

SFWA Board Meeting

August 14 2025

Attendance

Kate Ristau; President
Anthony Eichenlaub; Vice President
Steven D. Brewer; Secretary
Jonathan Brazee; Chief Financial Officer
Day Al-Mohamed; Director-At-Large
Ryka Aoki; Director-At-Large
Curtis C. Chen; Director-At-Large
Noah Sturdevant; Director-At-Large
Christine Taylor-Butler; Director-At-Large

Isis Asare; Executive Director
Michael Capobianco; SFWA Historian
M.L Clark; Communications & Marketing Coordinator
Russell Davis, Operations Director
Misha Grifka Wander; Office Assistant

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm Pacific

Web Update

The Communications & Marketing Coordinator updated the Board regarding progress toward updating the SFWA website and technologies. Many of the existing systems were out-of-date and used deprecated products. A new website has been built as the framework that will ultimately consolidate many of the current systems that were build as stand-alone pieces. The work is proceeding.

Safety Team Proposal

The Operations Director brought forward a proposal by the Safety Team to replace the current Ombuds system with volunteers that would be offered training to become certified mediators. Mediators would seek to resolve disputes in place of the Ombuds. The Board raised a number of questions and concerns. The plan going forward will be: to request the Safety Team to update the proposal to respond to the questions of the Board; to connect the current Ombuds with the Safety Team to discuss the plan; to solicit the membership for whether there are already trained mediators that could serve in the role without additional training; and to explore third-party organizations that could perform mediation under contract.

Nebula Reading List Discussion

The Chief Financial Officer brought forward a concern from the Nebula Awards Commissioner (NAC) regarding workload associated with the Nebula

Awards Suggested Reading List. Currently, under some circumstances, the NAC is required to approve items submitted to the Reading List to determine eligibility and genre. In addition, there are a number of misconceptions about the Reading List. After discussion, the following plan to developed: to not require the NAC to determine the genre; to allow items to go onto the reading list without approval; to let the Board help screen the reading list (to check date and length) by October; to enable the system to show when items have been screened; and to change the name to the SFWA Reading List in order to avoid conflation with Nebula Awards eligibility.

Strategic Plan Goal Review

Director Chen reported the final draft of the Membership component of the Strategic Plan that had been revised by the Strategic Plan Working Group.

Bylaws Section I Review

The Secretary began the Bylaws Review by leading the Board through Article I and identified two components that should be updated: (1) The current Doing Business As (DBA) name of the organization and (2) the mission statement, as revised during Strategic Planning.

Moved to Executive Session at 5:51pm Pacific

Membership Committee Discussion, Continued.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm Pacific

Respectfully submitted by Steven D. Brewer; Secretary