



The National **85** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication
Cras ad Stellas — Tomorrow to the Stars
Volume 85 Number 8 August 2026

Directorate Report by Jason P. Hunt

It's been very enheartening to have participated in recent online meetings and e-mail discussions with the rest of the Directorate to mull over and plan what can be done to keep the N3F a robust fan organization. Technology *can* be our friend sometimes, as it helps facilitate these discussions. Of course, technology also tends to betray us, as we've seen from the recent errant erraticisms from our web site. Not to be daunted, we press on!

There's been a little more activity – albeit not much – over on our Discord server. I know there are some who have reservations operating in that sphere given Discord's leanings toward online surveillance and such, but it's another forum for us to make connections with fellow fans, so I guess we take the bad with the good until the bad outweighs the good?

We also have the MeWe group, which languishes but is still active thanks to contributions from a dedicated soul. We really should take advantage of that digital meeting ground, those of us who are able.

A while back, we discussed doing more video for our social media. That idea is still being stirred in the pot. Stand by for more....

The *N3F Fan Gazette*, formerly the *Fan Activity Gazette*, now has a goal or two. After discussing our recent delays due to day jobs, doctor visits, and the like, we've set upon ourselves the intention to have the issue complete by the second weekend of the month, which means you (hopefully) won't be getting it at the end of the month because I'm late. As we say in the South, Lord willing and the creek

don't rise...

We're also, Mindy and I, still discussing ways to expand the “fan” element of the *Fan Gazette*. This month's ish has an article on the fan movement to save the *Stargate* revival, and I'm hoping we can continue with more articles such as that. Plus, if any of you are active in local fan groups, we would love to hear about any plans you may have – hospital visits, parades, charity work, etc. Photos would be great, too!

Our bookmarks have made their way out into the world, and we're looking for more places where we can distribute those – comicons, library events, used bookstores, etc. If you'd like a handful to help spread awareness of N3F, please let us know and we'll send a batch.

Every day is a day for new ideas, fresh activities, and best-laid plans, but then where do all the other ones go? 'Tis a long “to do” list and we're working our way through it as best we can. Thanks to everyone for the continued support!

N3F News

From N3F President George Phillies

Greetings to Neffers everywhere from the N3F President!

We have had an interesting time of things. I have N3F News.

Emailing of our zines appears to be working well, thanks to Jason P. Hunt, who took over mailing. If you are seeing asterisks in the mail metadata, those correspond to mailing batches needed for technical

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Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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reasons.

We had serious difficulties with our web site, but it is back in service. A longer discussion appears below.

Jason Hunt reports that he is still looking for more material for Films Fantastic. If you have information or articles on old SF films, and you would like to see it in print, send it to Jason at jphunt@scifi4me.com.

Railfan Zine reports that his social media sites, namely
<https://x.com/fantasyfanfed>
<https://www.instagram.com/fantasyfanfederation>
<https://bsky.app/profile/fantasyfanfed.bsky.social>
 are active and have participants. If you use X, Instagram, or bluesky, please join these.

Note that we also have social media sites on Facebook, MeWe, and Discord.

Locus Magazine reported on the 2026 Laureate Awards, as seen at locusmag.com/2026/08/2026-n3f-awards/. Three cheers for Locus! The nice people at Locus reported our awards in their own choice of order, starting with Best Novel rather than Best Fan Writer, so people who tire of long lists and check out Locus may well notice things that they otherwise would have missed.

I am receiving nice letters from Laureate Award winners. For the winners, Jean-Paul Garnier created an electronic sticker:



The Directorate met in late August. We discussed things that might be done if more people were active. It was late Summer, so only a few of us were there. There was support for continuing A Gentle Stroll, so it will continue. We discussed at some length when we should post our individual zine issues on the N3F Web Pages N3F.org. If we did so immediately, people might be less interested in joining the N3F. In the future, we expect to post zines to our web pages a month or two after they appear.

Treasury

Treasurer's Report for July

PayPal balance: \$196.71

NSB balance: \$2558.34

4 life members + 24 electronic + 13 regular =
41 voting members

8 archive members + 261 public members = 269
non-voting members

Expiring this month: None!

Treasurer's Report for August

PayPal balance: \$196.71

NSB balance: \$2558.34

4 life members + 24 electronic + 10 regular =
38 voting members

6 archive members + 261 public members = 269
non-voting members

Welcome to new member Alexander Chouinard. His interests include books, ttrpg, and video games.

Expiring this month: Mark Nelson & Sam Lubell.

Letter

Dear George and Jon:

Thank you for TNFF Vol. 85, No. 7. And, thank you to the membership of voting me for the 2026 N3F Laureate Award as Best Fan Writer. Rob

Sawyer's been spreading the word, and thumbs up from everyone. Add to that the great First Fandom Annual for 2026 with an essay and pictures from me on editing Amazing Stories, and I feel like my star is on the rise. Feels good, but time will tell... (I am hoping to get my contributor's copy RSN.)

I applaud the idea of getting a more secure webhost for the N3F website. Having to repopulate the website must be a pain, but if there was some level of protection to keep the hackers out, there'd be less pain. Not my field, but I hope some protection can be purchased.

I continue to work on stories for Amazing Stories, but at this time, we've had to put a hiatus on submissions. We've got enough stories to do us until early 2027. Poems are still welcome, though. The centennial issue of AS magazine should be out sometime in August, possibly September. And with this hiatus, this will give me the chance to do some preliminary work on my fourth anthology, Amazing Stories : Best of 2026.

I thank you for all the work you put into the N3F, and I will get this to you asap. See you with the next one.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Social Media Sites

Railfan Zine writes: Hello, the following is my report!

<https://x.com/fantasyfanfed>

<https://www.instagram.com/fantasyfanfederation>

<https://bsky.app/profile/fantasyfanfed.bsky.social>

The accounts are active! The X/Twitter account has the most followers (in the 20's). I announced the results of the Laureate awards. I am retweeting posts about Worldcon, newly published books etc. Please let me know if there's anything you would like to share to social media by emailing railfanzine@gmail.com.

I'm not as active as I would like. I am continuing!

Short Story Contest

We lost our largest single line of publicity of the contest, but the contest is continuing. See the entry form on the penultimate page of this issue, and consider submitting a story.

Tightbeam

I am advised that I made an editing error, so that something overwrote something else. In any event, with respect to Tightbeam 383, Jim McCoy advises me that "I didn't write the review of the Battle of Stalingrad thing, but the credits say I did." I am trying to figure out what went wrong, and more important who should get the credit, but I appear to have been too thorough in cleaning up expired files.

...George Phillies

Son of SilverCon

N3F Treasurer Kevin Trainor ran an SF convention in Nevada. We've been running announcements that it would happen. Now here is what did happen:

Son of Silvercon IV After Action Report Report by Kevin Trainor

Tim Powers was awesome and everybody had a good time.

After a couple of years of misadventures with hotels downtown and off the Strip, we returned to our original home, the Best Western Plus on St. Rose Highway in Henderson, a couple of miles south of the Strip. We had some problems with reservations, and somehow lost our function space to a bunch of hypnosis enthusiasts, but in general things went well.

In addition to Tim Powers, we were fortunate to have Brad Torgersen and Maxwell Drake return, and Kortnee Bryant & Wally Waltner dropped in as well. We continue to hit above our weight in guests! Tim did a wonderful job on his panels, especially on the Philip K. Dick panel Sunday, which featured Maer Wilson, authoress of *The Other Side of Philip K. Dick*, and the H.P. Lovecraft panel Saturday night, which featured a lot of input from Dwayne Olson.

We also had a presentation by Brian Scoggins from the Nevada Nuclear Programs Agency, which was well received. We hope to have him back next year so that the Genetically Engineered Catgirls for Domestic Employment panel isn't the only science on the program.

Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding with the hotel, we didn't get the suite I was expecting for the consuite, so it wound up in my bedroom, which made for a little bit of crowding but nonetheless succeeded in once again being a better consuite than the pathetic Seattle Worldcon. Pop, water, snackage (some of it even healthy) were available in abundance thanks to David Lang, Jolie LaChance, and the Intermountain Consumables Conspiracy, and once again we had a ton of leftovers, which (mostly) went home with staff.

We're planning on doing it again next year: July 16-18, 2027, in the same hotel but with more function space. We're contemplating an increase in membership prices, but through December 31 it's still \$40 to pre-register (discounts available for N3F, veterans, and IMCC contributors) or \$20 for a supporting membership if you're not sure you'll be able to make it. Show us the money!

JOIN eAPA

ALMOST THE WORLD'S FIRST ELECTRONIC APA!

eAPA is a monthly Amateur Public Association, and in 22 years has gained members from across the English-speaking world and Europe. eAPA's discussions include convention reports, SF fan news, fanhistory, opinion/editorial articles on anthropology and social psychology, and critiques of crank theories. Back issues of eAPA are archived in zipped format at eFanzines.com (<https://www.efanzines.com/eapa>), and eAPA produces a password-free public edition every October. If you would like to see other back issues (requiring unzip passwords), obtain eAPA's guidelines, or just ask to join us, email Garth Spencer at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com!

A Tale of Woe — Our Web Site

George Phillies writes: Our web site is mostly up and running again. The table of downloadable zines is more or less up to date. If any of you want to test links, please do so. The tables of old zines appear to be there again, except for N'APA, which the links are there, but the date and Official collator names still need to be inserted.

First and Worst, early this month our web site went totally down. If you tried to log in, nothing happened. If an admin tried to log in as an admin, nothing happened. Several contacts with what is now our previous web hosting service led to no improvement. Finally I managed to type exactly the right question, and I was led through the full set of 'test this next' questions by an AI. This took over an hour. The AI was not allowed to send me messages as text; I had to stay on the telephone.

The AI spoke a bit too fast. At one point it thought there was a command file that needed replacing. Its first suggestion was 'find the file someplace else', which was a nonstarter. Then it dictated the file to me, fortunately only five lines long. Its accent was a bit difficult to follow, even when it was spelling out words. At the end, the AI did not fix out URL.

The human support finally announced that something was wrong with a file on their computer, so that our URLs pointed to an invalid location. They claimed to have fixed it, but the fix had to propagate. Four days later, it had not propagated.

At this point, your more active members consulted. We had a sound Plan A, but life intervened. I went to Plan B, Jake Porter of JakePorter.org and jakeporterconsulting.com. At first there were difficulties with the backup files, but those were fixed. I did find a gap that we had never fixed from the last time our site was attacked. The important part of that gap has been repaired. Lists of Award winners still need work.

We did add a considerably more demanding Two-Factor Authentication scheme and newer and hopefully better web site backup services. These will perhaps protect our site against hacking efforts.

Art

Front Cover ... Sailing the Nebula by Tiffanie Gray
 Back Cover ... On Mars by Jose Sanchez

Letter of Comment

4 ... Lloyd Penney

Books

4 ... An Adventure in Bookshopland from George
 Phillies
 5 ... Daniel Humphrey's Fade ... Review by Jim
 McCoy
 7 ... Disaster at Stalingrad by Peter G. Tsouras ...
 Review by Jim McCoy

SerCon

9 ... Murray Leinster Bio-Bibliography by Jon D.
 Swartz, Ph.D.

Anime

12 ... Kaguya-sama: Love is War ... Review by Jessi
 Silver

Gourmet Bureau

14 ... Smoked Chicken Salad ... Cooking by Cedar
 Sanderson
 16 ... Eat This While You Read That: Sam Robb ...
 A Sweet Roll Recipe ... Cooking by Cedar Sanderson

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The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono July 2026

Fiction

2 ... A Journey of Black and Red by Alex Gilbert
 ... Review by Dani Zweig
 2 ... As the Earth Dreams: Black Canadian Specu-
 lative Stories Edited by Terese Mason Pierre ... Re-
 view by Robert Runté
 3 ... Bowl of Red by Sarah Hoyt ... Review by Jim
 McCoy
 5 ... The Covenant of the Forge by Dan Parkinson
 ... Review by Jim McCoy
 7 ... Escaping Fate by Henry Brown ... Review by
 Jim McCoy
 8 ... Hemo Sapiens by Emily A. Weedon ... Re-
 view by Robert Runté
 9 ... Mother of Learning by Domagoj Kurmaic ...
 Review by Dani Zweig
 10 ... Pilgrim by M. R. Leonard ... Review by Jim
 McCoy
 11 ... Reluctant Emissary by Fred Hughes ... Re-
 view by Jim McCoy
 13 ... Starship Librarians edited by Shannon Allen
 and JR Campbell ... Review by Robert Runté
 14 ... The Ten Realms Books by Michael Chatfield
 ... Series Review by Jim McCoy
 16 ... The Universe Box by Michael Swanwick ...
 Review by Cory Doctorow
 18 ... War Demons by Russell Newquist ... Review
 by Jim McCoy
 19 ... The World Ender by Saengard ... Review by
 Jim McCoy

Prose Bono

21 ... Analysis Paralysis by Cedar Sanderson
 22 ... Reverse Outlining a Pantsed Series: How I'm
 Keeping the Groundskeeper Books from Falling
 Apart ... Cedar Sanderson
 25 ... The Sky is Falling by Cedar Sanderson
 26 ... When Your Characters Stage a Mutiny:
 Dealing with Rebellious Imaginary People by
 Cedar Sanderson
 27 ... You Are What You Read by Cedar Sanderson
 29 ... Announcing CoverFixer! by Rob Kroese

2026 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

To enter a story, on a separate page, please supply the following information, followed by your story:

1) Title of story (for identification): Author's name and address: Author's email address:

2) Answer DO or DO NOT I do/do not wish to become a public (no dues, no vote) member of the N3F and receive for free all N3F magazines.

Testify: I have read the rules for the 2026 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.

Signature/Date: _____

Mail to: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email abontides@gmail.com

We are here to encourage new writers, to reward the new kids on the block. We want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals — but who have a story to tell. We want stories from guys and gals nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will.

This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.

Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.

Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.

Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.

Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at abontides@gmail.com. No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.

There are no entry fees.

Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.

Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; abontides@gmail.com. Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2026.

The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.

Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.

The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2027. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2026. Good luck!



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N3F News

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Treasurer's Report for August

Letter - Lloyd Penney

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2026 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

N3F TNFF

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