

CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS

Gee, SFPA's first contested OElection is turning out to be an exciting one! I hope all you people who hurried up and sent in your ballots before the fireworks started are properly sorry you can't act on all the flood of ~~propaganda~~ new information that is emanating from Anniston and Northridge. But for those of you who haven't voted yet, WAIT A MINUTE! deserves an answer. On several counts.

First, I most certainly do want SFPA to remain Southern. I'm living in California now, but I'm by no means settled and there is quite a fair chance that another few years may see me back in the South again - after all, all my relatives live there - and I'd much prefer to have some sort of fannish organization already in existence there. I don't want SFPA to become insular and detached from the rest of fandom, but equally I don't want it to become another national apa. In fact, with the retained status amendment passing, I'm thinking of proposing another amendment to cut the 25% Northern membership to 20% - its current level, I believe.

I also have no interest in making the SFPA a battleground for segregation or integration; I have commented, in my own fanzine, on other members' comments on the subject (including Larry's), and will no doubt continue to, but if I were OE I wouldn't say anything official about it any more than Larry says he would. Why should anyone think I would?

However, this is only propaganda, and aside from correcting false statements of my views is not important. The important thing is Larry's claim that I am ineligible for the office of OE of SFPA. First, he says that I held only a temporary military address when I became a member. This is not true. I will be charitable and say Larry is mistaken, since he doesn't know me personally and may honestly have believed that, although it is difficult for me to understand how if he has even casually read my SFPA output. But at the time I joined SFPA my permanent legal residence was in Jackson, Mississippi, and you can't hardly get no more Southern than that. The last time I had been even temporarily resident outside the South (aside from vacations and such) was in 1949, and even then it was only about four years out of the previous 13 that I'd lived outside the South.

I also resent the insinuation that I "almost forgot about" SFPA - if Larry ever is forced to move across country and try to get himself established in a new city and a new job he'll find it will cut into his fanac time for a while too. I wasn't any more active in any other group than I was in SFPA in the Sept 63--Sept 64 period. I dropped N'APA completely, dropped N3F activities, dropped OMPA - the only fanac I did at all was a small amount of SAPS activity, because it was convenient with the OE right here in town and a good friend who would remind me of the deadlines. As soon as I got back into the publishing swing the first thing I did was come back into SFPA with a pretty sizeable bang. I challenge anyone to compare Larry's output to mine over the last three mailings - and I intend to continue to send most of my best efforts through SFPA.

I was a charter member of SFPA, and have had by a considerable margin more material in the mailings than any other member. If Larry was around in fandom four years ago (which he says he was), and is such a gung-ho SFPA type, why did he wait till the 8th mailing to join?

I have nothing personal against Larry - he may make an excellent OE, and if he is elected I still intend to have abundant material in each mailing to do my share. SFPA was my first apa and it still has first place in my affections - you can ask any of the locals who know me if I don't talk up SFPA all the time (not with an eye to getting them to join - I wouldn't want them to, except Dian - but just for good publicity for SFPA). I strongly resent any implication that I care less for it than Larry does, when I know better.

Now for the most important thing - the interpretation of the Constitution. Naturally I believe in my interpretation or I wouldn't be running at all - but then I wrote the Constitution, and the recent amendment, so I think that perhaps my interpretation may be as good as if not better than anyone else's. Especially a member of the Alabama Bar Association - everyone knows how much their legal opinions differ from everyone else's (except the Mississippi Bar Association).

Therefore let us reason together. I will agree that Larry would be 100% right under the old, unamended Constitution. I wrote it that way. So the operative section is A II S 5 otherwise known as the retained status amendment. What does it say? "Individuals who are residents of one of the Southern States as defined in A II S 1 at the time that they become members of the SFFPA are considered to legally retain that status as long as they maintain continuous membership in the SFFPA, even though they change their residence." Now, granted, one of the reasons for passing this amendment was to allow the 25% non-Southern limit to be stretched slightly. However, I also said in the issue of UTGARD in which I commented on the proposal that it would also enable me to run for OE again, so no one can say I tried to sneak it through. But look at the sentence carefully. "...legally retain that status...". What status? What is the antecedent? It can be nothing but "...residents of one of the Southern States...". Therefore I (along with Hickman and Mann) retain the status of being legally residents of one of the Southern States, for the purposes of the SFFPA Constitution. Look at A II S 2 and compare it with A IV S 2. If the amendment A II S 5 applies to the former it must apply to the latter, since the two are phrased in substantially the same way. If it doesn't apply to either then it is meaningless. And the presumption must be that the SFFPA didn't unanimously pass a meaningless amendment to its Constitution.

I rest my case on that legal point.

However, to further buttress the legality of my candidacy, I might say that (a) I'm still not by any means settled out here, and the army still retains, as that address through which I may always be reached if necessary, which is by inference my permanent address, #4 Sherwood Rd., Cynthia, Kentucky, which is safely included in A II S 1. This is at least as good as Rich Mann's use of a Texas address for his admission to membership, and that hasn't been questioned. (b) I still have a Selective Service card which registers me with the draft board in Jackson, Miss., so that if I should ever come up for the draft (they don't draft 4-A very early; I'm not unduly worried) I'd be drafted from there, which is another type of permanent address by which I'm a resident of the South. I can probably think of other justifications - but the real essence of it all is that I am a Southerner, born and raised, who happens to be living in California right now but who feels that that is no reason why he shouldn't serve as OE for the SFFPA if in fact he is the best-qualified candidate. I have lived in the South, man and boy, for 22 of my 28 years, I'm proud of it (although not so proud of some of the things that are being done by some of its citizens in regards to the rights of all races), make no apologies for my Southern accent (and in fact cultivate it), and would very much like to serve once more as Official Editor of the South's own apa. If you don't want a non-resident Southerner as your OE that is of course your privilege - vote for Larry. But I promise that I will do everything that he would to keep SFFPA Southern in flavor, and can probably do more than he could to in addition raise its prestige among the rest of fandom. If you don't care about the rest of fandom don't vote for me; if you do care, I feel your desires would best be served by a vote for Dave Hulan for OE of SFFPA.

Incidentally, Joe Staton withdraws his candidacy, in case anyone didn't deduce that from TAKE*OVER. I forgot to spell it out.

CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS is post-mailed to the 15th SFFPA Mailing by Dave Hulan, 19018 Bryant St., #5, Northridge, Calif., 91325, in the interests of accuracy and as a bit of a legal argument on the meaning of the SFFPA Constitution and some campaign propaganda for his candidacy. LASFSRexed. Jotun Publication 78.
