

## **SFWA Board Meeting**

October 9, 2025

### **Attendance**

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

Isis Asare; Executive Director  
Russell Davis, Operations Director  
John Wilker, Chair Indie Authors Committee

### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 8:05pm Eastern

#### **Indie Author Committee - Introduced by Isis Asare (15 minutes)**

The Chair of the Indie Authors Committee described the Heritage Authors Republishing Project (HARP) where mentors will help authors that have rights to older out-of-print books to enable them to republish the books independently. He also reviewed other activities of the committee including discussions around developing an organizational approach to storybundles to enable other groups, such as games, comics, and poetry, to participate more effectively.

#### **Operations update - Presented by Russell Davis (5 minutes)**

The Operations Director reported on current activity in legal affairs and contract review, the upcoming transition to Jitasa for accounting, challenges with expense reporting, and the on-going email audit to move toward title-based inboxes for critical roles.

#### **Programs update - Presented by Isis Asare (10 minutes)**

The Executive Director reports on the recently completed Baltimore Book Festival and plans for the following year's participation, the Quasar fall online Nebula conference, and upcoming 2026 Nebula kick-off organizing meeting.

#### **Nebula Rules Discussion - Led by Anthony Eichenlaub (5 minutes)**

The Vice President led a discussion of proposed language to address the use of generative AI in Nebula nominated works. After a robust discussion by the

board, the Vice President agreed to make revisions and bring the revised language for an online vote before Nebula nominations open.

**Budget Process - Led by Jonathan Brazee and Kate Ristau (10 minutes)**

The President reviewed six categories in the budget that were likely to exceed budgeted amounts before the end of the year and, at the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer and Operations Director, proposed increased amounts.

The Secretary moved to increase the budget categories as recommended by the CFO and Operations Director. Christine Taylor-Butler seconded. Motion adopted unanimously.

**EOY Board Participation - Led by Kate Ristau (20 minutes)**

The President reported that SFWA is beginning an initiative to develop systems, processes, and expectations to encourage end-of-year fundraising to support science fiction and fantasy writers.

**Strategic Plan - Development Objectives - Presented by Kate Ristau (10 minutes)**

The President reviewed a set of development objectives to guide practice in soliciting donations and sponsorships in support of SFWA. The Board raised concerns and offered suggestions including the need for an ethical gift acceptance policy.

**By-Laws Review - Article IV, 1, a only - Led by Steven Brewer (15 minutes)**

The Secretary identified areas of concern with the existing membership language in the bylaw and offered suggestions for changes to clarify the language and align it with current practice.

Moved to Executive Session at 9:38pm Eastern

**Membership Committee Discussion, update.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm Eastern

Respectfully submitted by Steven D. Brewer; Secretary