

SFWA Board Meeting

November 13, 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 (arrived 8:25pm)
Russell Davis, Operations Director (arrived 8:23pm)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:04pm Eastern

Entered Executive Session at 8:04pm Eastern

Human Resources

Membership Committee Discussion, update.

Exited Executive Session at 8:22pm Eastern

Budget Rollup - Kate Ristau, 2 minutes

The President moved that in budgeting, the Board shall vote on allocations of larger accounts, but that funds in subaccounts within the larger can accounts may be reallocated without requiring Board approval. Jonathan Brazee seconded. Motion adopted unanimously.

Financial Advisor - Kate Ristau, 2 minutes

The President identified the need for a financial advisor to recommend investment strategies for managing SFWA's reserves. The Operations Director will identify several firms with fiduciary responsibility for the Board to consider to contract with to provide this service.

Solstice & Service to SFWA Awards - Kate Ristau, 10 minutes

The President recommended that online discussion of candidates for the Solstice award consider, but made a recommendation for a candidate for the Service to SFWA award which the Board supported unanimously.

Short Committee Update - 10 minutes, all

The Vice President reported on activity of the Games Committee including the release of the Games and Comic Quarterly and upcoming Constellation event.

Ryka Aoki reported on activity of the Comics and Poetry Committees and recommended scheduling their chairs and co-chairs to attend a board meeting to provide updates.

The Secretary reported on the activity of the Romance and Infosys Committees, including development of updated systems for automating Planetside and Mentor Matching and progress toward the new Nebula Reading List and membership management systems.

Christine Taylor-Butler reported on the activity of the MG/YA Committee that seeks to offer more public sessions to attract new members.

Programming Update (including review of external committee activity) - Isis Asare, 10 minutes

The Executive Director reported on membership trends, upcoming events (Quasar, Constellation Series, Poetry Committee Quarterly Open Mic, and Nebula Planning), publications (Writer Beware, Planetside, Singularity, Games and Comics Quarterly), and sponsorships & fundraising (Winter Worlds of Giving).

Board Support for Quasars - Isis Asare, 5 minutes

The Executive Director requested Board support for two initiatives related to the Quasars.

Operations Update (including review of internal committee activity) - Russell Davis, 10 minutes

The Operations Director provided updates related to internal committees (Contracts, Finance, and Givers Fund); reported progress renewing state registrations, and described initial steps toward developing a campaign to solicit donations for a permanent endowment fund.

End of Year - Isis Asare and Russell Davis, 10 minutes

The Executive and Operations Directors briefly provided additional updates related to the Winter Worlds of Giving campaign.

Annual Meeting (Date) - Anthony Eichenlaub, 5 minutes

The Vice President led a discussion to discuss potential dates to hold the SFWA Annual Meeting, as required by the Bylaws. A date was tentatively identified by the Board to be recommended to the President.

Respectfully submitted by Steven D. Brewer; Secretary