

4.1.5 Short Title: Deleting Best Fanzine, Best Fan Writer, and Best Fan Artist from the WSFS Constitution

Moved, that the listed sections be deleted from the WSFS Constitution and other sections be renumbered appropriately:

- 3.3.13 Best Fanzine
- 3.3.15 Best Fan Writer
- 3.3.16 Best Fan Artist

Commentary: Amateur journalism goes back about two hundred years in the English speaking world. In the field of science fiction and fantasy field, amateur journalism goes back about eighty years. The term fanzine was coined by Russ Chauvenet in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association in 1940. The fanzine field has never been very large. Despite its size, the field has produced some impressive publications with first rate writing, sometimes by people who would become well known professional writers.

The three categories in question attract fewer votes than most of the other categories and are more susceptible to manipulation. While it was traditionally considered unethical to campaign for yourself for the Hugo, it is now being done every year. Traditional fanzines only have a circulation of a couple of hundred, so it is fairly easy for a log-rolling effort on the internet to get a nominee on the ballot and possibly win.

Efforts at compromise have failed. One group says that fanzines are words on paper only, and nothing else can be allowed. Another group thinks fanzines and fan writing are anything the voters can imagine and will tolerate no limitations whatsoever. There is wide dissatisfaction with these three awards, and it doesn't seem likely to go away.

Abolishing these three categories seems better than giving awards that create continuing dissatisfaction.

Proposed by: Milt Stevens
Seconded by: Linda Deneroff