

# BONFIRE

Volume 1

BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

number 5

## OFFICERS OF THE NFFF

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J. Cunningham, Dispatcher

POLL OFFICER, Art Widner, Jr

H. Jenkins, Jr., OFFICIAL EDITOR

## President's Message:

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE of Bonfire, our prospects for 1942 have continued to improve, and in fact, a good deal has already been accomplished. As the report on the voting will show, the Constitution this time met with general approval, and is henceforth official. Also, compared to the previous showing, the number of votes received was encouraging, though room still remains for improvement.

CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS during the past two months include the following: The Welcoming Committee has been set up under the direction of Louis Goldstone, and the roster of members filled out. A preliminary report from the Chairman will be found elsewhere in this issue. Also, John Cunningham has been named as Dispatcher to the Welcom. All fanzine editors who would like to co-operate in our project of introducing new fans into fandom are asked to send Cunningham from three to five copies of each new issue; these will be distributed free to prospective fans in the hope of interesting them further in fandom. By the time of the June issue, we should be able to form some idea of the probable success or failure of our experimental Welcoming Committee. At the moment, the prospects seem excellent.

NEXT, the Columbia Camp has been awarded the Fantasy Annual: Yearbook of 1941. Gilbert and Jenkins head the editorial staff; by the time you read this, work will have been underway on the project for nearly a month. A report from the Editor-in-chief, Joe Gilbert, briefly outlining the scope of the Yearbook, etc., will be found elsewhere in this issue; it is Recommended Reading. ((See page 7))

THIRD, with the approval of the Advisory Board, Art Widner has been named to the post of election and poll officer. I believe that all NFFF members will approve this choice; Widner's qualifications and dependability are well known.

IN ADDITION, together with the Advisory Board I have considered a number of fresh suggestions made by the Planning Committee. Most important of these concerns

sectional representation on the Advisory Board in the future. The Advisory Board recommends, and I approve, that one member be elected from each of four major geographical districts of the US; Eastern, Southern, Midwestern, Far Western. The fifth member would then be elected "at large". In this way, in the annual elections the fan from each of these regions with the largest number of votes would be elected, and after those four were chosen, then the fan with the largest total of the remaining candidates would be elevated to the fifth chair as a Member-at-large. It is probable that an amendment to this effect, with precise definitions of the various geographical areas, etc., will be placed on the ballot in the coming June election.

THE BOARD has also authorized me to proclaim a 25¢ tax, for reasons detailed in the announcement thereof in this issue; has rejected several suggestions that the NFFF "take over" other fan organizations (as the FAPA, BSFWRS, etc.), on the grounds that such would be contrary to the purpose of the NFFF, unless officials of such organizations desire to affiliate or merge; and, finally, has considered a suggestion of the Plancom's anent publicity. It is agreed that at the present time, publicity for fan activities, etc., must be left to individuals, though later on it may become possible to establish a public relations department for press releases and general publicity.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT PLACE to mention that with the next, June, Bonfire, the terms of office of all the elective & appointive officers will expire. With that issue will be mailed the ballot for the annual election of officers, voting on amendments, etc. Any member can run for any office, merely by securing the signatures of 10 other members endorsing his candidacy, and sending them to Sec'y-Treas. Elmer Perdue. A new President, Vice-Pres., Sec'y-Treas., and five Advisory Board members will be elected; this will be a fine chance for NFFF members to show their support of the NFFF by running for office. Platforms, sufficiently brief, may be submitted to the Official Editor for inclusion in the June issue of Bonfire. It is my earnest hope that we will have a full slate of candidates for the several offices, in order that the membership may have a wide latitude of choice. Incidentally, though I believe that I have been able to carry out the duties of the Presidential office acceptably, I will not run for re-election, as I feel it will be to the best interests of the NFFF to have a new President yearly.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE is of the opinion that inasmuch as there will now be no complex tax scheme to work out, the Fincom has no function of importance. The members therefore feel that they might as well resign; and this action makes me realize that I was mistaken in writing definite provisions into the Constitution for the several committees. I should have made the Constitution more flexible; as it is, probably an amendment striking out the Finance Committee sections would be in order.

I REGRET TO SAY that Joe Fortier, in connection with dropping his other fan activities, has resigned from the Advisory Board and Planning Committee. I had hoped he would consent to serve the short remaining balance of his term of office, but he did not feel able to do so. I believe most fans will second me in wishing Joe the best of luck in his future career, while regretting his decision to withdraw from fandom.

AS MOST FANS KNOW, the 4th WSFCS recently polled its members for a decision on the fate of the Pacificon. There seems no reason to doubt that the NFFF will approve any action taken in accordance with this popular vote.

Louis Russell Chauvenet  
President, March 31, '42

## Planning Committee:

THE MEMBERS of the NFFF Long-Range Planning Committee have almost caught up with themselves during the past month, as they have just about completed their discussions

on the various items of planning which have been submitted to the committee as a whole by the individual members. Over twenty various items have been submitted to the committee, and they have gone deeply into the wheres and whyfores of each one to the best of their individual abilities.

THE ITEM which they have considered their best bet to date has already been approved by the Advisory Board. The Chairman and members of the Committee have been appointed by the President, and the committee has begun functioning. This is the "Welcoming Committee" idea, whereby we plan to have newcomers given a rousing and royal welcome to fandom, and try to help them become orientated to what fandom is, how it works, and the value it can be to the new fan — and he to fandom. Your chairman is mighty proud to have had a small hand in the building of this splendid piece of work, and predicts that it will soon become one of the biggest single items of fandom success.

OTHER ITEMS are already being taken care of by the NFFF officials and Advisory Board, and include the publication of the Fantasy Annual.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED to have an official Poll-taker who will conduct pollson various matters which come up from time to time, and who will be sponsored in these undertakings by the NFFF. The results will be used in the guidance of the Officers and Advisory Board in making their plans. Please, don't anyone get the idea that we are trying to take away Art Widner's place as Poll-Cat — we are all of the same mind that he should be the official Poll-taker. It is only to have his work officially acknowledged on special polls we may wish to take.

THERE WAS ALSO a plan to hold regional conferences in place of the National Convention, submitted when it appeared that the Los Angeles boys were not going ahead with their plans. Since then the LA boys have sent out their questionnaire, and what will be done with this item is not yet known. The plan was to have the NFFF Officers and Advisory Board make out a list of topics they wish discussed at all regional conferences, so that they could get the reactions of fans from all parts of the country on their proposed activities. Also, it would give fans a chance to go to a good-sized meeting in their own section of the country, where they might be unable to get to the coast for a Convention. At least one such Conference has already been held, and the Mid-West Conference will be held in the Fall. It is being said that several others will also be held in other sections. We all deplore the conditions which make a National Convention apparently inadvisable, and believe these Conferences will do much to keep fandom alive and active during the interregnum.

THE PLANCOM still is in need of letters from individual fans as to their ideas of what they think should be done, and suggestions of new items for the committee's discussion and action. We hope you will all take advantage of this committee, and give them the benefit of your ideas, for we want to make it truly representative of fandom as a whole. We want all of fandom to help in the work, even though a special number of fans have been designated as the official committee. So send us those ideas and suggestions. Thanks.

E. Everett Evans,  
Chairman, Planning Com.

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## Welcoming Committee:

To the Members of the Welcoming Committee, NFFF:

1. For functional purposes, the continental United States has been divided up into several zones, each encompassing several States. A committee member has been assigned to handle the work of the committee in each of these zones.
2. You are asked to keep under continuous observation not one, but all of the pro-

- magazines whose letter-sections provide the names and addresses of readers who may be potential fans. Please take from the pro-mag letter sections (and from any other sources you may find) the names and addresses of those readers who reside in the states which are under your jurisdiction.
3. You are asked to contact, at your discretion, those readers who may, in your judgment, be brought into the ranks of active fandom. Approach them in any manner you see fit, bearing in mind the fact that unless they possess some measure of real enthusiasm for fandom, their membership in the NFFF will be of no value either to themselves or to the organization.
  4. If your prospects seem interested, send their names and addresses to John M. Cunningham, 2050 Gilbert St., Beaumont, Texas, (Official Dispatcher for the Committee), asking him to forward samples of fan-mags to the prospects. Try to ascertain in advance the probable tastes of your prospects in fanzines, so you will be able to advise Cunningham of which fanzines to send to whom.
  5. When your prospects are satisfied that they wish to join the NFFF, please so advise me at this address. Upon your recommendation, their names and addresses will be forwarded to the proper authorities, and will be considered by the membership.
  6. You are asked to submit a report, covering all your activities on behalf of the committee, to me at this address once every month. Please have these reports in the mails not later than the 15th of each month. The first should be posted by April 15, 1942. Include in the report information on the current status of each prospect.
  7. The assignments of territories to each committee member are tentative and flexible, and subject to alteration on request.
  8. Any suggestions for improvements on the foregoing structure will be most welcome, and will be adopted if a majority of the committee considers them advantageous.

Additional Notes: April 4, 1942.

Since the preliminary instruction sheet was sent out, two of the persons sought as committee members have declined on the grounds of pre-occupation.

The Welcom roster, as it now stands, follows: Charles Hansen (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Richard Kuhn (North & South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan), Gertrude Kuslan (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine), Bob Tucker (Pennsylvania, West Va. Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri), Harry Jenkins (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina and the District of Columbia), D. B. Thompson (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana), Tom Wright (Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and California), John Cunningham, Dispatcher for the Committee.\*

The States of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico, in consideration of the resignation of Lew Martin, who was originally assigned to the territory, are being reallocated as follows: Texas and Oklahoma to D. B. Thompson; Kansas and Nebraska to Bob Tucker; Colorado to Charles Hansen; New Mexico to Tom Wright.

\*It is the duty of the Committee's Dispatcher to keep prospective members supplied with sample fanzines, at the request of Committee members. The members of the NFFF who publish fanzines are asked to contribute, if they can, half-a-dozen copies of each issue of their publications — or of every issue if the fanzine comes out more than 6 times a year — to the Welcom, for distribution to prospects as outlined above. Left-over copies will be returned, and prospects who receive the copies will be reminded that a subscription will be appreciated by the publisher who has donated his magazines. Magazines should be sent to John Cunningham. Co-operation will be

gratefully accepted.

The organizational work of the Welcom is not yet completed, since two of the appointments to the committee are still tentative, not having been acknowledged at this date. But there is every reason to believe that inside of another month the committee will be functioning smoothly. Without overtaxing the committee members, it seems likely that eight or ten new and desirable members can be induced into the NFFF each month.

Lou Goldstone, Chairman  
Welcoming Committee.

ATTENTION!



ATTENTION!

With the approval of the Advisory Board, I am announcing a per capita tax of 25¢ on the general membership.

The money so raised will be used to finance publishing costs of Bonfire, and possibly for the support of such NFFF approved projects as Annual Awards for services to fandom, etc. Full reports of receipts and expenditures will, of course, be carried in future issues of Bonfire.

The Treasurer's report has made it clear that the scanty response to the first tax has made the NFFF financially dependent upon gifts from several generous fans. If, however, the members will all respond to this tax appeal, we will be able to pay our way as we go.

I would like to extend thanks to all those members who have paid their first tax and to those who have donated extra funds. It is my hope by this time all the members are satisfied that the NFFF is fully worthy of their support.

Your 25¢ should be sent to Elmer Perdue, 1218 S. Cedar St., Casper, Wyoming. The tax is effective upon publication of Bonfire, and should be remitted within a month of receipt of this issue, if possible.

Louis Russell Chauvenet  
President, April 15, '42

RESULTS OF VOTING ON CONSTITUTION AS PRINTED IN Bonfire NUMBER 4:

Yes — 52 ..... No — 1 ..... Not Voting — 23 ..... Late — 1.

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE NFFF — April, 1942.

1. Ackerman, Forrest J 236½ N. New Hampshire, Hollywood, Calif.
2. Ackermann, Henry A. 5200 Maple Ave., Baltimore, Md.
3. Ashley, Abbey Lu 86 Upton Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.
4. Ashley, Laverne 86 Upton Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.
5. Beling, Charles A. La Roche Ave., Harrington Park, New Jersey.
6. Brazier, Donn Eglin Field, Panama City, Fla.
7. Bridges, Lynn Pvt. MacDill Field, Fla. (Tampa)
8. Bronson, Phil 224 W. 6th St., Hastings, Minn.
9. Bush, James 1978 36th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
10. Chauvenet, L. R. 1920 Thomson Rd., Charlottesville, Va.
11. Conner, Edwin F. 929 Butler St., Peoria, Ill.
12. Cunningham, John M. 2050 Gilbert St., Beaumont, Texas.
13. Evans, E. Everett 191 Capital Ave., SW, Battle Creek, Mich.
14. Farsaci, Larry B. 48 Lewis St., Rochester, NY.
15. Feldmen, Scott 67-69 Amboy St., Brooklyn, NY.

16. Fields, Jack 831 Escobar St., Martinez, Calif.
17. Fortier, Joe 1836 39th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
18. Freehafer, Paul 349 S. Rampart, Los Angeles, Calif.
19. Gilbert, Joseph 908 Lloyd Court, Columbia, S. C.
20. Goldstone, Lou 269 16th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
21. Hansen, Charles F. Route 1, Box 103, Woodland, Washington.
22. Hanson, Earl B. 228 SW 34th Ave., Miami, Fla.
23. Hurter, Fred St. Andrews College, Aurora, Ontario, Canada.
24. Jenkins, Harry 2409 Santee Ave., Columbia, So. Car.
25. Jones, BoB 281 14th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
26. Kenealy, Nicholas E. Co. K, 30th Q'master Reg't, "Plum", 74P'master, S. F., Calif.
27. Koenig, H. C. 2 East End Ave., NYC, NY.
28. Kuhn, Richard J. 13598 Cheyenne, Detroit, Mich.
29. Kuslan, Gertrude 170 Washington Ave., New Haven, Conn.
30. Kuslan, Louis 170 Washington Ave., New Haven, Conn.
31. Kyle, David Monticello, New York.
32. Lowndes, Robert W. 136 E. 28th St., NYC, NY.
33. Martin, Lew 1258 Race St., Denver, Colo.
34. Massion, Charles 38 S. 4th St., E, Salt Lake City, Utah.
35. Moffat, Leonard J. 419 Summit Ave., Ellwood City, Pa.
36. Microjo, Box 6475, Met. Sta., Los Angeles, Calif.
37. Mulrain, Chris Barrack 787, 30th School Squadron, Scott Field, Illinois.
38. Paro, Francis 125 W. 6th St., So. Boston, Mass.
39. Perdue, Elmer 1218 S. Cedar St., Casper, Wyoming.
40. Riggs, Jack 1620 Chestnut St., Berkeley, Calif.
41. Rocklynnne, Ross 1110 Wm. Howard Taft Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
42. Rosenblum, J. Michael 4 Grange Terrace, Chapelton, Leeds 7, England.
43. Rothman, Milton A. 2113 N. Franklin St., Phila, Pa.
44. Schumann, Phil 2767 N. 41st St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
45. Sehnert, Art 791 Maury St., Memphis, Tenn.
46. Sienkiewicz, Ray J. 312 Elm St., Scranton, Pa.
47. Smith, E. E. 313 Homecrest Rd., Jackson, Mich.
48. Smith, Lorraine 1835 Prince St., Berkeley, Calif.
49. Smith, Louis C. 1835 Prince St., Berkeley, Calif.
50. Spear, Jack F 3416 Northampton, NW, Washington, DC.
51. Studley, Bob 210 W. 109th St., New York City, NY.
52. Swisher, Robert D. 15 Ledyard Rd., Winchester, Mass.
53. Tanner, C. R. Branch Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.
54. Tarr, Dale 1110 Wm. H. Taft Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio.
55. Thompson, D. B. 1903 Polk St., Alexandria, La.
57. Tucker, Bob Box 260, Bloomington, Ill.
58. Unger, Julius 1702 Dahill Rd., Brooklyn, NY.
59. Warner, Harry Jr. 303 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Md.
60. Widner, Art Jr 25 Arnold St., Quincey, Mass.
61. Wiedenbeck, Jack 115 Marjerie St., Battle Creek, Mich.
62. Wilson, Richard 311 E. 61st St., New York City, NY.
63. Wollheim, Donald A. 244 West 74th St., New York City, NY.
64. Wyers, Everett 1414 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, Calif.
65. Wright, Tom 3618 Maple Ave., Oakland, Calif.
66. Wood, Mrs. Russell E. 846 Gulf Ave., Wilmington, Calif.

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INACTIVE MEMBERS: Bradbury, Brady, Counts, Gillespie, Jordan, Jorgenson, Knight, Madle, Millard.

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S U P P O R T   T H E   N F F F   A N N U A L !

This is the first big project of the NFFF. Don't fail your organization! Send for the Fantasy Annual now! 25¢ to members from 2409 Santee Ave., Columbia, S. C.

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