



# TAFFish

A newsletter of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

Issue #1

December 2019

## ¡Hola, friends of TAFF!

We are in the final month of the current TAFF race and the votes keep trickling in. If you haven't voted yet, do so now; there's still time!

This is the first *TAFFish* newsletter from the current administrator pair, me and Geri, and in it you will find interviews with this year's candidates. Are you curious to know what kind of fans they are and what their TAFFish intentions are, and do you want to know more about Ann's curious platform? Read on and find out.

Speaking of Ann's platform, in case you think it's strange and weird and want to throw a spanner in her works, vote for her. Hers is not a spoof candidature; she will indeed go on a TAFF trip to Eastercon if she wins.

I know that some of you wonder why you should vote in a race with two candidates, where one of them urges everyone to vote for the other one. Fair enough. There are a few reasons, as I see it. First, fans are contrarian. There are no guarantees that the voters who'd prefer Ann to win are going to vote the way she suggests. And I'm sure some fans who'd prefer Mike to win love to wade upstream in any river. Second, with your vote comes your donated money, and TAFF needs it. TAFF has no other source of income than donations, and the voting fees are part of that. TAFF needs your support and your money. And third and last but not least: we want to keep TAFF in the spotlight. By voting and spreading the word, you help us do that. The winner will know that a number of fans on both sides of the Atlantic actually do care about TAFF and who wins the race. So go on and vote!

There's more to this inaugural issue of *TAFFish*. Geri will give you all a brief recap of her TAFF trip this summer. Not all of you followed her on Facebook and some of you who did have probably forgotten half of it by now. She also gives you some tantalizing details that were left out from the Facebook travelogue. In other words, here are some tidbits to keep you happy while you wait for her trip report to be written.

Speaking of trip reports, I have started on my own report for real. Unfortunately, my mum's in a poor way so a lot of my focus and energy has been redirected that way the last few weeks and will be for a few months ahead of me. But I will write it, I promise.

The newsletter also contains the Dublin 2019 Fan Fund Auction results – totals and TAFF's share.

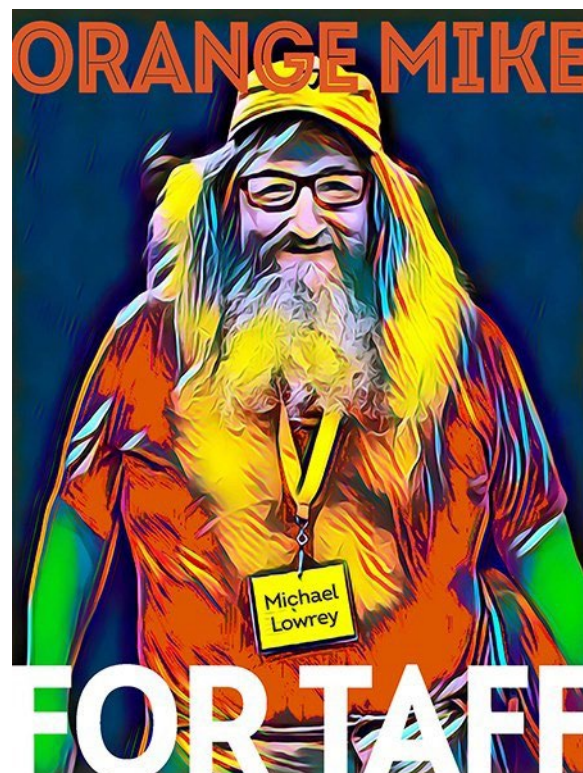
**Remember, your vote must reach us by 11:59 pm (Pacific US time) on Sunday, January 12, 2020.**

– Johan Anglemark

# TAFF candidate interview: Michael Lowrey

## 1) Tell everybody about yourself and fandom: where did it begin for you and when?

I stumbled onto the early 1970s version of the U. of Chicago SF club (there have been several over the eons) through the SCA in 1971, and thus learned about fandom. When I returned to Tennessee, I joined the good ol' much-maligned N3F, which for this country boy was a lifeline to the broader world of fandom, including my first exposure to fanzines. When I got to Nashville I discovered the local SCA and through them the Nashville SF club. Through the SCA I discovered D&D (thanx, Daishi-san!) and through the Nashville club I learned that there were SF cons I could go to! That first con (it was a Midwestcon) was a glorious revelation: this was my tribe, these were my people! I've been to well over a couple of hundred cons since then, and my opinion has not changed. It was in those Nashville years that I fell into the habit of wearing head-to-toe orange; see below.



## 2) What made you decide to stand for TAFF?

I'm internationally-minded (*jes, mi parolas Esperanton*) and have always felt joy in the international nature of fandom (albeit hampered by our Anglophone bias). The Fan Funds seem to me to combine our internationalism and our near-anarchist communitarian traditions. I've got enough friends across the Great Water (most of whom I've never met in meatspace) that the idea of going Over There has appealed to me for a long time, and some of them seem to agree. As to whether I'm interesting enough to anybody to send me with fandom's funds: that's for fandom to decide.

## 3) Describe your past and current fannish activity: clubs you've been in, official roles (club president, or whatever), cons you've attended/worked on, and fanzines you've produced, and so forth.

I've been in the aforementioned U. of Chicago and Nashville SF clubs, and the Milwaukee SF club (I was Premier [=President] of the latter). I've been in the N3F on and off since 1973 or so. If I attend one more LASFS meeting, I'll have to join. I've attended well over 200 cons since 1975 including: Midwestcons, Kubla Khons, Windycons, Rivercons, X-Cons, Triangulums, Cremecons, Operacon, Archcons, BYOBcon, Disclave, Duckcon, Minicons, Chambanacons, over 40 each of WisCons and ICONs [Iowa's Icon], every single Chattacon ever, three NASFICs, and over twenty Worldcons, from Kansas City [twice] to Den Haag. I've only been to one commercial media con (original TV *Beauty and the Beast*), but to a couple of anime cons and dozens of GenCons. I was on con committees for Milwaukee's X-Con and Cremecon, and have volunteered at those cons and many others to do everything from set-up to program scheduling to helping write opening skits, as needed. I've also been on panels for cons from the tiniest regionals to Worldcons: probably well over a hundred at this point.

I've been in MilwApa for over 400 distributions now; I've done a couple of issues of *Vojo de Vivo*, my own genzine; and I've done brief stints in FAPA, Apa Lambda, and the Turbocharged Party Animal APA. Apazine titles: *FeVdeV*, *Bemusements of a Visible Fan*, *Verbum Sap*, and *Real Futuristic... I Dig The Fins!*

## TAFF candidate interview: Michael Lowrey (continued)

In the heyday of Usenet, I was active in rec.arts.sf.fandom and alt.callahans, *inter alia*. I've been on a number of fannish e-mail lists, from Trufen to fmzfen to SouthernFandomClassic. I was active in LiveJournal when that was at its peak, and am currently active in a large number of fannish Facebook groups.

Fringefannery: I could be called a Browncoat, Trekker, Helper, and maybe even *otaku*. I've written morsels of filk and even fan-fic, but nothing of substance, though I helped edit a series of *Beauty & the Beast* filkzines. Since my first Avalon Hill boardgame, gaming has been big in my life. After a conversation with Gygax, I started writing D&D articles, and branched from that into book reviewing and other professional non-fiction; without fandom, none of that would ever have happened. (And I did play-by-mail *Diplomacy*, thanks to John Boardman.)

I'm an editor (one of the 500 most active) and volunteer admin on Wikipedia, something I got into after a panel discussion at WisCon (damn, those panel discussions at WisCon are powerful stuff!). Some would call that fannish: it's certainly geeky and nerdy.

In June 1981, my darling Cicatrice and I were married at X-Con 5 in Milwaukee by a member of the Madison SF club who was an ex-roommate [I am told] of Harlan's, and also happened to be a Bishop. 38.5 years later, we are still going to cons together; and our fanspring, now known as "Ink", has been to well over 100 cons. Ink games, does apazines and art, as well as stunning costuming and cosplay, and (of course) reads avidly, as well as managing a bookstore staffed almost exclusively by fen.



### 4) If you received a cultural grant and were asked to work full time for a year with something fannish, what would you do?

I would set up camp in the Special Collections area of the University of Iowa Library, where the Rusty Hevelin Collection of fanzines, prozines, and books is housed, and spend the year combing the written record of fandom to expand and improve the coverage of fannish and SF history in Wikipedia and Fancyclopedia 3. Maybe I'd write a book aimed at mundanes, on fannish and SF history from the fannish perspective and how we've shaped the world they know, working unbeknownst to them, unseen in the background (*mwa-ha-haa!*).

### 5) If you win, what will your TAFF trip look like? Just Concentric: the Eastercon in the UK or other parts of Europe (which?) too? How many weeks do you think you will be able to set aside for it?

I have made a deal with my employer to take a month off over a period which would permit me to start at Fantastika 2020, the Swecon [Swedish national convention] in Stockholm (the con committee has offered to provide a membership and room for the TAFF delegate), sweep through as many fannish locations as I can arrange – ideally in a vast arc from Suomi to Eire; it will depend on where I can find events to attend and people to host me – and end up in Birmingham for Concentric. With no disrespect to prior delegates, I'd like to widen the window of "where should a TAFF delegate be going?"; I only wish I had more contacts in southern and eastern European fandoms.

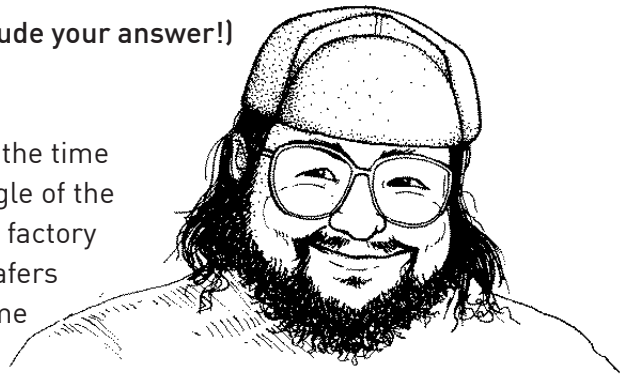


## TAFF candidate interview: Michael Lowrey (continued)

### 6) What other question do you wish we'd asked? (Please include your answer!)

Why are you so orange, Orange Mike?

It started with a blaze-orange trooper hat, which I wore all the time (including while doing frisbee-in-the-nude on the quadrangle of the University of Chicago campus) for years. One day I was in a factory outlet store in Nashville and saw a pair of bright orange loafers glowing across the room at me. I bought them, and next time I was headed for an SF con, I was standing there waiting for a ride, wearing orange hat and shoes. The other fen stared at me, and somebody said, "Looks like you got a thing going there, Lowrey!" I reckoned I did (always did like bright colors), and started filling in, up from the shoes and down from the hat. A decade or so later, I decided that if fandom could put up with my orangeness, so could my sisters and brothers of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. So now my orange self has shone over AFSCME and other labor events from local meetings to International Conventions, as well as at many rounds of union bargaining with the State of Wisconsin; the Democratic National Convention 2004 [I appeared on at least one Chinese newspaper front page, I'm told] and other political events; Wikipedia events, and trainings, etc. My orangeness is seen from my e-mail address to my Wikipedia username; but fandom is to blame. (And yes, I have green clothing for March 17<sup>th</sup>; my name is Mike, *begorrah*, and me late brither's name was Pat.)



## TAFF candidate interview: Ann Totusek

### 1) Tell everybody about yourself and fandom: where did it begin for you and when?

I discovered fandom in 1989 when I inadvertently ghosted my first Minicon. I had no idea that I was ghosting, but some friends of mine invited me down to hang out with them at the hotel, and I had a ball. Not having a badge, I didn't attend any programming, but I met a lot of super interesting people. One of these friends had also introduced me to filk earlier in the year. I knew I had found one of my tribes.

### 2) What made you decide to stand for TAFF?

First, a "race" without any sort of "race" at all is boring. TAFF needs attention and notice in order to thrive. When I heard that Mike was unopposed in his bid, I realized it was the perfect opportunity for me to participate in some good old-fashioned fannish shenanigans for humor value, that would also serve the purpose of calling attention to TAFF itself and the importance of keeping it active and relevant. Developing the relationships in fandom keeps the community itself active and alive, not to mention interesting. While there are a lot of developed relationships between major cities, some areas are, shall we say, "underserved" because of a variety of factors including cost, transportation, etc.



## TAFF candidate interview: Ann Totusek (continued)

One of the areas I see lacking in representation is the central midwest – portions of Iowa and Wisconsin especially. Mike is a representative of that area (as am I) and is pretty much a living legend there. So flipping my platform from the “Pick me! Pick me!” position to “Send the other guy!” has the potential to get someone more involved in the international world of fandom who will benefit from it personally, and benefit fandom itself.



**3) Describe your past and current fannish activity: clubs you've been in, official roles (club president, or whatever), cons you've attended/worked on, and fanzines you've produced, and so forth.**

I started out in Minicon – worked Operations, medical, and hospitality. I moved to Des Moines, IA and participated in Demicon as ConCom/Chair, Volunteer Head, and Hospitality Head. I work for Windycon in Chicago running the Green Room, and Chaired Duckcon, as well as serving on the Super-Con-Duck-Tivity Board (the organization that awarded the Golden Duck awards). I was the Division Head for Hospitality in Chicago for Chicon 7, and therefore organized the Post-Hugos in Reno. I worked for Operations at Loncon 3, Interaction, Anticipation, and some Eastercons as well as helping out in Art Show one year – it was an interesting learning experience. I've served on the Board for MNStf in Minneapolis and as MnStf President, and have also been head of Hospitality for Minicon's Golden Anniversary.

**4) If you received a cultural grant and were asked to work full time for a year with something fannish, what would you do?**

I'm a nurse, so I'd probably develop programs for fans as they age. We're a scattered community in many respects, and one of the things I see as a challenge for fans as they age is losing the ease of keeping connected with the friends that they have seen regularly for years, as physical and financial challenges related to aging begin to take their toll on their ability to travel. I'd love to see what technological aids there are to help people stay connected, such as telepresence, and also to help fans retire in areas where they can maintain their in-person relationships as well. Tom Smith's “Convalescence” is my dream retirement plan!

**5) If you win, what will your TAFF trip look like? Just Concentric: the Eastercon in the UK or other parts of Europe (which?) too? How many weeks do you think you will be able to set aside for it?**

I would probably set aside 2-3 weeks for the trip. I have previously been to England, Ireland, and Scotland, so I'd like to expand to something east or south of that. I have family history in Czechoslovakia and Sweden, so they are of interest, as are France, Poland, and Spain for general cultural reasons. A lot of that will depend on what fannish activities and group meetings there are in which places immediately following Concentric.

**6) What other question do you wish we'd asked? (Please include your answer!)**

I wish you'd asked who my favorite authors are, but the list is too long for your newsletter!



# Financial reports: the fan fund auction at Dublin 2019: An Irish Worldcon

The auction received what must surely be close to a record-breaking amount of stuff to auction off. It was held at 4 pm on the Saturday of the con in spacious Wicklow Hall 2 in the main convention venue, the CCD, and raised a substantive amount of money, around €2,300 (plus a little in other currencies). That's over \$2,500 or £1,900. Impressive, and our thanks go out to the auctioneers and helpers and to everyone who donated things and who bought them! I'd mention the names of all auctioneers and helpers here, but a quick count reveals their number to be close to thirty and I don't want to accidentally omit someone, so all of you who helped with the auction and at the post-auction sales table: **thank you!**

The highlight for Geri was when the original manuscript of James White's 1987 novel *Code Blue – Emergency* that she had donated to the auction yielded €400, bringing so much delight to the winner, who was over the moon.

There were so many things to sell that we spent the next two days in the fan table area selling the leftovers at a table, which raised another €993 and \$60.

Converted to euros, the total of the money raised explicitly for TAFF, combined with TAFF's part of the proceeds from the non-specific donations, was €1,230 (or £1,040 or \$1,360).

In the next *TAFFish* we will publish a full statement of TAFF's current funds, something I have thought about for some time now. It's been a number of years since it was done last, and both I and Geri (and our minion Claire in particular) think it behooves us to tell you all how your generous donations are being used. (I can tell you already that you are not in for any shocks; TAFF's finances are perhaps sounder than ever as you'll see in our brief overview on page 10.)

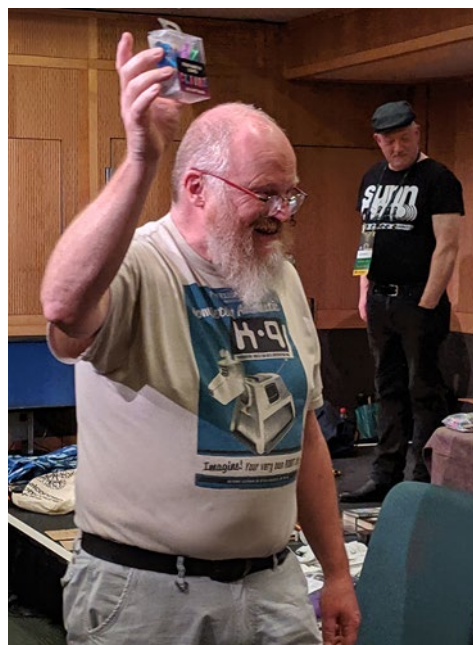
-Johan



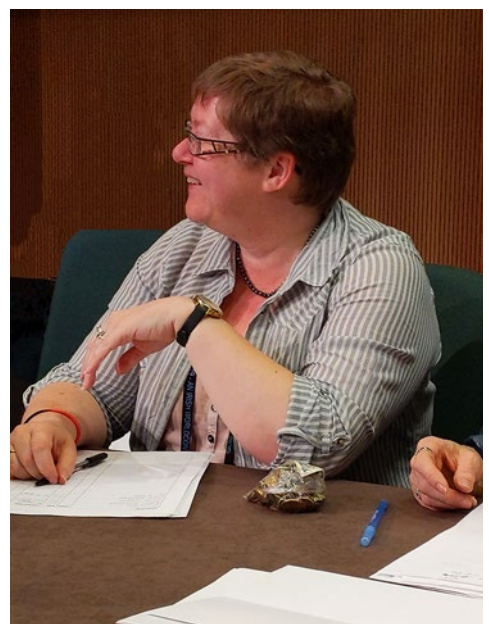
*Linda K. James and Richard Sacks-Wilner after Linda gleefully outbid the competition to win a James White manuscript at the Dublin 2019 fan funds auction.*



*A small portion of the auction loot.*



*Claire Brialey looks on in bemusement as Justin Ackroyd auctions the right to give Claire her name in lights, a small bit of auction tat Geri Sullivan picked up on the ferry to Dublin.*



## <Insert clever headline about Geri's TAFF trip highlights>

"Tantalizing details," Johan promised. Furthermore, he added "... left out from the Facebook travelogue." Right. No pressure here.

I learned I'd won TAFF the day after my sister Sue died. The trip would have been intense under any circumstances, but grief accompanied both the planning and the trip itself every step of the way. In one sense, having a giant GOOD thing to look forward to was tremendously useful as I spent May–July dealing with all the realities that go with being the next-of-kin and executor for Sue's estate. In another sense, it made everything harder. The bottom line is that TAFF, fans, and fandom came through for me, making my trip a thing of wonder and joy. I returned to North America in awe of TAFF, and deeply honored to have joined the remarkable list of former TAFF delegates stretching back over the past 67 years. (I'm including Walt Willis' pre-TAFF 1952 trip; it's the trip that started it all and my friendship with Walter was a key reason I stood in the first place.)

While I'd been to the United Kingdom several times from 1989–2002 and once again more recently in 2015, TAFF helped me do several new things. I deliberately chose to use the trip to stretch beyond my usual comfort zone, to seek out and embrace new adventures while also building on the connections formed over the 37 years since I became a fan at Chicon IV. Being a fan with a tad bit of experience, I also built in various comforts along the way. I can't claim to have scheduled anywhere near enough "Zombie Days" to rest and recuperate along the way, as I've advised other fan fund winners to do for decades, but I ended the trip with a significantly better sleep record than when I started, so I must have done some things right, or at least right enough.

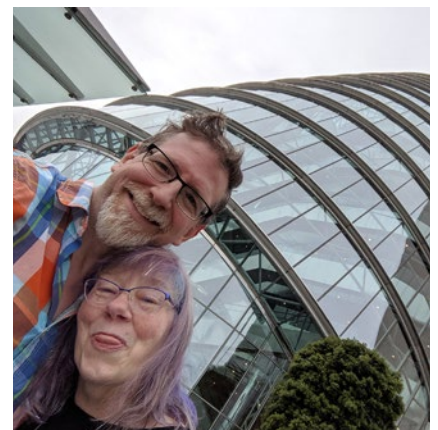
So. Highlights. There were so many; how to select just a few? I know! I'll pick a few photos, add some detail in the captions, and take it from there.... All but the first one appear here for the first time anywhere.



*I deliberately started easy by adjusting to the time zone differences by spending the weekend at Fishlifter Central in Croydon. Claire Brialey met me at Gatwick, helped haul luggage, and snapped this photo before letting me follow her home like a duckling, puppy, or any of a large number of fan fund winners before me.*



*Lilian Edwards' guest bedroom came complete with this little guy hanging from the doorknob, guaranteed to make this particular TAFF delegate feel right at home! It was my first trip to Edinburgh, and my first ever Fringe Festival. The days passed quickly but far from uneventfully. I broke Lilian's bathtub, leaving a few inches of purple-tinted standing water from my shampoo after seating the drain plug in such a way that it took a plumber to get it back out! So very embarrassing. Fortunately, it didn't prove to be a harbinger of a plumbing-plagued trip. Whew.*



*Gosh, the chair of the Worldcon carves out time to meet my ferry arriving during afternoon rush hour, introduces me to his best mate, steers ably through traffic, shows me the locations of the various convention facilities, and even poses so we can get a selfie. Look how the TAFF delegate expresses her appreciation. Cheeky? You bet. But James Bacon still took me home to meet his Mammy rather than tossing me into the River Liffey, and later wrote not just one, not two, but **three** letters thanking me for various aspects of the trip! Isn't it supposed to be the other way around?*





Was the trip going to the dogs? No way! Basil made sure I got a welcome dog fix during my pre-Worldcon visit with Cathy Bacon and family in Dublin.

TOP: We had a terrific audience for the set of dramatic readings from *Improbable Research* and the Ig Nobel Prizes that we did at Dublin 2019. So. Much. Laughter as Mason A. Porter, Dave O'Neill, and Liz Zitzow presented papers on the frequency, motivation, and effects of shouting and cursing while driving an automobile; walking backwards with a cup of coffee; lessons learned from self-colonoscopy, and other subjects.

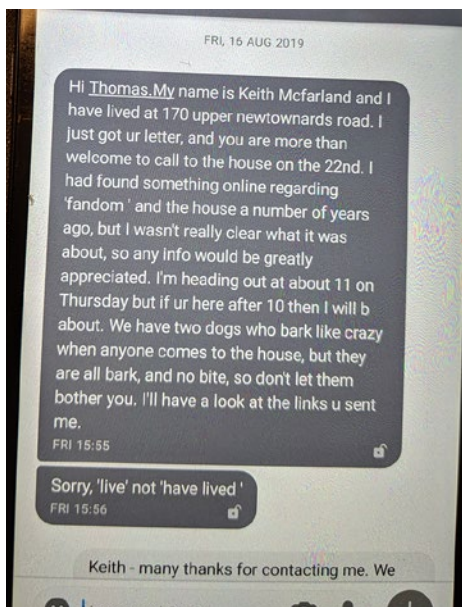
MIDDLE: 1) Sign seen at a mental health booth at Cruinniú na mBád, aka the Galway Hooker Festival. It turned out I was there to dance in the rain, but it's good advice for every fan fund winner. 2) "For the Magic Mimeograph is the one with the true fan at the handle." Kudos to James Bacon for storing the Oblique House mimeograph for years and ensuring it was on exhibit at the Worldcon.

RIGHT: Marguerite Smith poses for evidence after giving Brian Nisbet the accepted coin of the realm – a 20-spot in local currency – to run the next Irish Worldcon bid. This is common behavior within convention-running fandom, especially at Dead Dog parties, where this took place. Other impromptu conspirators included Ian Stockdale, Jukka Halme, and a moderately-intoxicated TAFF delegate thanks to the fact that Alison Scott and others had loads of groats to spend and were buying pints by the imperial gallon, or so it seemed.





Linda K. James, Dublin 2019 GoHs Mary & Bill Burns, and the rest of the audience listened attentively and with joy to Caroline Mullan's excellent talk on James White – James the pro, James the fan. It's since been printed in *Banana Wings* 75 and is well worth seeking out.



Twenty of us went on the WAW with the Crew! coach tour. First stop? 170 Upper Newtownards Road, less than two miles from the Titancon/Eurocon hotel. From the mid-1940s until 1965, this was Oblique House, home of Walter & Madeleine Willis and Irish Fandom. And how did Tom Becker come to be standing at the open door, in a pose reminiscent of the one A. Vincent Clarke struck some 50–60+ years earlier? For that, read the text that current owner Keith McFarland sent to Tommy Ferguson the week before we visited.

After we left Scrabo Tower we ventured on to Donaghadee, where I stayed with Walter & Madeleine in 1989, 1992, and 1995. Then we added a quick drive by so Graham & Agnes Andrews could show us the inn where they honeymooned, which was also where C.S. Lewis honeymooned with his wife Joy Davidman in 1958. We were still right on time for our 4 pm return to the hotel, right up until our coach had a minor collision with a trailer that was attempting to merge in thick traffic....



#### Thursday, August 22

Since 1999, I'd wanted to go back to Norn Iron (Northern Ireland) and revisit the places Walter Willis took me – retrace my steps, as it were. I always envisioned it as a solitary, poignant journey. TAFF gave me the opportunity to transform it into something spectacularly delightful, something shared. This one day reflected the reasons I stood for TAFF and was a glorious fulfillment of them while also enabling me to do the thing I'd wanted to do for 20 years, and doing it in wondrous, emotionally glorious ways beyond anything I'd imagined. Along on the journey were fans I'd known since before I met Walter & Madeleine Willis, fans I'd met at the Dublin Worldcon, and even fans I'd met the night before...and at breakfast that morning!

Here I follow in the footsteps of Ian Stockdale, Caroline Mullan, Mark Richards, and so many others as we head up the now-paved path to Scrabo Tower, the edifice that Walt Willis and Bob Shaw imagined as the Tower of Trufandom when they wrote **The Enchanted Duplicator**.



At the top, steps away from the tower, looking about.





The Belfast Science Fiction Group welcomed several travelling fans with a get-together at the Errigle Inn on the night before the Eurocon. With this image, I've run out of space and time. Eek! We're only halfway through my trip! Krakow, beer, and other adventures next TAFFish!

## TAFF thanks...

...**Dublin 2019: An Irish Worldcon** – 6 nights hotel room(!), souvenir book bio, First Fandom Hall of Fame presenter, designated acceptor for the Best Fanzine Retro Hugo, programme participation

...**Titancon/Eurocon** – membership, programme participation

...**Dave Langford** – TAFF website, online ballot and voting, ebooks, and all the fans downloading ebooks who are kindly sending contributions to the TAFF coffers

...**Claire Brialey** – trip coordinator extraordinaire – “Geri can have an epiphany; she’s the TAFF delegate. I have to check the bus times.” – Claire Brialey, 9Sept2019

...**Andy Hooper** – auctioning fanzines online on behalf of TAFF – eBay seller name is **aphooper**

...**John Hertz** – *Moffat House Abroad* trip reports

...**Pat Virzi** and **Alison Scott** – auction donations

...**2019 TAFF Trip hosts** – **Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer; Lilian Edwards; Cathy Bacon & family; Tommy Ferguson & family; Jane Yolen; Christina Lake & Doug Bell; Caroline Mullan & Brian Ameringen; and Marcin Klak.** Plus **Deb Geisler & Mike Benveniste** on the North American side of the Pond. They also provided free parking for six weeks!

### The £, €, & \$ of it all

Thanks to voting fees, a variety of generous donations, and careful management of TAFF trip expenses, on December 10, the consolidated TAFF coffers held £8,265; €1,179; and US \$3,851. If it was all converted to one currency, the total would be £12,183; €14,482; or US \$16,071.

We’ll publish further financial details in *TAFFish* #2.



*TAFFish* #1, an occasional newsletter of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund. Published December 2019, by current TAFF administrators Johan Anglemark (Europe) and Geri Sullivan (North America). Fonts: Cervo Neue, DIN Pro, and Sanvito.

#### Art Credits:

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Keith Stokes, page 5 photo  
Geri Sullivan, photos pages 6–10, except as noted in the captions  
Ken Fletcher, page 10; color by Geri Sullivan

Please send comments, ideas, TAFF donations, and more to:  
Johan: [EUTAFF@gmail.com](mailto:EUTAFF@gmail.com)  
Geri: [TAFF@toad-hall.com](mailto:TAFF@toad-hall.com)

Ed Cox doodle here



# 2020 TAFF Ballot – North America to Europe

Please read both sides before voting and send the entire sheet as your vote.

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and active fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. It exists solely through the support of science fiction fandom; the continued generosity of fans is what makes TAFF possible.

## **Who may vote?**

Voting in the 2020 race is open to anyone active in fandom before January 2018 who donates at least \$4 (USD) or £3 (GBP) or €3 (EUR) to TAFF (larger donations are very gratefully accepted). Voting is by secret ballot: one vote per person, and you must provide your name on the ballot. You may change your vote at any time prior to the deadline. All votes must reach the administrators by 11:59pm (Pacific US time) on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

## **Donations:**

TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money, material for auction and other relevant donations; such generosity has sustained the Fund for more than 60 years. TAFF is fandom's longest-running travel fund – give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

## **Candidates:**

Each candidate has posted a bond of \$20 promising to travel, if elected, to Concentric: Eastercon 2020, in Birmingham, UK. Each candidate has three nominators on their side of the Atlantic and two on the other, each of whom has personally contacted the administrators with their nomination. Each candidate has also provided a platform of up to 101 words (published overleaf). Anyone active in SF fandom can run for TAFF as long as they fulfill these criteria for the relevant race; contact your administrator about future races!

## **Voting system:**

TAFF uses a preferential voting system similar to the system used in voting for the Hugo Awards. Voters should rank candidates in order of preference. This allows for the lowest-ranked candidates to be eliminated from the race and those votes redistributed according to the next ranking until one candidate has a clear majority. A candidate must also receive at least 20% of the first-place votes on both sides of the Atlantic to win. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. (Note: In years with more than three candidates, the "20% rule" is not applied until after the candidates with the fewest votes have been eliminated and there are just three candidates left.) Votes will be counted according to a voter's contact address, not where they send their ballot. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either side of the Atlantic for the purpose of this rule.

## **"Hold Over Funds":**

This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, should you feel none of the candidates deserve your support. "Hold Over Funds" is exempt from the 20% requirement: if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no trip will be held this year.

## **"No Preference":**

For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

## **How to vote:**

Vote using the online form at [taff.org.uk](http://taff.org.uk) or mail a copy of this ballot. Pay using PayPal or with a check (if you mail a ballot). If you cannot vote using the online form or a paper ballot, you can fill in your contact details and your ranked voting preferences in the comments section of a PayPal payment. The minimum donation to vote is \$4 (USD) or £3 (GBP) or €3 (EUR). Checks should be made payable to "Geri Sullivan" (for checks in USD) or to "TAFF" (for cheques in GBP or EUR). PayPal donations should be made to one of the email addresses below. If you mail your printed and signed ballot, send it and your donation to:

**North America:** Geri Sullivan – checks in US\$ payable to "Geri Sullivan". Mail the ballot to Geri Sullivan, 37 Monson Rd, Wales, MA 01081-9743 USA. PayPal payments to: [TAFF@toad-hall.com](mailto:TAFF@toad-hall.com)

**Europe:** Johan Anglemark – cheques in UK £ or € payable to "TAFF". Mail the ballot to Johan Anglemark, Lingonv. 10, SE-74340 Storvreta, Sweden. PayPal payments to: [EUTAFF@gmail.com](mailto:EUTAFF@gmail.com)

# The 2020 TAFF Candidates

## Michael Lowrey

My first convention (1975) was the best thing that ever happened to me. I have loved, married and parented within the tribe. I've been active: fanzines and apas, the N3F, mailing lists, Usenet, social media. I've pubbed my ish, and been officer of a local SF club.

I am a Fan, free citizen of the ImagiNation. Whatever else I may be – husband, daddy, union leader, Esperantist, wearer of orange garments, Quaker, feminist, Irishman, Mac user, Wobbly, Hordesman, Wikipedian – this is my Way of Life. My cunning plan remains: to meet fans all over Over There, as many places as possible. FIAWOL!

*Nominated by: (NA) James Nicoll, Steven H Silver, Curt Phillips; (Europe) Rob Hansen, John-Henri Holmberg*

## Ann Totusek

Michael Lowrey is a Midwestern fan most easily recognizable as “Orange Mike” for wearing all orange at conventions. TAFF is intended to strengthen ties between Atlantic and European fandom, and I can think of no-one better for this than Mike. His dedication working towards the well-being of others is unmatched, and his grasp of the importance of freedom of speech, the press, and maintaining an informed populace make him a fascinating panelist. I am honored to be nominated for the TAFF award and, as I have previously attended Eastercon while he has not, the platform for my campaign is “Send Mike!”

*Nominated by: (NA) Carol Kennedy, Joyce Scrivner, Michael Siladi; (Europe) DC, Pat McMurray*

Please rank candidates with 1, 2, etc. where 1 is your first preference:

☐ Michael Lowrey      ☐ Ann Totusek      ☐ Hold Over Funds      ☐ No Preference

Name:

Address:

Email/phone:

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please provide the name of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or one of their nominators) who is known to the administrators and who can vouch for you being an active fan, eligible to vote.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TAFF may contact you over this race. We will publish a list of voters, but will not reveal how you voted or pass your data to any other organization.

**All votes must reach the administrators by 11:59pm (Pacific US time) on Sunday, January 12, 2020.**

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone reproducing this form should substitute their name here: Geri Sullivan