



BONFIRE

The Bulletin of the National Fantasy Fan Federation
Issue No. 1

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REVISED 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 fan clubs and solitary fans into a single organization capable of making single decisions representative of the majority.

(B) To prevent confusion and misunderstanding among fans, and to prevent bulldozing of fandom by minority groups or cliques.

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

(D) To better conditions within fandom and stir 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) Rather than to interfere with, or to attempt to supercede, present local clubs and specialized organizations within their own provinces, to co-operate with and assist said organizations wherever possible.

ARTICLE III - Membership - Any interested party may become a member if he or she can meet any two of the following qualifications:

(A) Give proof of activity in the fan field with a list of two or more credentials, easily verifiable, such as literary, artistic, or other journalistic endeavor, attendance of conventions, membership in other organizations, etc. Further definition of activity shall be left to the discretion of the Advisory Board.

(B) Secure the recommendation in writing of three incumbent members residing in different states from that of the prospective member.

(C) Pass an examination testing the prospective member's knowledge of science or fantasy fiction, and fandom. Tests shall be graded by percentage of correct answers, and the passing mark shall be 70%.

ARTICLE IV - Finances - It shall be decided on the first ballot of the NFFF, whether there shall be dues, and the amount of such, or a system of taxation and appropriation.

ARTICLE V - Officers - The officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and an Advisory Board of five.

ARTICLE VI - Duties of Officers - The duties of the officers shall be:

(A) The President shall direct the activities of the federation; appoint members to fill vacated offices until next election; appoint auxiliary officials to fulfill duties not provided for elsewhere, or to help in the execution of various offices; 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 such situations as 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; edit and publish Bonfire, the official organ of the NFFF; and assist the President in the execution of his office as is needful.

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(C) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of the membership and all activities of the Federation; collect and record all payment and non-payment of authorized dues, taxes, or appropriations; distribute and count the ballots in all elections occurring during his tenure of office; edit and publish the official organ if the Vice-President is unable to do so; and perform all duties of a similar nature which will be required of him.

(D) The Advisory Board shall investigate the credentials of all prospective members; devise the examinations; act as a check on the other officers; and act as judiciary of the federation. The President may veto any decision of the Board, after which a four-fifths majority of the Board will be necessary to override the veto. All decisions of the Board must be submitted to the President before the decisions become final.

(E) If both the Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be unable to edit and/or publish the official organ, a special officer shall be appointed from volunteers by the President.

ARTICLE VII - Privileges - All 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 other activities or benefits.

ARTICLE VIII - Elections (A) Elections shall be held by mail. Candidates for offices shall secure their nominations by filing their intentions, signed by ten members, with the Secretary-Treasurer at least one month before the date of elections. All votes to be counted shall be on hand with the Secretary-Treasurer three weeks after the ballots are mailed. All votes received after the closing date shall not be counted.

(B) To be elected to office, a candidate must receive a sufficient number of votes cast to equal the majority of the entire membership. Otherwise a recount shall be required, and if checking with original count, a second election shall be held.

(C) Candidates for re-election shall be required to obtain signatures of twenty members for their nominations.

(D) If a member cannot show the Secretary-Treasurer good reason for failing to vote in three consecutive elections, said member shall be suspended from all activity in the NFFF, unless he shall be reinstated by unanimous consent of the Advisory Board.

(E) Balloting shall be secret unless a majority of the membership shall request an open ballot to be declared by the President or some other officer, should the President also be mistrusted.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments - Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed in writing, signed by five members. The original shall be sent to the President, and copies to the other officers. Such amendments shall be voted on at the next election, unless the President shall order a special vote. A majority vote of the entire membership shall be necessary for the adoption of amendments.

ARTICLE X - Expulsions - 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 unanimous vote of all the officers.

(B) Any member exposed as using a pseudonym or fictitious character as another member in order to vote for himself or for any reason submitting said pseudonym as an actual member of the NFFF, shall be expelled immediately from office, and from membership also if the remaining membership so votes.

Submitted by
Art Widnor Jr
May 8, 1941

EXPLANATION

by Art Widner Jr

Fan organizations have come and gone since the First Fan heard of the Second Fan, and perhaps this one will be like the rest. A great many fans, in spite of their support and approval, seem to think so. They have good-naturedly kidded me about "lofty purposes", "fandom awake" overworked idealism, etc. But I think most of them, underneath their skepticism, would like to see the NFFF become a working, practical, reality, even as I do.

However, there is one thing that must change—at least partly—before the NFFF or any other organization of fandom as a whole, can succeed. As I said in an editorial in no. 5 Fanfare, it is an attitude—a state of mind. This is a rather vague and nebulous quantity to pin down and go to work upon, but there seems to be a definite trend among many of the oldtime fans to maintain (as a matter of showing their great wisdom and sagacity) that there is no purpose for which to organize: at least no concrete purpose. They hold that the much-used phrases, "bettering conditions in stf" etc, are so much hot air, and too unsubstantial for the basis of a true organization. I agree with the latter saying.

What, then, shall be our basic concept and purpose?

I think organization in itself to be a laudable purpose. Fans are noted as persons who "do" things. It has been proven enough times in past history, I believe, that human beings who are organized are more able to "get things done" than those who are not, whether it is fighting a war, or building a house. Let the "concrete" purposes, the "things to be done", come later. I have no doubt but that there will be plenty of interesting ideas brought forth (the execution of which the NFFF can facilitate considerably) once fans are brought more closely together, and get "the feel of the thing".

Another "noble" purpose which has been the target of grinning sarcasm, is: "Eliminate and prevent confusion and misunderstanding in fandom".

I think it is self-evident that this cannot be accomplished in the present state of slap-happy anarchy. Not that the latter is so terrible an evil to shun—it has served rather well in the past and would probably continue to do so (in a hap-hazard sort of way) in the future. However, I think it is time we had something better.

The constitution of the NFFF is my constitution at present, and I have labored to make it as concise, intelligible, and practicable as was within my powers. I believe that it should be as streamlined as possible, as a cumbersome document, overloaded with "whereases" and "hereuntos" would shortly be little more than a piece of paper.

Soon, the NFFF constitution will be your constitution, and it is up to you to improve it, adding your own ideas, and throwing away such of mine as may be deemed unworthy.

Concerning the changes I have made in the original constitution, here are a "few words" of explanation:

Article II, Section C: The idea behind that, as far as I know, is something new in fan organizations. Briefly, it suggests appropriations, like a government, instead of dues, like a club. This idea may not work, but I think it worthy of serious consideration.

If a fan wished to work on a fan encyclopedia, for example, but lacked the necessary time and funds, he could bring his proposition before the officers of the NFFF for consideration, together with a request for such funds and the number of fans needed to help. If the majority of officers approved, the proposition could be put before the entire membership for approval. If the majority voted yes, each member would be required to contribute his share, which in the case of 100 members, (which I think to be easily attainable by the end of a year) would amount to only five cents per member, if the appropriation requested was five dollars. Or, ten cents for ten dollars. However, I think

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it might be best if single appropriations were limited to five dollars, and a second appropriation made for the project if necessary. Members should boost the sale of the project to outsiders (at a slightly higher cost than that appropriated from members, thus making outsiders desirous of joining and increasing the strength of the organization) which would help reduce the cost to members. Of course, all members would be entitled to free benefits of NFFF sponsored, or helped, projects. It is to be hoped that members will be of sufficient altruistic inclination to finance their projects as far as possible but spread their benefits in the NFFF, and ask for an appropriation only as a last resort. Human selfishness, as in many other idealistic endeavors, seems to be the sole hitch in NFFF plans, but it is worth at least trying to overcome.

Members need not be expelled for non-payment of funds (although those who consistently refused or neglected to take part in authorized appropriations, etc, should be dropped) if they stated to the Secretary-Treasurer their inability to pay at a definite date. They could be granted a reasonable extension of time (waiting for a monthly check, payment of a large debt, etc.). However, with such small sums to pay at any given time, there really should be no need of anyone defaulting, as in the case of \$1 yearly dues to be paid in a lump sum as has happened in other organizations. Perhaps more than a dollar would be paid into the NFFF Treasury by each member in the course of a year, but each small sum would be collected for a specific purpose, which again would make it psychologically easy to pay. At least I find it easier to spend a number of small amounts for definite things, often, than a larger amount occasionally, for something rather indefinite, such as "dues". This would mean a larger amount of work for the secretary, but the whole purpose of the NFFF is in activity, so it would be a good thing for the Secretary to appoint a new fan as an assistant.

The Treasury, (for the main purpose of financing Bonfire, official correspondence, stickers, etc.) could reasonably be maintained by a system of taxation (again like a government). This also need not break the fan's pocketbook and would be distributed so that the fans most able to pay would pay the most. For instance, a tax could be levied at a penny per page per issue on fanmag editors or publishers. This would rarely amount to much more than 25c per issue, and a fan who can afford to publish a fanmag, can afford that. It may be argued that such a tax would discourage new fan publications and inhibit the size of established ones. I would say that any fan who would reduce his magazine several pages, merely to avoid a few pennies' tax would be small loss to the organization, and the pages cut, and the new mags discouraged, would also be small loss. True, a few good ones might be lost, but I think the idea would work the "greatest good for the greatest number".

Some way to tax non-editing fans should be arranged, and I admit that I haven't thought much about that angle yet. Perhaps a head tax could be arranged, with exemptions to those taking part in no-return NFFF projects, thus encouraging activity, and indirectly paying for labor.

As a PS to my remarks on selfishness above, I would like to say that all monies received from outsiders for NFFF projects should be turned over to the Treasury until the appropriation shall have been paid back. 'Tis unlikely, that anyone will ever realize any cash above that, but if he does, he certainly deserves it. This should effectively eliminate all trace of monetary gain for the individual in the NFFF, and probably also any money-minded members.

So there you have what I believe to be another worthy concept for the NFFF: "A government of the fans, by the fans, and for the fans, instead of just another overgrown club."

Fan feuds and bulldozing by minorities more or less come together. Fan feuds can easily be stopped (if the NFFF becomes the main organization in fandom) by picking the participants up by the scruff of the neck, and gently but

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firmly depositing them outside the NFFF, where they can squabble all they wish. In a word—ostracization. I believe there is no more effective way to deal with undesirables than by the "cold shoulder" method.

Bulldozing by minority groups and cliques is a little more difficult to deal with, and must depend largely on the alertness and interestedness of the majority, and particularly upon the honesty and character of the officers, so members should use their vote carefully, and not hesitate to speak their disapprovals publicly.

Article III: The apparently too-strict qualifications for obtaining membership may not set exactly right with some. I received two or three very irate letters from semi-fans who were angry because they were excluded from becoming members by the activity clauses in this article. The NFFF is being founded by and for active fans. Otherwise, there would be little point to it. If one wants to join something just for the sake of joining, there are two or three promag clubs just made for that. What I fail to understand, is why these semi fans, who read the pro and fan publications, but have no particular desire to become active, should want to join the NFFF, or be angry when they find they can't. The NFFF can't prevent them from subscribing to fanmags. They can go on reading the pros and fans until Doomsday if they wish. If they do want to become active, it shouldn't be a terrific task to become acquainted with three members and get recommended. The test should be designed to cover a reasonable knowledge of stf, fantasy, and fandom, but not to be such a sticker that only a veteran of many years standing could make a passing grade on it. A sample test for your approval will be included elsewhere in this issue.

I would suggest that Advisory Board consider membership in the CFS (or whatever yearly convention club is in existence) Frontier Society, or FAPA, as "activity" in most cases, as there are some who aren't literary, or rather journalistically inclined, who would still make valuable additions to fandom in some other form of activity. Swisher and his statistical work is a good case in point.

Article VIII: The unanimous plan of re-election for a worthy officer is not as advisable as it seemed at first, because one vote for another candidate (who might not be so worthy) would be sufficient to spoil the incumbent's chances for re-election when the majority actually wanted him. I think the provision of twenty members' signatures for renomination instead of the regular ten, and a definite three-fourths majority for re-election instead of a simple majority adequately covers the situation. I see no reason why the possibility of deposing a good officer (merely because he had served a term) and replacing him with a perhaps poorer officer should be allowed to exist.

The subject of much discussion at the Boskone was the manner in which crookedness could be eliminated from ballot counting. If the members are wide-awake, I don't think it would be very easy to do any undercover dirty work. Open balloting was suggested. That is all right, but I regard it (and I think many others do too) that it is a voter's inherent right to have his vote kept secret. So I have made the provision found in section E.

A few words about Bonfire. It should be published as often as necessary and practicable, (suggestions ranged from monthly to annual; I think a more or less compromise of bi-monthly is the best idea) by the Vice-President or Secretary-Treasurer. It will probably be 4-8 pages, which should not be too much of a job. It should contain an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of all members, ballots for all elections, applications for appropriations, financial statement, results of previous elections, suggestions by members of projects to be undertaken, proposed amendments to the constitution, tests for prospective members and marks of newly accepted members, and all kinds of stuff like that there.

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Here are some suggestions and remarks by other fans:

BOB TUCKER: "I do not believe any of us so-called big names should hold an authoritative position where we can cause possible harm. I know quite well that some "big names" wouldn't think of doing anything damaging, but on the other hand there are plenty who would, as past events prove. And how are YOU to know beforehand who is going to turn out to be angels, and who will be devils?"

The last sentence is true in a broad sense, but it hasn't much bearing on the rest of it. New fans could sabotage the works just as easily as old ones especially if certain "old ones" were behind them out of sight. I would certainly rather trust the Tuckers and Warners and Ackermans rather than newcomers I knew very little about.

AN UNKNOWN ADMIRER: "Here is three bucks. Buy the NFFF some pretty stickers." Thanx a million, Unk.

DOC LOWNDES: "I suggest that the NFFF have mailings similar to the EAPA. That is, the editor of the official organ will mail out (along with the organ) copies of any publication by any member who (a) sends sufficient copies and (b) sufficient postage.

"Purpose of suggested action: To insure a free press and straight handling in the NFFF. The experience of all clubs in the past has shown that whoever publishes the official organ is actually the person running the club. The official organ can publish what it likes and reject what it likes. It can make the club opinion that of its editor, and the members (a) cannot know whether it's on the level, and (b) have no comeback save the roundabout means of writing to every member. However, mailings of material with the official organ takes "free voice to all" out of the oratorical, formal sense, and makes it practical. In line with this, of course, the official editor should be required to give a complete list of NFFF members, names and addresses, every quarter.

"The actual extra work on the shoulders of the official editor will not be great. Also, it's doubtful if you'll have very large mailings as each member has to foot the bill for his own publication in this matter."

LOUIS RUSSELL CHAUVENET: "I suggest that the president when elected submit the constitution as is, but with any amendments or changes he considers desirable, to the Board. The Board will then pass on the changes, or make changes of its own, and the constitution as accepted by a 4/5 majority of the Board will then be the legal constitution of the NFFF, and published as such in the organ of the federation, for which I suggest the name Bonfire (Bulletin of the NFFF = BONFFF = BONFIRE.)

"I favor a monthly 4-page publication, and also classification of members into Active Members paying 50c dues, receiving each monthly bulletin, having right to vote, hold office, etc., and Affiliated Members, those who are interested, but unable to pay dues, and who might receive the official organ four times a year only. —We could put special items into each third number, reporting on activities calculated to induce such non-paying members to pay up fully."

GERRY DE LA REE: "Does the NFFF plan to attempt to boycott any new fan-mags such as you suggested fandom should do in your letter to VoM?"

The answer is an emphatic NO! Anyone who cares to check up (#12 Voice of the Imagi-Nation, page 6) will see that Gerry is laboring under a false impression. Neither the word "boycott" nor the NFFF was mentioned or even remotely referred to. I merely made a sarcastic comment to the effect that he should postpone Sun Spots until he learned how to spell. By what stretch of the imagination he connects that with boycotting or the NFFF I don't know, but one thing I wish to point out is that the NFFF should not attempt to interfere with the rights of the individual. That would be disastrous.

Thanks to the many other fans who sent in suggestions. They were all good,

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reasonable, and showed evidence of constructive thinking which is what we need to make the NFFF a success. I hope those whose offerings I did not put in this article (as I promised in some cases) will not feel slighted. Several of them I incorporated directly into the constitution, and felt they needed no explanation. I have done my best to start an efficient, functioning organization that will go places and do things. I'm just another member now. It's up to you to take over.

Here is the NFFF: I hope you like it.

SAMPLE TEST FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

- 1 What was the first magazine to publish science-fiction exclusively?
- 2 What was the date of the first issue of above magazine?
- 3 Who is generally conceded to be the no. 1 fan in the US?
- 4 Name three prominent British fans.
- 5 Name the editors of the following pro magazines: Comet, Unknown, Weird Tales, Future Fiction, Famous Fantastic Mysteries.
- 6 Name the editors of the following fanmags: Spaceways, Voice of the Imagination, Fantasy Fiction Field, Comet, Slide.
- 7 Who is the author of the Jules De Grandin series?
- 8 Name the "Skylark" trilogy and the author.
- 9 Under what pseudonym did John W. Campbell, Jr., write many stories?
- 10 Name five stf or fantasy artists now illustrating.

One questions of two or more parts, like questions 4,5,6, and 10, a certain percentage should be allowed each part correct. For instance, with 10/3 given for a fully correct answer, a fan giving all but one editor on question five, should not lose out entirely, but be allowed 8/3 for that question.

P. S. Quotes from letters just received from Paul Klingbiel (Director: THE FRONTIER SOCIETY) and E. Everett Evans (Chief Communications Officer: THE GALACTIC ROAMERS) make rather interesting reading in their relations to the NFFF:

EVANS: "Are you or any others interested in NFFF working on a long-range program in which all fan clubs can co-operate, towards the bettering the condition of Fantasy and Science Fiction? Now that we are getting the GALACTIC ROAMERS working, the Detroit Science Fictioneers are beginning to get going strong; and now that we are beginning to get started on our Michifans, we want to know what the country as a whole is doing, and how we can help and aid in that work. If you have time, will you please try and get me a letter telling what is cooking, and how we can best bring in some more fire-wood?"

Well, there are several big, or long-range programs that are needed and which I will suggest if no one else does once we have the formal organization of the NFFF set up. GR can then offer assistance by donating time, labor, or money, or all three to such of the projects as strikes their fancy.

One thing, however, which all the clubs should decide upon right away, is where they would like the 1942 Convention to be held, then instruct their delegate to the DENVENTION how to vote, or if none of their club can go, to select a fan they trust, and who they know will be there and vote the way they wish. Three cities thus far have bid for the 1942 affair: Washington, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. If any fan or group of fans wish me to be their delegate, I will cast my vote and theirs for WASHINGTON IN 1942!

KLINGBIEL: "As long as I am Director of THE FRONTIER SOCIETY you can count on my support of the NFFF. FRONTIER SOCIETY is now "Fandom's only Labo-

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ratory". I'm going to try to produce an organization in Fandom whose purpose will be to "...devote itself to whatever scientific interests exist in Fandom" so, for gosh sakes, Art, send me Rothman's address. There's heaps of things to be done, and 'Time's awastin'"—let's go!"

One other item on my own hook. Every important club is supporting the NFFF now, with the exception of the usually co-operative Angelences.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE NFFF

- 1 Damon F Knight - 143 N. High St., Salem, Oregon.
- 2 Art Widner Jr - Box 122, Bryantville, Massachusetts.
- 3 Robert W. Lowndes - 142 W. 103rd St., New York, New York.
- 4 Ray J. Sienkiewicz - 312 Elm St., Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- 5 Gertrude Kuslan - 170 Washington Ave., West Haven, Connecticut.
- 6 Phil Bronson - 224 W. 6th St., Hastings, Minnesota.
- 7 Ross Rocklyme - 1110 Wm. H. Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 8 Louis Russell Chauvenet - Tallwood Plantation, Esmont, Virginia.
- 9 Louis Kuslan - 170 Washington Ave., West Haven, Connecticut.
- 10 Joseph Gilbert - 3600 Grand St., Columbia, South Carolina.
- 11 Donn Brazier - 3031 N. 36th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 12 Charles A. Beling - La Roche St., Harrington Park, New Jersey.
- 13 Donald B. Thompson - 2302 U St., Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 14 Lew Martin - 1258 Race St., Denver, Colorado.
- 15 Joseph Fortier - 1836 39th Ave., Oakland, California.
- 16 Thomas Wright - 1140 Bush Ave., Martinez, California.
- 17 Elmer Perdue - 617 B St., Rock Springs, Wyoming.
- 18 Edward E. Smith - 313 Homestead Road, Jackson, Michigan.
- 19 E. Everett Evans - 191 Capital Ave., N. W., Battle Creek, Michigan.
- 20 John L. Millard - 917 W. Ganson St., Jackson, Michigan.
- 21 Larry B. Farsaci - 48 Lewis St., Rochester, New York.
- 22 Julius Unger - 1702 Dahill Road, Brooklyn, New York.
- 23 Donald A. Wollheim - 244 W. 74th St., New York, New York.
- 24 Cyril F. Kornbluth - 506 W. 213th St., New York, New York.
- 25 John Michel - 142 W. 103rd St., New York, New York.
- 26 Jack Gillespie - 89 Wadsworth Terrace, New York, New York.
- 27 Richard Wilson - 311 E. 61st St., New York, New York.
- 28 Robert Studley - 210 W. 109th St., New York, New York.
- 29 Arthur Sehnert - 791 Maury St., Memphis, Tennessee.
- 30 Harry Warner, Jr., - 303 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Maryland.
- 31 Charles R. Tanner - Branch Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 32 Phil Schumann - 2767 N. 41st St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 33 Charles Hansen - Route 1, Box 103, Woodland, Washington.
- 34 Jack Spoor - 3416 Northampton, N. W., Washington, D. C.
- 35 Harry Jenkins - 2409 Santee Ave., Columbia, South Carolina.
- 36 Richard J. Kuhn - 13598 Cheyenne St., Detroit, Michigan.
- 37 Lynn Bridges - 7730 Pitt St., Apt. 7, Detroit, Michigan.
- 38 Bob Tucker - Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois.
- 39 Francis Paro - 125 W. 6th St., South Boston, Massachusetts.
- 40 David Kyle - Monticello, New York.
- 41 Mary C. Gray - Box 6475, Los Angeles, California.
- 42 Chris E. Mulrain - 58 E. Church St., Absecon, New Jersey.
- 43 Edwin F. Counts - 298 N. Washington St., Battle Creek, Michigan.
- 44 Robert D. Swisher - 15 Ledyard Road, Winchester, Massachusetts.
- 45 Milton A. Rothman - 1730 P St., Washington, D. C.
- 46 H. C. Koenig - 2 East End Ave., New York, New York.
- 47 Fred Hurter - St. Andrews College, Aurora, Ontario, Canada.
- 48 Earle Barr Hanson - 228 S. W. 34th Ave., Miami, Florida.

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE NFFF

- 49 James Bush - 1978 36th Ave., Oakland, California.
- 50 Louis Goldstone - 269 16th Ave., San Francisco, California.
- 51 Jack Fields - 831 Escobar St., Martinez, California.
- 52 George Robson - c/o Tom Wright - 1140 Bush Ave., Martinez, Calif.
- 53 Clarrissa M. Smith - 313 Homecrest Ave., Jackson, Michigan.
- 54 Henry A. Ackermann - 5200 Maple Ave., Baltimore, Maryland.
- 55 Robert Jones - 281 14th Ave., Columbus, Ohio.
- 56 Ray D. Bradbury - 3054 1-2 W. 12th St., Los Angeles, California.
- 57 Nicholas E. Kenealy - 235th Separate QM Co., Hamilton Field, Calif.
- 58 Hyman Tiger - 350 Osborne St., Brooklyn, New York.
- 59 Scott Feldman - 67-69 Amboy St., Brooklyn, New York.
- 60 Eugene Jorgensen - 2015 Harrington Ave., Oakland, California.
- 61 Robert Jordan - 831 Central Ave., Alameda, California.
- 62 Dale Tarr - 529 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 63 Robert A. Madle - 333 E. Belgrade St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 64 Forrest J Ackerman - 236 1-2 N. New Hampshire, Hollywood, Calif.

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PLATFORM FOR OFFICE IN THE NFFF

President.....Tom Wright
 Vice-President.....Bob Studley

- (1) We sincerely believe that the NFFF is the only worthwhile solution to the fan situation today. We think that if everyone co-operates with the NFFF to the best of his ability, that there will be a new era in fandom. There will be new enthusiasm, and therefore, progress will be made. Progress through united effort.
- (2) We believe that the NFFF should have a certain amount of control over the fan world. Not the officers, understand, but the club as a whole. We think that certain undesirable fans, who can't seem to get along with the fan field in general, should be more or less exiled from fandom. Simply ignored.
- (3) As far as we know, we have no fan enemies and have never engaged in a fan feud. We plan to stay this way; have peaceful relations with all.
- (4) One thing we are staunchly for is a democratic organization, and we shall do all in our power to make it entirely so. We will welcome aid and suggestions from all, and we shall be able to work together as well as any two fans, since we have been on the best of terms for a long time.
- (5) We think we are well qualified for the offices. As far as activity goes: we both put out a fanmag; we have had material in too many mags to mention; we both hold important club offices; and we both belong to the important fan organizations. We are willing to give up other work in order to devote more time to the activities of this organization.

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PLATFORM FOR PRESIDENCY OF THE NFFF

Louis Russell Chauvenet

I. I believe that all fantasy fans have common interests in the promotion and betterment of science and fantasy fiction, and that the NFFF will promote these common interests.

II. I believe that there is an intellectual case for the encouragement of speculative and imaginative fiction, and that this case will receive better hearing if backed by a responsible group of fans with an adult outlook.

PLATFORM FOR PRESIDENCY OF THE NFFF
(Louis Russell Chauvenet)

III. I believe that science and fantasy fiction as a field of literature can make small progress unless the adherents of this field are capable of promoting it in a mature manner, and I believe that the NFFF is destined to play a highly important role in fandom's coming of age.

IV. I believe that the NFFF must and will be a voluntary association of fantasy fans in their common interests, and that it must and will act for the benefit of fandom in general, and remain entirely beyond the control of any individual or minority group.

V. I believe that personal differences between fantasy fans over strictly non-sf and non-fantasy matters have no place in any fan organization.

VI. Because a primary function of the NFFF must be to unite fantasy fans, I believe that no individual who has been prominently associated with the feuds and controversies of the past should hold important office in the NFFF.

VII. I believe that I am qualified to serve a term as President of the NFFF if elected, because of my interest in science and fantasy fiction which has extended over a period of ten years, because of my faith in the NFFF and determination to do all in my power to make it successful, whether as an officer or member, because I have never taken part in the acrimonious quarrels which have disrupted fan organizations in the past, and because I have neither prejudice against nor enmity for any fan in the field today.

NOTE

by

damon knight

The seed from which NFFF happened to germinate was my article, "Unite or Fie!", which was published in the Oct., 1940 Fanfare. It might have been any one of a hundred other notions of the same sort, for my idea was not original or even well-expressed. But my article fell upon fertile soil; and so, here is NFFF.

The important thing, I think, is that this was bound to happen. If we had not begun it when we did, somebody else would have, sooner or later.

Fandom is continually evolving. No one who knows anything of the history of fandom in the last ten years can doubt that that is so. First came letter-writing, then local clubs, then fanzines, then national clubs and conventions. Now, it may be, we are standing on the threshold of a new era, at whose possibilities we can only guess. It may be that fandom is only now coming of age.

And it may be that in this coming of age the National Fantasy Fan Federation will play an important part. At any rate, this much we know: NFFF is a step in the right direction.

It may be that now we shall have for keeps the things we have wanted, most of us, for years: a united front towards the outside world; an active voice in the improvement of professional fantasy; internal harmony and co-operation.

And certainly these things can be, if only enough of us want them sufficiently to work for them together.

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