

Annual General meeting of SFFANZ, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand held at Suncourt Motel, Taupo, on Sunday June 4, 2017.

Meeting Opened: 9.15am
Present: 23 members
Apologies: Jan Butterworth, Alex Lindsay, Lorain Clark.

As chair of the meeting, Norman Cates welcomed everyone.

Proxies were held for Lynelle Howell, meeting secretary, for Jan Butterworth and Alex Lindsay

Minutess of the previous meeting, held at CQ Hotel on June 16, 2016

Norman Cates moved, and Lee Murray seconded "That the meeting take the minutes as read".

Carried without dissent.

Matters Arising:

The code of conduct is still a work in progress and will be discussed in General Business.

New trophies have been made for the next two years. A good process has been established, but Norman noted that we are now paying commercial rates for production. More details will be given in the treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report

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

John noted that there would be additional funds in the convention fund from the sale of convention t-shirts and a donation from Au Contraire 2016. This would not appear on the accounts as presented as it came through after the financial year's end.

The main account has \$3638 in it. We have paid for the production of trophies for the coming year.

John noted that membership appears to be up and that the finances are in a good state.

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

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

Carried without dissent.

Election of Officers

The following people stood for nomination:

Jan Butterworth

Norman Cates

Lorain Clark

Lynelle Howell

John Toon

Maree Pavletich

Lee Murray

Graham Edge proposed, and Norman Cates seconded "That nominations be closed." The board was duly elected.

President's Report

Norman Cates reported that it had been a quiet year. He noted that we had created new trophies but that otherwise it had been a quiet year. We did have new members on the board, and that we need to include them more, as sometimes those of us who've been on for a long time make assumptions about how things are done.

John Toon moved, and Graham Edge seconded Norman's rambling report be accepted.

General Business:

Anti-Harassment Policy/Code of Conduct

Norman has been looking at Codes of Conduct through organisations such as NZ Larps. Incorporated societies need to adhere to natural law in any kind of code, and as such we may need to consult a lawyer on any document we draw up.

Lee Murray asked if this is something the SFFANZ Board should be creating. It was noted if SFFANZ created such a document, it would have to be voted on by the membership, but that it can't be imposed on conventions. It will only be a suggestion.

Sir Julius Vogel Award Matters

SJV Voting Age

Lynelle outlined a concern that electronic votes had been received from obviously youth members who had voted in adult categories. She asked the meeting whether this should be a concern, and whether an age limit should be applied.

After discussion, it was agreed that the status quo remain.

Alan Robson moved, and Barry Norris seconded "that the voting system retain the status quo". Carried with 1 abstention.

Weighting of Nominations

During the nominations round, when breaking ties, additional weight was given to SFFANZ members to break the ties. As per the 2016 AGM rule change to allow weights of two for SFFANZ members' nominations, Norman and Lynelle asked if it was still applicable to use SFFANZ members' nominations to break ties, since their nominations already carry more weight.

Norman and Lynelle explained the system they used to break the ties. Where ties existed, those with the most SFFANZ members' nominations were put through onto the ballot. Norman and Lynelle questioned whether this was acceptable, and the mood of the meeting was that this method was satisfactory and should be used in future years.

Trophies

As discussed previously, we're now paying commercial rates. Norman raised the issue of increasing SFFANZ membership to \$20 to cover the cost of trophy making.

Barry Norris said whilst it's good we know what the costs are, keeping membership low encourages participation. Ross Temple (who'd been responsible for taking SFFANZ memberships at the con) pointed out we have well over 70 members now. Barry suggested this matter be revisited next year.

Ross suggested that we may need to look at ways e-donations can be made, since carrying cash is becoming less common. There may be verification issues around this. Norman would like to look at the website at whether there is a way to do this online. He would also like to look at the website in terms of it being able to do things better. At present it's difficult to update.

Submission form

Lee Murray thinks the new submission form is great. She expressed concern that authors are asked to get publishers to supply copies of works, or to supply copies of the works themselves for display at conventions. She noted there are often legal issues with authors submitting electronic copies of their works for the voter

packet, or giving physical copies for display. She said it makes sense for the SJV sub-committee to contact the publishers directly.

Norman explained why the SJV sub-committee asks authors to contact publishers to get copies, saying authors are motivated to get copies of their works for display. They also know who to talk to, whereas the sub-committee may not.

Lee said that by not going directly to the publishers we're missing an opportunity to raise awareness of the awards.

Any Other Competent Business

Lee expressed a vote of thanks to the SJV sub-committee for their work. Norman thanked Darusha Wehm for her assistance in the creation of the nomination form. Norman further commented that the form appears to work well and with such a form in existence, we can open nominations earlier. "Technology, YAY!"

Ross advised the meeting to contact SFFANZ news if they had any events that could be put on the SFFANZ blog – anything related to NZ stuff, genre related. There is more happening than we post, so it would be good to get more on there.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:18am.