

Instant Message

Issue 1001 • September 2023



Instant Message is the newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association. It is published every month with a meeting, usually 11 issues per year. The NESFA clubhouse is located at 504 Medford St, Somerville MA 02145. Our telephone number is 617-625-2311. Our website is <https://www.nesfa.org>. We can be reached via email at roster@nesfa.org for address changes and other updates to the roster, sales@nesfa.org for questions about NESFA Press, and info@nesfa.org for other questions about NESFA. NESFA* and Boskone* are registered trademarks of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. For access to NESFA/Boskone Discord server: <https://tinyurl.com/BoskoneDiscord>.

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IM online: www.nesfa.org/IM, **User name:** September2023 **Password:** IraHorizons (all case-sensitive).

To receive the *IM* by email, sign up at nesfa.org/lists.html for a PDF (im-pdf) or a message containing a link to a PDF and its password (im-announce). Other NESFA mailing lists are also available. To stop paper *IMs*, email roster@nesfa.org.

NESFA Meeting Attendance List (2023-09-03)@

Gloria Albasi	Ann Broomhead	Rick Kovalcik	Terry Neill*	Kristin Seibert%
Dave Anderson%	Rodger Burns*	Ellen Krasner*	Mary Olszowka%+	Andrea Senchy*
Bonnie Atwood*	Dave Cantor %	Suford Lewis	Peter Olszowka	Tim Szczesuil
Ted Atwood*	Gay Ellen Dennett	Tony Lewis	Kelly Persons%	
Judy Bemis	Dave Grubbs	Paula Lieberman	Michael Rasnick%	
James Boggie	Chip Hitchcock	Ken London	Joe Ross%	
Wes Brodsky	Mike Kerpan	Robert Luoma	Sharon Sbarsky	

@ This month everyone attended via Zoom * Boskone meeting only % Business meeting only + Sama & Zack O. also present

Proxies (for Business meeting only): no proxies

Boskone meeting started at 12:01 PM EDT

(MICHAEL KERPAN): Jeff Keller has been appointed as Guest Liaison

ZAMBIA STATUS (PETER OLSZOWKA):

Zambia is up and running. Some more tweaking may be needed.

There was a discussion on various aspects of Zambia with respect to Boskone.

PROGRAM:

Rodger Burns is planning to get things up and running for an initial invitation in about 2 weeks. We might be able to push this for another week.

Program and Registration need to talk to work out tech details.

VIRTUAL/HYBRID ASPECTS OF BOSKONE:

General consensus is that we should do streaming from the main room plus q&a capabilities for panels in the main room. We can make a final decision after Albacon. The overall consensus is that doing an all-online track is a bad idea. In a discussion, it was pointed out that the upcoming Boskone will probably have a greater than usual need for tech resources at various onsite events. Rick Kovalcik said that streaming a second room would likely take less people points than an all-virtual track. Paula Lieberman suggests a virtual consuite as an additional thing for online members to do.

SPACE ALLOCATION/LAYOUT:

In general people think that the galleria looks good. There was a discussion of other location changes.

SALES TAX:

Suford points out that we need to make sure that authors in authors alley (and the book launch) have Massachusetts Sales Tax IDs. If they don't have one when they sign up, make sure they have one before they get their time slot.

See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/tradeshaw-and-flea-market-promoters>

ART SHOW (ANDREA SENCHY):

Art show prices will be kept the same.

WEBSITE/IT:

The committee list on boskone.org needs to be updated to reflect the committee list on the google drive. Someone is needed to be in overall charge of convention-facing IT.

FINANCIAL (JUDY BEMIS):

Judy Bemis reminds folks to get in their expenses for parties and other promos.

The following two Boskone 61 financial reports were sent by email:

New England SF Assn DBA Boskone 61

Balance Sheet

As of September 2, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1 · MIVA e-commerce	2,430.00
2 · Paypal	600.00
4 · Boskone 60 crosscharges	26,797.65
5 · NESFA crosscharges	-37,750.93
7 · TD Bank checking	13,279.30
Total Checking/Savings	5,356.02

Other Current Assets

15 · Advance Accounts	
16 · Dave Anderson Adv Acct	33.98
Total 15 · Advance Accounts	33.98
Total Other Current Assets	33.98

Total Current Assets 5,390.00

TOTAL ASSETS 5,390.00

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Net Income	5,390.00
Total Equity	5,390.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 5,390.00

New England SF Assn DBA Boskone 61
Statement of Financial Income and Expense
 January 1 through September 2, 2023

	Unclassified	TOTAL
Income		
20 · Memberships	3,950.00	3,950.00
21 · Pre-con adults early	90.00	90.00
22 · Pre-con YA early	1,320.00	1,320.00
23 · Pre-con Adults - later		
26 · Rollover from B60	130.00	130.00
Total 20 · Memberships	5,490.00	5,490.00
Total Income	5,490.00	5,490.00
Expense		
300 · Program		
308 · Virtualization/Hybridization	100.00	100.00
Total 300 · Program	100.00	100.00
Total Expense	100.00	100.00
Net Income	5,390.00	5,390.00

HOTEL:

Links for hotel reservation coming soon for committee testing

The Boskone Meeting was adjourned at 1:49 PM EDT

NESFA Business Meeting 2023-09-03

Meeting started at 2:05pm EDT

Ask the Clerk to enable the recording and transcription function.

Call for amanuenses (notes takers).

Call the meeting to order at 2:05 PM EDT

Quorum for a meeting is 30% of the regular membership. Currently that is 8 regular members (30% of 26 regular members).

Read the attendance sign-in list into the record.

Asked if there are any votes-by-secret-ballot expected, so that the Rules Committee (Dave Anderson) can start to prepare them.
None expected

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: no corrections

CALL FOR PROXIES: There are no proxies.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

No report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (ANN BROOMHEAD):

We made money last month (mostly from Amazon).

August

Checking	\$47,101.08
Boskone 60/61	\$13,279.30
PayPal	\$1,876.67
Postage	\$22.78
Total	\$62,279.83
Increase:	\$5,056.04

CLERK'S REPORT (ROBERT LUOMA):

IM was published the usual 10 days after the last BM. The upcoming IM will contain the roster, so it will be especially large and it will be going out to many more people than usual. The clerk requests that Dave Anderson pick up extra stamps. We also need dues due labels generated earlier than usual. Dave Cantor is aware of this. Dave Cantor says that a plain ASCII file containing the names and contact info of current members has been posted to NESFA Google drive

[Shared drives/NESFA/Private-Complete-Roster/pcr.txt]

It's being updated as people join, drop, or change their contact info. This is the definitive list of who is and isn't a member, so use this file instead of using the DBF file directly. As this is the definitive member list it is unredacted.

E-BOARD REPORT (ROBERT LUOMA):

No E-board meetings and no E-board votes.

MAIL ROOM REPORT (DAVE CANTOR):

Nothing out of the ordinary.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON):

Due to the fallout of various health and computer issues, nothing got done this month.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (WES BRODSKY):

New members since the previous report:

Subscribing:

- Elizabeth Nitecki
- Emily Strong
- Bill Ireland
- Sam Buercklin

Returned as Subscribing:

- Thomas John Wakeman

Attendance:

Patricia Lang and Erin Underwood must attend at least two Business Meetings immediately prior to the first meeting in November to maintain Regular Membership.

James Boggie must attend at least one Business Meeting immediately prior to the first meeting in November to maintain Regular Membership.

Otherwise they will be transferred to Inactive Membership.

These people have been notified via email.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

We are working with our Bookkeeper to close Boskone 60 and last year's NESFA books so that we can submit the tax returns soon.

BOSKONE 60 REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

No report. We are still working on closing the books.

BOSKONE 61 REPORT (MICHAEL KERPAN):

We held our September Boskone meeting earlier today. We would like to set our Art Show and Dealers Room rates. Art Show would like to set the rates to be the same as last year.

The Dealers Room would like to set a flat rate of \$70 per table, matching last year's Tier 2 rate.

Hearing no objection that passes by unanimous consent.

Art Show Rates (same as last year):

Resale: \$3 per square foot.

Print: \$1 per print

Panels: \$11 per ¼ panel etc. \$11 per ¼ table etc.

Mail-in Fee \$20

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

We are gearing up to start inviting Program Participants. If you don't have a position yet and want to help, please let Mike Kerpan know. We can use all the help we can get.

NESFA PRESS REPORT (DAVE GRUBBS):

News:

- Robert Silverberg's book of essays, *Living in the Future*, is now on sale.
- The six Zelazny ebooks and the Silverberg ebook are finished and nearly ready for distribution.

Printed Books:

- *Living in the Future* (Silverberg) is out in hardcover
- No printed book projects are in progress, or even on the queue. We continue to seek more hardcover projects.

eBooks:

- The ebook state of *Living in the Future* is finished. After we sell a few Silverberg hardcovers, we'll post the ebook to our website for sale.
- Zelazny ebooks are mostly finished but still need to be checked carefully for formatting issues to ensure that they actually work correctly across a wide array of e-readers. The whole batch is due by the end of October.
- Jim Mann is working on the InDesign base files for Tenn's *Here Comes Civilization*, which we'll turn into an ebook when he is done.
- Other ebook projects still pending: (unchanged from last month)
 - * John Myers Myers's *Silverlock*
 - * Tony Lewis's *Concordance to Cordwainer Smith*
 - * Several other potential projects await permissions and the energy to approach them.

Technical items:

Our master ISBNs file is in the NESFA Press Google Drive in
01-Management/Catalog/ISBNs.docx.

Additions: There are lots of issues getting ebooks up on Amazon and Smashwords. Amazon's complaints are mostly about copyright. Smashwords complaints are mostly about failing the epub check.

NESFA SALES REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

We are out of stock for:

- *From These Ashes*
- *The Compleat Boucher*

The Sales Committee recommends allowing these books to go out of print and pursue the eBook rights for the Boucher book. Amazon claims that the two Brown books (*From These Ashes*, *Martians & Madness*) contents are in the public domain. Without going into too much detail, we do not believe this is the case. However, the onus is on Brown's agent or estate to resolve this issue. We will reach out to them to try to resolve this issue. Both eBooks are available on our store and Smashwords.

E-COMMERCE REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

We will create the MOBI version of the ebooks where they are missing.

Once the new Boskone Registration is up, we will be transitioning Boskone including Dealers and Art Show; we will have more details next month.

SALES AT CONVENTIONS (READERCON) (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

We did about \$700 of Sales at Readercon. Using Square with an iPad works really nicely. We should use Square any time we sell at an outside convention.

BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL REPORT (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

(We are not taking part in 2023 due to a date conflict.)

CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK):

The left bathroom sink drain was leaking and has been repaired. The mirror in the left bathroom still needs to be replaced. Three of the four CR boxes were rebuilt with new filters. We need to deal with the weeds around the edge of the driveway. Is someone willing to take responsibility for this? At long last we have gotten rid of the dumpster. It was costing us about \$10000/year and we need to find a new provider. We need somebody to contact tree service companies and get quotes for taking down the tree in the driveway before it damages a truck.

IT COMMITTEE REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

Things continue.

HOTEL COMMITTEE REPORT (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

We have the links for Boskone Room Registration. They will be sent out to the Boskone Committee this week for testing. If there are no problems, they will be put up on the website. Chip would like to schedule a time to go visit Lewis to take measurements.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

Kelly has filled the empty shelving created where the Treasury desk used to be. We've also started unpacking the old new books from 2021 and 2022 to move them to their forever homes. Also, 2023 Hugo nominees are on the new bookshelf. Please remember to return them ASAP when you're done reading. We'll look into the possibility of getting the short stories printed for folks who need them.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (SHARON SBARSKY):

No report.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT (MIKE KERPAN FOR KRISTIN SEIBERT):

We've been working on our position statement regarding what we feel the role of Outreach should be in NESFA's social media presence. We'd like to meet and get our draft fixed up before meeting with IT to try and find a broadly agreeable solution.

PROCUREMENT REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON):

Things have been very quiet. People have been buying candy, soda, and water on their own dime.

Awards:

FELLOWSHIP AWARD (JOE ROSS):

Nominations are now open for Fellow of NESFA. According to the NESFA bylaws, nominations "shall be via written petition signed by three (3) or more Regular Members or five (5) or more members of any class. Nominations shall be invalid which (a) arrive after the deadline, (b) nominate members of the Executive Board <<http://data.nesfa.org/rules/SR.html#sr1.5>>, existing Fellows, or administrators of the election." A list of all Fellows can be found at <https://www.nesfa.org/about/history/nesfa-fellowship/>.

I will accept nominations by email at joe@attorneyross.com, under the following conditions:

- (1) The email must come from one of the nominators and must cc all other nominators.
- (2) Every nominator must be identified in the email either by name or by an email address from which the identity of the person can be easily ascertained.
- (3) Within 24 hours I will acknowledge every nomination that I receive and notify you of any problems with the nomination, so that you can fix it if time permits.

Nominations must reach me by midnight at the end of Wednesday, 27 September 2023. Given the increasing slowness of postal mail, email is recommended. Nominations on paper, containing all necessary signatures, may be mailed to NESFA or left in my mailbox at the Clubhouse. I will try to get onto the NESFA Wednesday Zoom on the 27th and ask someone to check my mailbox and tell me of any nominations which have been received.

Balloting will probably be by paper ballot. This, and the ballot return deadline, will be announced shortly after nominations have closed.

GAUGHAN AWARD (SHARON SBARSKY): No report. We need to follow up with the third judge.

SHORT STORY CONTEST (STEVEN LEE):

As of today, we have 16 submissions. This is slightly behind last year, when we had about 25 submissions, with a month to go before the deadline. But most of the submissions come in just before the deadline.

I mainly care about not having more submissions than the 60 limit (so we don't have to disappoint anyone). The first year I did this I only had 22 submissions, and had some really good stories, so I'm not bothered by having less (so far) than last year.

I have three readers so far. It'd be nice to have two more, to reduce the workload for each. If you're interested, please contact me. Readers should be willing to read at least ten stories over a two-month span.

SKYLARK AWARD (TONY LEWIS):

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 E. E. SMITH (SKYLARK) AWARD

The Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (the Skylark) is presented annually by NESFA to some person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late "Doc" Smith well-loved by those who knew him. (For further details, see the associated NESFA ByLaw <http://data.nesfa.org/rules/Bylaws.html#b111.5>.)

The award consists of a trophy with a large lens. The winner of the award is chosen by vote of the Regular members of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc. It is presented at Boskone <http://www.boskone.org/>.

Details of the Award and its procedures will be found at <http://data.nesfa.org/rules/Bylaws.html#b111.5>. Nominations will open at the 3 September 2023 meeting. Nominations may be made by any member. They must be received by Monday 8 October 2023. Ballots will be sent out by email and must be received by Monday 12 November 2023.

A list of previous winners is at <https://www.nesfa.org/awards/the-skyark/>. Normally, the Skylark should not be presented more than once to the same person.

Send your nomination to pussywillows@comcast.net or you can snailmail it to me at 24 Wheeler Lane, Natick MA 01760 (allow adequate time for delivery). It would be useful—but not required—if you could include a few sentences saying why you think this person should be so honored.

Clubhouse Activities (Wednesday Nights, Reading, Writing, Other)

Hybrid Wednesday nights continue. Mike Kerpan has been getting that set up but he might not always be able to do it. Robert Luoma also knows how to do it. People have been showing up in person although not staying as late as they did in the before times. Reading Group continues.

GAMING COORDINATOR REPORT (MIKE RASNICK):

August was a busy month with four Game Day events. All went well, and a few of them lasted till midnight or a bit later. A new attendee showed up with some really unique & interesting games that I've not seen before.

I obtained five new reasonably fast (30 minutes or less) games for the NESFA collection:

- *Splendor Duel*
- *Jaipur*
- *Cat in the Box*
- *Marvel Remix*
- *Star Trek Missions*

I purchased the *Fantasy Realms Deluxe Edition* last year for NESFA's Collection. It has a player count of 3 to 6, age is 14+, and it takes 20 minutes to play.

My goal was to obtain fast playing games for those times when attendees arrive and others are in the middle of a game, and/or for those times when there's not a lot of players available. *Marvel Remix* and *Star Trek Missions* are based on the mechanics of *Fantasy Realms* (a popular card game), but rethemed in unique ways that they aren't exact clones of the base game.

On September 9th the Gaming Committee will meet at the NESFA Clubhouse to continue our culling of older & less played games to create space for newer/popular games.

At the meeting, there was a discussion of the resumption of gaming during the Wednesday Open Clubhouse nights.

MEDIA COORDINATOR REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

We have finished watching all the Hugo Nominated stuff. Regular Media Days will be continuing in September. We are looking for recommendations for other things to watch, specifically TV shows, anime and movies.

NESFA PICNIC (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

A show of hands for possible attendees was taken. Various folks talked about what they are planning on bringing. It looked like we expected about 30 people [actually about 45 people showed up for the NESFA Picnic on Monday, 4 September 2023].

MCFI LIAISON (RICK KOVALCIK):

There was a brief discussion about the upcoming SMOFcon in Providence, RI.

WORLDCON LIAISON (SHARON SBARSKY):

NESFA does not have access to the Hugo Packet.

The rest is the same as last month. Our "no preference" bid for 2025 site selection has been cast.

SILENT AND SILLY COMMITTEES: All silent.

OLD BUSINESS: None brought up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Move to repeal the COVID discount (Rick Kovalcik, Sharon Sbarsky, Mike Rasnick)
MSP 18-0

Move to create a \$5 discount code for an adult attending membership for Boskone 61 to be valid through the end of September and to be promoted at our Albacon party. (Mike Kerpan, Rick Kovalcik)
Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Move for a 20% discount on Letters to the Pumpkin King from 10/10 to 10/31. (Judy Bemis, Suford Lewis).
Motion passes by unanimous consent.

TIMES AND PLACES OF FUTURE EVENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

NETWORKING REQUESTS (WHO NEEDS TO TALK TO WHOM AFTER THE MEETING IN BREAKOUT ROOMS)

NESFA Business Meeting adjourned at 4:13pm EDT

The Official NESFA Glossary

B99 • Boskone 99

CH • Clubhouse

CotBH • Committee of the Black Hole (a humorous term for Committee of the Whole)

CotW • Committee of the Whole

EBoard • NESFA Executive board (President, VP, Treasurer, Clerk)

FN • Fellow of NESFA

GED • Gay Ellen Dennett

IM • *Instant Message* (this publication)

MCFI • Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.

MCP(U) • Motion from committee passed (unanimously)

MF • Motion failed

MP • Motion passed

MPH • Motion passed and Hartered

MPU • Motion passed unanimously

MSP • Motion seconded and passed

MSPH • Motion seconded, passed, and Hartered

MSPU • Motion seconded and passed unanimously

OM • Other Meeting

PSSC • Publishers' Storage

Raz • Michael Rasnick

RKov • Rick Kovalcik

UC • Unanimous Consent

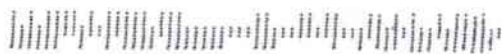
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FIRST-CLASS MAIL



Joe Siclari, FN S1161:2407
Edie Stern, FN (F1162)
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Fanzine Control Number 71-58837-1001

September 3, 2023

Instant Message #1001

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In Times To Come

(See www.nesfa.org/events for the full schedule)

- Sep 17 noon-10pm • **Game Day** mask optional. RSVP requested gaming-coordinator@nesfa.org. At clubhouse
- Sep 23 6-10pm • **Media Night**. SF/Fantasy media, anime, and the like. At clubhouse
- Sep 24 noon-10pm • **Game Day** mask required. RSVP requested gaming-coordinator@nesfa.org. At clubhouse
- Sep 29-Oct 1 • **Caplave** in Rockville, MD
- Oct 1 5:59am • **Hugo ballot deadline**
- Oct 1 11am-2pm • **Community Day at Tufts** On the Academic Quad. NESFA will have a table at this event.
- Oct 1 noon-10pm • **Game Day** mask required RSVP requested gaming-coordinator@nesfa.org. At clubhouse
- Oct 6 7-10pm • **NESFA Reading Group** via Zoom
Book: *The Employees* by Olga Ravn
- Oct 7 8pm-midnight • **Dr Who meet up & social**. At clubhouse
- Oct 8 noon-whenver • **Boskone Meeting (Noon) and NESFA Business Meeting** (no earlier than 2PM)
- Oct 13-15 • **MCFI Relaxacon** in Dennisport, MA
- Oct 15 noon-10pm • **Game Day** mask optional. RSVP requested gaming-coordinator@nesfa.org. At clubhouse

Pay your dues by PayPal. Use paypal@nesfa.org

- Oct 18-22 • **81st Worldcon** in Chengdu, China
- Oct 21 6-10pm • **Media Night**. SF/Fantasy media, anime, and the like. At clubhouse
- Oct 22 noon-10pm • **Game Day** mask required. RSVP requested gaming-coordinator@nesfa.org. At clubhouse
- Oct 28 6-10pm • **Halloween Media Night**. movies and shows appropriate to Halloween. At clubhouse
- Oct 29 noon-10pm • **Game Day** mask optional. RSVP requested gaming-coordinator@nesfa.org. At clubhouse
- Nov 12 noon-whenver • **Boskone Meeting (Noon) and NESFA Business Meeting** (no earlier than 2PM)
- Nov 17-19 • **Philcon 2023** in Cherry Hill, NJ
- Dec 1-3 • **Smofcon 40** in Providence, RI
- Dec 10 noon-whenver • **Boskone Meeting (Noon) and NESFA Business Meeting** (no earlier than 2PM)
- Jan 12-15, 2024 • **Arisia 2024** in Boston, MA
- Feb 9-11, 2024 • **Boskone 61** at The Westin Boston Seaport District Hotel; 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210
- Jul 18-21, 2024 • **NASFiC 2024** in Buffalo, NY
- Aug 8-12, 2024 • **Glasgow 2024** in Glasgow, Scotland