

Annual General meeting of SFFANZ, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand held at Sudima Hotel, Eruera Street, Rotorua on April 6, 2015.

Meeting Opened: 10.17am

Present: 27 members

As chair of the meeting, Norman Cates welcomed everyone.

Proxies were held for June Young (Jayne Gock) and Simon Litten (John Toon)

Minutes of the previous meeting, held at Surrey Hotel on April 27, 2014.

Norman Cates moved, and Lorain Clark seconded "That the meeting take the minutes as read".

Carried without dissent.

Matters Arising:

Norman Cates reported that the bank signatories had been updated, so that all signatories are on the board. Investigations are ongoing into getting e-banking services for dual-signatory accounts. Our present bank (ANZ) does not provide those. SFFANZ may change banks if we can get the services we are looking for.

We have started providing a list of eligible works, but did run out of time. Part of this was due to the problematic nature of checking eligibility of works. Norman Cates encouraged people to advise listings@sffanz.org.nz with any known works, as we are reliant on nominees and fans letting us know about works.

Discussion about the names used for the long and short lists of nominees was had. It was felt we need to clean up terminology used. We were concerned that people who might nominate themselves and therefore make it to the long list, were not using the word "nominee". It was agreed that only short-listed nominees should be referring to themselves as "nominee".

Treasurer's Report

John Toon, as treasurer for SFFANZ, presented the annual accounts.

John noted it had been a quiet year. There were some donations, and some new members. The PO Box continues to be a part-payment as it is shared with Phoenix SF Society.

He noted that SFFANZ has a fluctuating membership – some years are higher than others, depending on how many attend conventions. This year's membership will be high as a number of people joined at *Reconnaissance* – this will show in next year's accounts.

Trophies are still to be made and paid for.

John Toon moved, and Maree Pavletich seconded "That the meeting accept the accounts as presented".

Carried without dissent.

John thanked Simon Litten for his assistance in the preparation of the accounts.

Election of Officers

The following people stood for nomination:

Jan Butterworth

Norman Cates
Lorain Clark
Lynelle Howell
Stephen Minchin
Alan Robson
John Toon
David Thorne
Maree Pavletich
Marie Williams

Norman Cates proposed, and Alan Parker seconded "That the above nominees be made the board for the 2015-16 term". Carried without dissent.

Norman thanked outgoing board member Alan Robson for his service on the website and the board. It was noted that Alan would like to resign from website duties, so the board will be looking for someone to take this over.

President's Report

Norman Cates reported that it had been a quiet year. SFFANZ was contacted for comment when Leonard Nimoy died.

He noted that a record number of SJV award nominations were received – 595. This year, for the first time, we had an electronic nominee package available to members of SFFANZ and *Reconnaissance*. John Toon heartily endorsed the packet, saying it allowed him more time to read works.

One area that will be investigated is communication to new members.

Norman Cates moved, and Maree seconded "That the president's report be accepted". Carried with one abstention.

General Business:

Nomination process

Norman reported the issue that nominees are seeking nominations from lots of friends, fans and family but there is no way of knowing whether the nominators have actually read or seen the works in question. This is possibly also an issue in voting.

It was suggested that wording be changed in the rules to require people to have "seen" the work, but there were questions about whether this would cause more issues.

Darusha Wehm suggested a rephrasing of the instructions to say the awards recognise excellence should be added. It was argued that this phrasing already exists in the rules, but the meeting generally agreed that additional wording was required. Blind nominating and voting does happen and this may go some way to preventing it.

Questions were asked as to why nominations were open to anyone and not restricted to SFFANZ members and known fans. The answer was that the nominating pool would be too small otherwise, and leaving it open allows publishers to nominate – which does happen.

It was acknowledged there are issues with the current nomination pool – replica nominations and so on – and that this may need to be addressed in the future.

Norman Cates moved, and Stephen Litten seconded "That an appropriate phrase be added to the nomination process that says there is an expectation that nominators will have read, seen or consumed their nominated work." Carried with one dissent. Darusha Wehm offered to come up with such a phrase. This is to be discussed outside the meeting.

Stephen Litten proposed a motion, but later withdrew it "That this new guideline be bruted to the members within a timeframe." It was agreed this should be a direction to the board, rather than a directed motion.

Anti-Harassment Policy

June Young requested the meeting consider the implementation of an anti-harassment policy. It was noted that SFFANZ cannot, as a general rule, advise cons that they need to have one. We can make a guideline and that this could be part of the con-running guide.

Andi Buchanan said an anti-harassment guide, not just an anti-sexual harassment guide was needed. She noted the con-running guide needs updating. Again, it was noted that SFFANZ has a remit to support conventions but can't tell them how to use any suggested policy, but we can say that if they use one, there must be follow-up on any issues.

Lorain Clark noted that there are new Health and Safety guidelines which should also be added – that we need to provide a safe place for people.

Maree Pavletich was concerned that it should be simple and supportable but that harassment will still happen and we can't eradicate it. Darusha noted that such a policy would show the consequences of any harassment and would protect the convention itself as well.

It was noted that with the 2020 bid we need to have these policies in place ahead of time.

Stephen Litten moved and Bill Parkin seconded “That the convention guide be updated to current standards, including harassment.”

Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 12.05am.