

CONSTITUTION

of

The WORLD SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY (Unincorporated)

ARTICLE I - Membership and Objectives

- Section 1:** The World Science Fiction Society is an unincorporated literary society whose functions are:
- A. To choose the recipients of the annual Science Fiction Achievement Awards (the Hugos),
 - B. To choose the locations for the annual World Science Fiction Conventions, and
 - C. To attend those Conventions.
- Section 2:** The membership of the World Science Fiction Society shall consist of all people who have paid membership dues to the Convention Committee of the current Convention.
- Section 3:** Authority and responsibility for all matters concerning the Convention, except those reserved herein to the Society, shall rest with the Convention Committee which shall act in its own name and not in that of the Society.
- Section 4:** Each Convention Committee should dispose of surplus funds remaining after accounts are settled for the current Convention for the benefit of the membership of the Society of a whole, and should publish or have published by the following Convention Committee a final financial report.

ARTICLE II - Hugo Awards

- Section 1:** Selection of the Science Fiction Achievement Awards, known as the Hugos, shall be made as follows in the subsequent Sections.
- Section 2:** Best Novel: A science fiction or fantasy story of forty thousand (40,000) words or more appearing for the first time in English during the previous calendar year. A story, once it has appeared in English, may thus be eligible only once. Publication date, or cover date in the case of a dated periodical, takes precedence over copyright date. A serial takes its appearance to be the date of the last installment. Individual stories appearing as a series are eligible only as individual stories and are not eligible taken together under the title of the series. An author may withdraw a version from consideration if he feels that that version is not representative of what he wrote. The Convention Committee may relocate a story into a more appropriate category if it feels it is necessary, provided that the story is within five thousand (5,000) words of the new category limits.

- Section 3: Best Novella: The rules shall be the same as those for Best Novel, with length between seventeen thousand five hundred (17,500) and forty thousand (40,000) words.
- Section 4: Best Novelette: The rules shall be the same as those for Best Novel, with length between seven thousand five hundred (7,500) and seventeen thousand five hundred (17,500) words.
- Section 5: Best Short Story: The rules shall be the same as those for Best Novel, with length less than seven thousand five hundred (7,500) words.
- Section 6: Best Dramatic Presentation: Any production in any medium of dramatized science fiction or fantasy, which has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year. In the case of individual programs presented as a series, each program is individually eligible, but the entire series as a whole is not eligible.
- Section 7: Best Professional Artist: An illustrator whose work has appeared in the field of professionally published science fiction or fantasy during the previous calendar year.
- Section 8: Best Professional Editor: The editor of any professional publication devoted primarily to science fiction or fantasy during the previous calendar year.
- Section 9: Best Amateur Magazine: Any generally-available, non-professional magazine devoted to science fiction, fantasy or related subjects, which has published four (4) or more issues at least one of which appeared in the previous calendar year.
- Section 10: Best Fan Writer: ((Defined at Aussiecon, definition pending ratification.))
- Section 11: Best Fan Artist: An artist or cartoonist whose work has appeared through publication in magazines of the type defined in Section 9 or through other public display during the previous calendar year. Anyone whose name appears on the final Hugo Ballot for a given year under the Professional Artist category shall not be eligible for the Fan Artist Award for that year.
- Section 12: Additional Category: Not more than one special category may be created by the current Convention Committee with nominations and final voting to be the same as for the permanent categories. The Convention Committee is not required to create any such category, such action by a Convention Committee should be under exceptional circumstances only, and the special category created by one Convention Committee shall not be binding on following Committees. Awards created under this category shall be considered to be Science Fiction Achievement Awards, or Hugos.
- Section 13: Name and Design: The Hugo Award shall continue to be standardized on the rocket ship design of Jack McKnight and Ben Jason. Each Convention Committee may select its own choice of base design. The name (Hugo) and the design shall not be extended to any other award.

Section 14: No Award: At the discretion of an individual Convention Committee, if the lack of nominations or final votes in a specific category shows a marked lack of interest in that category on the part of the voters, the Award in that category shall be cancelled for that year. In addition, the entry No Award shall be mandatory in each category of Hugo on the final ballot.

Section 15: Nominations and Voting: Selection of nominees for the final award voting shall be done by a poll conducted by the Convention Committee under rules determined by the Committee. Final Award voting shall be by mail, with ballots sent only to Society members. Final Awards ballots shall include name, signature, address and membership number spaces to be filled in by the voter. Final Awards ballots shall standardize nominees given in each category to not more than five (5), plus No Award. Assignment to their proper category of nominees nominated in more than one category, and eligibility of nominees, shall be determined by the Convention Committee. Voters shall indicate the order of their preference for the nominees in each category.

Section 16: Tallying: Counting of all votes shall be the responsibility of the Convention Committee, which is responsible for all matters concerning the Awards. In each category, votes shall first be tallied by the voter's first choices. If no majority is then obtained, the nominee who placed last in the initial tallying shall be eliminated and the votes listing it as first choice shall be redistributed on the basis of those ballots second choices. This process shall be repeated until a majority vote winner is obtained.

Section 17: Exclusions: No member of the current Convention Committee nor any publication closely connected with a member of the Committee shall be eligible for an Award. However, should the Committee delegate all authority under this Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevokable by the Convention Committee, then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.

ARTICLE III - Future Convention Site Selection

Section 1: The Society shall choose the location of the Convention to be held two years from the date of the current Convention at the Business Meeting of the current Convention. The current Convention Committee shall supply the Presiding Officer and staff of the meeting. Voting shall be by mail or by ballot cast at the Convention, with run-off ballot as described in Article II, the Section on Tallying, limited to Society members who have paid at least two dollars (\$2.00) towards membership in the Convention whose site is being selected. The current Convention Committee shall administer the mail balloting, collect the advance membership fees, and turn over those funds to the winning Committee before the end of the current Convention.

Section 2: To ensure equitable distribution of sites, North America is divided into three regions as follows:
Western: Baja California, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Saskatchewan and all states and provinces westward.
Central: Central America, Mexico (except as above), and all states and provinces between Western and Eastern regions.

Eastern: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Quebec, and all states and provinces eastward.

Section 3: Convention sites shall rotate in the order Western, Central, Eastern region. Bids from sites located out of rotation may be considered only if the rule of rotation is set aside by a three-quarters majority vote of those voting for Site Selection at the current Convention. In the event of such setting aside, the same motion shall also establish where the rotation is to resume.

Section 4: A Convention site outside North America may be selected by a majority vote at any Convention. In the event of such outside Convention being selected there shall be an interim Continental Convention in the region whose turn it would have normally been, to be held in the same year as the overseas World Science Fiction Convention, with rotation skipping that region the following year. To skip a region without giving it an interim Continental Convention shall require a three-quarters majority vote. Selection of the site of such Continental Convention may be by vote of the Business Meeting or by such other method as the competing bidders might agree upon.

Section 5: With sites being selected two years in advance, there are therefore at least two Convention Committees in existence at any given time. If one should become unable to perform its duties, the surviving Convention Committee shall determine what it is to do, by mail poll of the Society if there is time for one, or by decision of the Committee if there is not time.

ARTICLE IV - Powers of the Business Meeting

Section 1: Any change in the rules of the World Science Fiction Society shall take effect no sooner than the end of the Convention at which such change is adopted.

Section 2: Any proposal to amend the rules of the Society shall require for passage only a majority of the votes cast on the question, except that a proposal to rescind any such action of the immediately previous Business Meeting shall require for passage three quarters of the votes cast.

Section 3: All previous by-laws, Constitutions and resolutions having the effect of by-laws and Constitutions of the World Science Fiction Society are revoked.

Section 4: The rules of the World Science Fiction Society as decided in the Business Meetings shall be printed by the World Science Fiction Convention Committee, and distributed with the Hugo nomination ballots and hopefully printed in the program book.

Amendments to the Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society adopted at Aussiecon (1975) to be ratified at MidAmeriCon (1976).

Item One: To amend ARTICLE II of the Constitution as follows:

1. Delete Section 3.
2. Delete forty thousand (40,000) and insert thirty-five thousand (35,000) in Section 2.
3. Delete last sentence of Section 2.
4. Delete seven thousand five hundred (7,500) and seventeen thousand five hundred (17,500) and insert ten thousand (10,000) and forty thousand (40,000), in Section 4.
5. Delete seven thousand five hundred (7,500) and insert twelve thousand five hundred (12,500) in Section 5.

*deleted -
novella
back*

Item Two: To define Best Fan Writer:

Best Fan Writer: Any person whose writing has appeared in magazines of the type defined in Section 9.

passed

Item Three: To amend the Section in ARTICLE II on Nominations and Voting: After the word "five (5)" insert "(six in the case of tie votes)".

passed

Item Four: To amend the current ARTICLE IV of the Consitution as follows:

1. Delete the current ARTICLE IV.
2. Insert the following text as the new ARTICLE IV:

passed

ARTICLE IV - Powers of the Business Meeting and Constitution

Section 1: Any proposal to amend the Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society shall require for passage a majority of all the votes cast on the question at the Business Meeting of the Society at which it is first debated and also ratification by a simple majority of those members present and voting at a Business Meeting of the Society held at the World Convention immediately following that at which the change was first approved. Failure to ratify in the manner described above shall void the proposed change.

*3/
Section 2:
removed by
passed amendment*

Section 2: Any change to the Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society shall take effect [no sooner than the end of the Convention at which such change is proposed and] no later than the end of the Convention at which it is ratified.

*new/bld
if 2/3
deleted, this
one disappears*

Section 3: Nothing in Section 1 shall prevent the Committee responsible for the Convention at which ratification of a proposed change is to be considered from adopting the proposed change in the conduct of its own affairs if it so desires.

Section 4: This Constitution, including all ratified amendments hereto, [together with proposed amendments approved but not yet ratified,] shall determine the conduct of the affairs of the Society. All previous Constitutions, by-laws and resolutions of the World Science Fiction Society are revoked.

Proposed new section 2/3 - Any change to the constitution of WSSF shall take place at the end of the constitution convention at which it is ratified.

note: this will be deleted unless new 2/3 is passed

*passed
as amendment*

Amendments to be ratified, continued:

Item Four; continued:

Section 5: Business Meetings of the Society shall be held at advertised times at each World Science Fiction Convention. The current Convention Committee shall provide the Presiding Officer and staff for each Meeting. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and such other rules as may be published by the Committee in advance. [At these Meetings, amendments to the Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society may be proposed, discussed, approved, disapproved, ratified or not ratified.]

deleted
 To be deleted if 2/3 passes as amended
 this part deleted by new 2/3

Section 6: The Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society ~~accepted by the current Convention Committee~~, together with an explanation of proposed changes approved but not yet ratified, shall be printed by the current Convention Committee, distributed with the Hugo nomination ballots, and printed in the Convention book, if there is one.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution to be considered for the first time at MidAmeriCon (1976).

Item One: To amend ARTICLE I by inserting a new Section 1 to read as below and to renumber in order the remaining Sections:

Section 1: The Name of this organization shall be the World Science Fiction Society, hereinafter referred to as WSFS. *passed*

Item Two: To amend ARTICLE I, old Section 1, by inserting a new Subsection D to read as follows:

D. To perform such other activities as may be necessary or incidental to the above purposes. *passed*

Item Three: To amend ARTICLE III, Section 1 as follows:

Delete "two dollars (\$2.00)" and insert "five dollars (\$5.00)". *passed*

Item Four: To amend ARTICLE I, Section 4 by deleting the entire Section. *defeated*

Item Five: To amend ARTICLE II, Section 14 (No Award) by inserting the following sentence at the end of the existing Section:

In any event, No Award shall be given ~~in any category in which~~ *whenever the number of valid ballots cast for that* less than ten percent (10%) of the total Award ballots ~~cast shall be received.~~ *passed*

Item Five-A: SEE TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON PAGE 8 BELOW:

Item Six: To amend ARTICLE II by adding a new Section after the existing Section 12 (Additional Category), worded as below, and renumbering the remaining Sections as appropriate:

*↑
deleted*

Section 00: Listing of Appearances: To facilitate reference and memory, a list of appearances of each nominee in every category must appear with or on the final Awards ballot. Minimum appearance citations are as follows:

- A. Novel, novella, novelette, short story, professional artist and professional editor: At least one but not more than three English-language references must be cited. Name of publisher, city and country of publication, and date of publication must be listed.
 - B. Dramatic presentation: At least one but not more than three appearances or occasions must be cited. Date and place of appearance must be listed.
 - C. Amateur Magazine: Name of editor shall be cited.
 - D. Fan Artist, fan writer: At least one but not more than three appearances must be cited. Name of publication, editor and dates of issues cited shall be listed.
 - E. Additional Category: Citation requirements shall be defined by the current Convention Committee.
- Any nominees appearing on the final Awards ballot without citations as defined above shall be invalid. If an entire category contains no references, the entire category shall be ruled invalid and No Award shall be given for that category.

Amendments to be considered, continued:

Item ^{Ten} Seven: To amend ARTICLE II, Section 9 (Best Amateur Magazine) by inserting the following sentence at the end of the existing Section:

deleted

Any magazine ^{normally magazine} which makes payment to its contributors shall not be eligible for consideration as an amateur magazine.

Item Eight: ((To be considered only if Item Four of the Amendments to be ratified is ratified.))

To amend ARTICLE IV, Section 3 by deleting the entire Section.

Item Nine: To amend ARTICLE IV, Section 4 (or ARTICLE IV, Section 6, if Item Four passes as above) by deleting the current wording and inserting the following new wording for the Section:

deleted
will go in as part of Russian proposal

The Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society accepted by the current Convention Committee, together with an explanation of proposed changes approved but not yet ratified, shall be printed by the current Convention Committee and one copy provided for each of those persons attending the Business Meeting.

Item ^{Seven} Ten: To amend ARTICLE II of the Official WSFS Rules dealing with Hugo Awards by deleting the following categories: Best Amateur Magazine, Best Fan Writer, and Best Fan Artist.

postponed indefinitely

TEXT OF ITEM FIVE-A (from page 7 above):

Item Five-A: ADD the following provision to the end of section 2.15: ^{one or more} 2.15

Passed

"The committee shall, ^{par with} on the final ballot, designate, for each nominee in the printed fiction categories, the book, anthology, or magazine in which it appeared (including the book publisher or magazine issue date(s)), ~~thereby giving the voters a greater opportunity to find and read the nominees.~~"

- 11. ~~With sites~~ ^{deleted} With sites being selected 2 years in advance, then if a ~~new~~ committee folds or ~~stands~~ the site selected becomes invalid, then the other committee or WSFS by mail ballot takes over.
- 12. Move voting to 3 years in advance (77 votes on 79; 78 votes on 80 & 81)
- 13. Each committee should allow time for the ^{next} year in advance to talk about their bids
- 14. ~~Change~~ Change rotation to 4-Zone: Western, Other, Central, Eastern & delete NASFiC
Amendment: Put the NASFiC back

These are additional matters to come before the MidAmeriCon Business Meeting. These Items were submitted after the Constitution and related pages were printed, therefore this add-on sheet. Please keep this page with your Constitution, since no more will be made available.L.C.Smith, Secretary, MAC Business Meeting 9/4

Item 11: Ruled out of consideration by vote of the Preliminary Business Session.

Item 12: Motion to amend the Constitution as follows: In Section 3.02, the words "North America is divided into three Divisions:" to be replaced by "four geographical Divisions are defined:" At the end of Section 3.02. add: ~~XXXX~~ Overseas: Any site not included in the above three Divisions." In Section 3.03, insert the word "Overseas" between the words "~~Western~~ ^{Central}" and "~~Central~~." Delete the current Section 3.04, and renumber the current Section 3.05 as Section 3.04. This amendment is to take effect immediately after the end of ~~London~~. ^{Iguonacm 2}

Eastern

defeated

Central

Item 12A: Motion to amend the preceding motion (Item 12) as follows: That the second to the last sentence of the main motion be replaced by: "The current Section 3.04 of the World Science Fiction Society Constitution be replaced by the following: 3.04 - When a World Science Fiction Convention site in the Overseas Division is selected, a site for an interim Continental Convention shall be selected. Such sites shall rotate Western, Central, Eastern, based on the Division in which the most recent such Continental Convention shall have been held. The selection of such site may be a continuation of the World Convention site selection meeting, or by such other method as the competing bidders may agree upon."

defeated as part of 12

Item 13: In ARTICLE 3, Section 1: Replace "two years" with "three years" in line one. ^{defeated}

Item 14; Moved to amend by adding the following to the Constitution: "Each World Science Fiction Convention shall provide a reasonable opportunity for bona fide bidding committees for the convention one year hence to make presentations. ^{To be ~~substantiated~~ selected}

passed

Item 15: Motion to amend Section 3, paragraph I by adding the following text after the second sentence: "Bids from prospective committees shall be allowed on the ballot by the current committee only upon presentation of adequate evidence of an agreement with the proposed sites' facilities; such as a conditional contract or letter of agreement." ^{passed}

Item 16: Moved to amend by changing the wording in ARTICLE I, Section One - B to read as follows: "To choose the locations and committees for the annual World Science Fiction Conventions, and". ^{passed}

Item 17: Will appear for reference purposes only.

N.B.: Citations to sections of the Convention are taken verbatim from the original motions as presented at the Preliminary Business Meeting. Since the citation reference is for location purpose only, it cannot be considered a vital part of the motion. Correct numeration and insertion will be provided by the Secretary of the Business Meeting when the final Constitution is certified. Please do not take up our time by moving to renumber or correct citations.

Larry Smith, Secretary.

15.

PROPOSED W.S.F.S. CONSTITUTION ADMENDMENT by Jackie Franke.

PROPOSED: that Sec. 3, Paragraph I be amended by adding the following after the second sentence: "Bids from prospective committees shall be allowed on the ballot by the current committee only upon presentation of adequate evidence of an agreement with the proposed sites' ^{facilities such as} ~~hotel(s)~~; ~~either~~ a conditional contract or letter of agreement."

This admendment of the W.S.F.S. Constitution hopes to insure that bidding committees have had the foresight to obtain a firm commitment for the needed facilities in advance of the actual site selection, in order to save the W.S.F.S. the embarrassment of having a Con withdraw a hotel.

17. To amend I. 1. B To change 'location' to 'location of committee'
16. Purnelle resolution - to be dumped on a committee

LA - 460

Phoenix - 533