

# INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS FORUM

## International Authors Forum General Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 1030 am  
The Authors Guild, 31 East 32nd Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10016 USA

### Draft Minutes

#### **Attendees (Member representatives)**

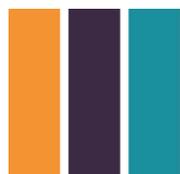
Owen Atkinson, ALCS (Meeting Chair)  
Dorien Kelly, Authors Coalition of America  
Morten Visby, Dansk Forfatterforening, The Danish Authors Association and the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations  
Barbara Hayes, IAF  
Luke Alcott, IAF  
Arlette Bekink, PICTORIGHT  
Laurent Dubois, Québec Union of Writers (UNEQ)  
Michael Capobianco, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America  
Peter Sandstrom, Society of Swedish Authors in Finland  
Florence Piriou, La SOFIA  
Michael Spinella, Textbook and Academic Authors Association  
Mike Sullivan, Textbook and Academic Authors Association  
Suvi Oinonen, The Union of Finnish Writers  
Karl Agust Ulfsson, The Writers' Union of Iceland  
Ragnheidur Tryggvadottir, The Writers' Union of Iceland  
Tom Kennedy, ASMP  
Mary Rasenberger, Authors Guild  
Rebecca Blake, Graphic Artists Guild  
Larry Goldblatter, National Writers Union  
Hilda Twongye, FEMRITE  
Lissa Oliver, Irish Writers Union  
BUS, Mats Lindberg  
Kurt Van Damme, REPROBEL  
Maia Bensimon, SGDL  
Nicola Solomon, Society of Authors (UK)  
Simone di Conza, The Italian Writers Federation (FUIS)

#### **Observers**

Jim Parker, PLR International  
Eugene Mopsik, ASCRL

#### **1. Welcome**

Owen Atkinson welcomed the attendees to the AGM. Owen explained that due to unfortunate circumstances John Degen, the IAF Chair, had been unable to attend the meeting.



## 2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with additional points under Any Other Business as outlined by Owen.

## 3. Approval of minutes of meeting 14th March 2018

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved.

## 4. Approval of new IAF membership applications

Owen noted that eight new applications for membership had been received during the year. The Mystery Writers of America had their application put directly to the AGM as this had arrived after the papers had been sent out. The details of this application were provided by Luke Alcott at the meeting. All were approved with no comments.

|   | Organisation Name  | IAF Membership Type            | Country   | Region        |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | FEMRITE Uganda Women Writers Association   | Author Organisation Membership | Uganda    | Africa        |
| 2 | SAVA Asociación de Artistas Visuales Argentinos                                    | Author Organisation Membership | Argentina | South America |
| 3 | Malaysian Writers Society  | Author Organisation Membership | Malaysia  | Asia Pacific  |
| 4 | FORFATTANA Society of Swedish Authors in Finland                                   | Author Organisation Membership | Sweden    | Europe        |
| 5 | SATUPENA Persatuan Penulis Indonesia/ Indonesia Writers Guild                      | Author Organisation Membership | Indonesia | Asia Pacific  |
| 6 | UET Tunisian Writers Union   | Author Organisation Membership | Tunisia   | Africa        |
| 7 | Svenska Fotografers Förbund/ The Swedish Association of Professional Photographers | Author Organisation Membership | Sweden    | Europe        |
| 8 | Mystery Writers of America   | Author Organisation Membership | USA       | North America |



## **5. Presentation of IAF activity over the last year**

Luke Alcott gave an update on the IAF activity over the last year. In addition to talking through the main points covered in the AGM paper “Item 5. Review of 2018-19 Business Plan” Luke discussed the following key points of interest:

- IAF has been actively represented on the Board of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). The work of the ABC has been successful and the Marrakesh Treaty has attracted more signatories including the USA. The future work of ABC is likely to focus on Arabic speaking countries. IAF is also working with the Alliance of Independent Authors to promote accessible publishing for author-publishers.
- IAF has campaigned for Artists Resale Right at WIPO where some progress has been made. IAF has been contacted by the WIPO secretariat regarding visual artists’ input to the taskforce that has been established. Progress towards getting Artists Resale Right a formal space on the SCCR agenda continues to be delayed by the delegations to WIPO of the US and Japan objecting to its inclusion.
- The most recent PLR side event at SCCR37 was well attended and IAF will continue to support PLR International in engaging with national government representatives to consider the establishment of new PLR systems.

Speaking for DACS, Reema Selhi gave an update on how DACS is seeking to be involved in the WIPO taskforce on Artists Resale Right.

Speaking for SOFIA Florence Marie Piriou reported on the survey on second-hand books and suggested next steps. The Authors Guild stated that on the issue of second-hand books it would be difficult to suggest any kind of resale right on books but the issue of counterfeit second-hand books should be dealt with.

Nicola Solomon suggested that some thought be given to consumer facing copyright education.

## **6. Presentation of the accounts 2017-18 and update from Owen Atkinson, Treasurer**

Owen presented the Accounts for 2017/18. He stated that due to the size of the organisation the International Authors Forum was exempt from the need to undertake a statutory audit.

In referring to the Statement of Financial Position, Owen informed Members that ALCS has indicated that it will not seek to recover amounts owed to it.

The formal accounts were approved by the meeting.

## **7. Draft business outline and budget for 2019-20**

Barbara Hayes presented the 2019-20 Business Plan and budget and talked the AGM through the main points.

Observer Jim Parker gave an update on the work of PLR International with IAF. He invited IAF members to contact him for further information on PLR.

Ed Hasbrouck suggested IAF contacts other author representative organisations ahead of each SCCR; the secretariat thanked Ed and acknowledged that getting more input was an aim ahead of the next SCCR.

Mary Rasenberger asked what WIPO is doing to further acknowledge authors. The secretariat offered to support any organisations seeking to become observers at WIPO.

### **8. IAF in Europe**

The issue of greater IAF activity in Europe was raised. Members acknowledged this was a difficult issue due to the work of existing author organisations in the region. European members including FUIS stated that they would welcome greater IAF representation in Europe and hoped that IAF would be able to play a more active role there. Members suggested that collaboration with pan-European organisations such as the European Writers' Council (EWC) would be an important part of this. Barbara and Luke undertook to contact the EWC about this.

### **9. IAF quorum**

IAF members welcomed the suggestion to reduce the quorum for AGMs. A motion will be put forward at the next AGM to achieve this.

### **10. Any Other Business**

Regarding the upcoming election of an author representative on the board of IFRRO Edward Hasbrouck discussed the requirements of the role and the fact that there is typically one representative of written word and one of visual arts. Edward also raised the issue that it is important to seek a consensus candidate from author organisations represented at IFRRO. Barbara welcomed members to discuss thoughts on who IAF could nominate. Mary Rasenberger acknowledged the fact that it is important that in the long term the position should be supported internationally as IFRRO is an international organisation.

Morten Visby informed the meeting that he had been suggested to stand for the position by the EWC. He noted his organisation was a member of both the IAF and EWC and expressed interest in standing but would not stand in the way of a better candidate. IAF members present at the AGM offered support; to seek wider endorsement Morten offered to submit a statement for the position for all IAF members to consider and hopefully endorse. Mary suggested that a formal process be established for the IAF to communicate with the author representative on the IFRRO board.

Kurt Van Damme then raised the situation of the organisation Bookster in Romania. With input from Jim Parker the legal status of lending in Romania was discussed. Barbara Hayes noted that the Romanian Writers Union has been consulted on this issue.



# INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS FORUM

ANFASA offered to host the next IAF AGM in Johannesburg; members and the secretariat thanked ANFASA for the offer and arrangements will go ahead.

Owen gave thanks to the Authors Guild for hosting the AGM and to John Degen for his work as Chair of IAF and closed the Annual General Meeting.

DRAFT