

Point of Order!

(An official paper of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance.)

I dislike having to issue this little flyer here; but the increasingly complicated nature of our present Official Editor Election has forced me to do so. Recently, all of you probably received a one-sheet flyer from Larry Montgomery, who is running for OE. In this flyer, Larry made the rather dubious claim that Dave Hulan had no claim to the office of OE because of his actually living in the state of California.

Larry's claim is completely unfounded in the face of the plain wording of the Constitution, but because I have been informed by a couple of people that it may confuse several of our members, it has become my duty to explain as present OE why it is invalid. The pertinent sections of the Constitution are Article II, Section 1 and Section 5, and Article IV, Section 2. Now Larry's claim is based on a misunderstanding of the present status of IV, 2, which says: "The Official Editor must be a person resident in one of the Southern states as defined...". If this section were still in force as when it was first written Larry would have reason for his claim, but II, 5, quite clearly states; "Individuals who are residents of one of the Southern states as defined in Article II, Section 1, at the time that they become members of the SFFA, are considered to legally retain that status as long as they maintain continuous membership...even though they change their residence."

The wording of Article II, Section 5, establishes what is known as a legal fiction. That is, though Dave Hulan actually lives in a state outside the South, he is considered in the eyes of the law to still be resident in Alabama, because he joined while a resident of that state and has maintained continuous membership.

Because I am the OE at this time it is my within my power—and mine only—to decide the interpretation of the Constitution, and I rule that Larry Montgomery is in error and that Dave Hulan has a perfectly legal right to run for the office of OE of the SFFA.

—Joe Statton, Official Editor of SFFA, 5 April, 1965

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