Postwarp* was “sponsored” by the club -- and a subscriber to it had first to be a member of N3F. Johnson stated in each issue that he reserved “the right to delete any extraneous material, or any language which I deem unfitting.” Sometime late in 1950 this initial version of *Postwarp* ceased to be.

The letterzine was revived, however, in September 1951, now selling for 15 cents, and now nicknamed *Posie* (sometimes spelled *Posy*). In addition, the editor stated that it was no longer sponsored by the National Fantasy Fan Federation and that each issue would also contain book, movie, and fanzine reviews, ads, etc. Nevertheless, many of the same names appeared, and almost all the letters were related to club concerns, including a letter from then club president Rick Sneary. In his letter Sneary wrote of current fanzines, awards, upcoming club elections, and the directions in which he thought the club was heading. I'm not certain just how successful this new version of the letterzine was, as the next issue to come into my possession was dated nearly three years later. Moreover, circumstances had changed again, as indicated below.

In May 1954, *Postwarp* was mailed with the May 1954 issue of *The National Fantasy Fan* (actually stapled to it) and was now again part of the regular club publication. Contributors to this issue included Capt. Kenneth F. Slater, Jim White, Sam Johnson, Stan Woolston, Tom Walsh, Dottie Hansen, Emili Thompson, Russel Brown, Richard E. Geis, W. Paul

Nowell, and M. McNeil. The mailer was Stuart S. Hoffman, and apparently John Magnus was editor of both zines. Longtime fans will recognize many of these names.

The only artwork in these early issues of *Postwarp/Postie* was on the front covers.

### Contents

What was discussed in the early 1950s to the letters to *Postwarp*? As might be expected, events of the day in science fiction were discussed, and some of the topics mentioned still are with us. These include Hubbard's Dianetics, Donald Keyhoe's flying saucers (*The Flying Saucers Are Real*), Frank Scully's “discs” (*Behind the Flying Saucers*), recent events in science (earthquake and volcano activity in the world, reports of the ocean floor rising in various places, etc.), conventions (e. g., Norwescon), problems the club was having (including its name: Why do we call it “national” when it's “international”?), the election of a Miss STF, communications (and the lack thereof) among fans, etc.

One method of fan communication being tried at the time was the use of wire recordings that were mailed to interested fans. While a few members liked this method of communication, most didn't and cited several problems -- including recordings that got lost in the mail. Of course, other grips were also expressed, many of them common to all the zines of the time (e. g., issues weren't long enough, they didn't appear on time, the editor didn't date a particular issue and/or didn't include his return address, etc.).

### Comparing *Postwarp* and *Tightbeam*

An obvious difference between the two is that members in 2010 seemed reluctant to write long letters of comment, either to the print version of “Tightbeam” in *The Fan* or to the Tightbeam Website, although I suspect emails to fellow members have fulfilled this need somewhat. An obvious similarity is that *Tightbeam*, like *Postwarp*, started as a separate publication and then later became part of *The National Fantasy Fan*. The present arrangement [in which *The National Fantasy Fan* and

*Tightbeam* appear as one magazine] went into in effect in 2001, when then editor Janine Stinson made the decision to combine the two zines. One obvious difference is in the methods of reproduction. Because of the use of computers, today's issues of *The National Fantasy Fan/Tightbeam* are easier to read, have better artwork, and, in general, are much more attractive publications.

Postwarp issues currently found on the N3F Web Pages include:

Title Editor Year Month Volume.Issue

Postwarp Arthur Rapp 1950 March 1.6  
 Postwarp Bob Johnson 1950 October 10/50  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1951 September 9/51  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1951 December 12/51  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1952 July 7/52  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1952 September 9/52  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1952 October 10/52  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1953 July 7/53  
 Postwarp Ray Higgs 1953 August 8/53  
 Postwarp John Magnus 1954 February 2/54  
 Postie Merrill 1957 1957  
 Postie Rich Brown 1958 January 1/58  
 Postwarp Rich Brown 1958 July 7/58  
 Postwarp Al Lewis 1958 September 10.1  
 Postwarp Al Lewis 1958 November 10.2  
 Postwarp Al Lewis 1959 January 10.3  
 Postwarp Al Lewis 1959 March 10.4  
 Postwarp Al Lewis 1959 July 10.6

## Our Recent Fanzines

For the last two months, tables of contents of our fanzines include

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 lies ... 4

### Eldritch Science

Front Cover ... Mars 2030: We're Finally Here! by José Sanchez  
 Back Cover ... All In The Family by José Sanchez  
 Fiction  
 3 ... The Firebird Plains by Valerie Sirenko  
 22 ... The Stain by Norman Goodman  
 46 ... Rippling Waters by Mathew Anderson  
 70 ... Omnis Vivandi (Part 2) by John Thiel  
 85 ... Fog by Clark Timmins

### The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono

#### Fiction

2 ... Long Time Until Now by Michael Z. Williamson ... Review by Trevor Denning  
 3 ... All You Need Is Kill by Hiroshi Sakurazaka ... Review by Graham Bradley  
 5 ... An Inconvenient Presidency: The Time-Traveling Misadventures of President Al Gore by Eric M. Hamilton ... Review by Brian Heming  
 6 ... Behind the Veil by John Ringo and Lydia Sher-  
 rer ... Review by Declan Finn  
 8 ... Big Trouble, Little Earth by J. N. Chaney and Jason Anspach ... Review by  
 The Pulp Archivist  
 11 ... The Borrowed World Series by Franklin Hor-  
 ton ... Review by Jim McCoy  
 11 ... Bio of a Space Tyrant: Volume 1 Refugee by Piers Anthony ... Review by Russ Lockwood  
 12 ... Bio of a Space Tyrant: Volume 2 Mercenary by Piers Anthony ... Review by Russ Lockwood  
 12 ... Bio of a Space Tyrant: Volume 3 Politician by Piers Anthony ... Review by Russ Lockwood  
 13 ... Conquest: The Chronicles of the Invaders by John Connolly and Jennifer Ridyard.  
 ... Review by Russ Lockwood.  
 14 ... Deathbringer: The Spellsword Saga by Blake Carpenter ... Review by Jim McCoy  
 15 ... The Female Man and We Who Are About To... by Joanna Russ ... Review by Heath Row  
 17 ... Futuristic Violence and Fancy Suits by Jason Pargin ... Review by Mindy Hunt  
 19 ... Jacob by David Gerrold ... Review by Jim McCoy  
 20 ... The Mummy of Monte Cristo by J. Trevor

Robinson ... Review by Trevor Denning  
 21 ... Roadmarks by Roger Zelazny ... Review by Heath Row  
 22 ... Shikari by Alma Boykin ... Review by Cedar Sanderson  
 23 ... Thunder God of Mars: A Superhero Prose Novel by John Taloni ... Review by Trevor Denning  
 24 ... Tree of Liberty by Terry Mixon ... Review by JR Handley  
 30 ... War By Other Means by Karl Gallagher ... Review by Ginger Man  
 31 ... 24-Hour Warlock by Shami Stovall ... Review by Declan Finn

#### Literary Criticism

34 ... The 2024 Short Fiction Hugos ... Analysis by Tom Feller

#### Prose Bono

39 ... The Outsider: My Life in Intrigue by Frederick Forsyth ... Review by Cedar Sanderson  
 40 ... Word Salad by Cedar Sanderson

#### The N3F Fan Gazette

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 Snow Poster Township #23 by Heath Row - 8  
 R.A.I.L. #9 by Adrian Kresnak - 5  
 Brownian Motion #16, by Garth Spencer - 6  
 Esmeralda County Line #13, October-November 2025, by Kevin Trainor Jr - 5  
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#### Tightbeam

##### November

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The National Fantasy Fan

Disaster!

Elections

Directorate View by Jefferson P. Swycaffer

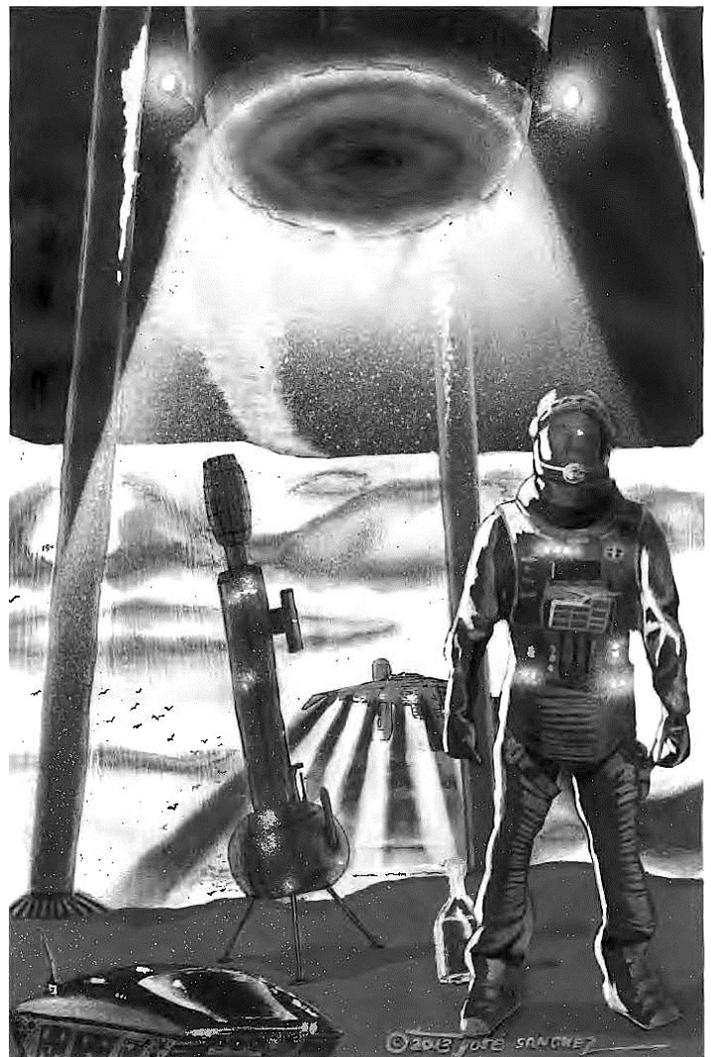
Treasurer's Report

Letters

Bob Jennings — Lloyd Penney — Lloyd Penney —  
Edie Stern

Elections Bylaws

Election Ballot



The Staging Area  
by Jose Sanchez

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 wish to become 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](mailto: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 [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@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](mailto: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!



Elections  
Presidential Annual Report  
N3F Laureate Awards  
Treasurer's Report  
Eldritch Science  
Ionisphere  
Short Story Contest  
Tightbeam  
The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono  
The National Fantasy Fan  
Postwarp  
Historical Vignette-Postwarp  
Our Recent Fanzines  
The Staging Area by Jose Sanchez  
Short Story Contest

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