

# TAFF News Redux



DECEMBER 2018

A somewhat official news-zine of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

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*The voting period for this year's West to East TAFF race runs from 1 December 2018 until 22 April 2019. That coincides with the end of Easter weekend, which is a popular sf convention time.*

*Voting can be by mail – print out the attached official ballot and follow the instructions thereon – or online at <https://taff.org.uk/vote.php>*

*A minimum donation of \$4 USD or £3 GBP/ €3 Euro to TAFF should accompany your vote. Larger donations are gratefully accepted.*

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Welcome back to a recycled edition of the newsletter specifically oriented for the newly-started Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund. Your current TAFF Administrators Johan Anglemark (Europe) and John Purcell (North America) happily present this publication to the world of science fiction fandom. This newsletter is designed to keep fans apprised of developments in the now-running election/race to send a deserving North American fan to the 77<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention to be held August 15-19, 2019, in Dublin, Ireland.

For folks reading this who do not know who is in the running for this honour this year, there are four outstanding candidates: Teresa Cochran, Sarah Gulde, Michael Lowrey, and Geri Sullivan. Read the attached official ballot for their platform statements for a bit more information about them and their reasons for standing for TAFF this year. Just like last year's *TAFF News*, I will be sending a short set of questions for each of them to answer. That seemed to go over very well for the 2018 race to bring a European fan to the San Jose World SF Convention, so let's do it again.

So welcome back, my friends, to the fun of another Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund race. Voting has already begun: see the sidebar on this page for details.

## **Johan Sez –**

The race is afoot and what a race! Many of you will be familiar with most of the candidates, but in case one or more of them should happen to be unfamiliar to you, read their platforms on the ballot (page 4) and reach out to fans you think might know them better and ask them what they are like. In the unlikely event that you end up not knowing who to vote for, please show your support for TAFF by setting your first preference to 'No Preference'. I can promise you that there are no unworthy fans among this lot. But vote! TAFF needs your vote. Last year was a success in terms of number of voters. Let's exceed that figure this year!

Much more information about TAFF is available at <https://taff.org.uk/>

# TAFF Info of Note

The following information is from the unofficial TAFF website, maintained by Dave Langford (1980 TAFF winner): [www.taff.org.uk](http://www.taff.org.uk)

## What is TAFF?

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 fandom. That support and the continued generosity of fandom is what make TAFF possible.

## Who may vote?

Voting in the 2019 race is open to anyone active in fandom before April 2017 who donates at least £3.00 (GBP), €3 (Euro) or \$4.00 (USD) 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 midnight (Eastern US time) on Monday, April 22, 2019.

## Who may run?

Any European fan active in fandom before April 2017 who is known to the administrators may declare their candidacy for the East to West race in 2019.

Each candidate must have 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. Anyone active in SF fandom can run for TAFF as long as they fulfil these criteria for the relevant race; contact your administrator about future races!

### **Contact information:**

#### **North America**

John A. Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845 USA  
Emails & PayPal payments to: [2017taff2019@gmail.com](mailto:2017taff2019@gmail.com)

#### **Europe**

Johan Anglemark  
Lingonv. 10, SE-74340 Storvreta, SWEDEN  
PayPal payments to: [EUTAFF@gmail.com](mailto:EUTAFF@gmail.com)



**The 2018 TAFF race had 214 voters! That was the largest turnout since 2006.  
Like Johan said earlier, let's try to top that this year!**

# 2019 TAFF Ballot – North America to Europe

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

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## 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 the 2019 Worldcon in Dublin, Ireland. 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 fulfil 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 #1 rank 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. 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:

Either send a copy of this form with a check, or pay via PayPal. The minimum donation to vote is \$4 (USD) or £3 (GBP) or 3 euros. In the US checks should be made payable to "John Purcell" (for checks in USD) or to "TAFF" (for cheques in GBP or Euros). PayPal donations should be made to the email addresses below with your contact details and your ranked voting preferences in the comments section. If you do not fill in the comments section, your vote might not be counted! Send your signed and completed ballot form and donation to:

**North America:** John Purcell – Checks in US\$ payable to "John Purcell". Mail the ballot to John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845 USA. Paypal payments to: 2017taff2019@gmail.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

# The 2019 TAFF Candidates

## **Teresa Cochran**

Reading has always been a solitary activity for me. I read SF for many years, and dreamed of meeting other fans. In the early 2000's, I moved to Las Vegas and met many established fans. I began going to conventions. With the help of computer technology, it is much easier for me to write for fanzines. TAFF would give me an opportunity to meet fans and explore the social aspects of fandom. I could also publish a TAFF report in Braille! Don't worry; it will be accessible to everyone.

*Nominated by: (NA) Tracy Benton, Steve Stiles, Jacq Monahan; (Europe) Chris O'Shea, Martin Tudor*

## **Sarah Gulde**

'Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations'. Why the Star Trek slogan? First, I'm a hardcore Trekkie and co-editor of the December 2018 Star Trek issue of Journey Planet. Second, I'm passionate about diversity in fandom. I've been on diversity panels across the country, and even started my own diversity-focused mini-con.

I'm running for TAFF because I've pushed for change in my local con to help everyone feel welcome while celebrating their fandoms, and as the TAFF delegate I want to provide support for other fans who are doing the same. Interested? Let's grab a beer in Dublin and chat! LLAP!

*Nominated by: (NA) Chris Garcia, Curtis Chen, Nisi Shawl; (Europe) Fia Karlsson, James Shields*

## **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: the N3F, Usenet, apas. I've pubbed my ish, and been officer of a local 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? I want to come from a land beyond the wave, meet fans all over Over There, and quaff girder-based beverages.

*Nominated by: (NA) Steven Silver, James Nicoll, Arthur D. Hlavaty; (Europe) John-Henri Holmberg, Steve Green*

## **Geri Sullivan**

Shortly after stumbling into fandom, I was found guilty of exhibiting enthusiastic energy and a propensity for getting things done. I've been hosting parties, publishing fanzines, running conventions, and organizing special projects ever since. Oobleck. Chocolate robots. Rocks, inflatable gargoyles, and remarkable bheer. You never know what I'll bring, only that it all sparks connections....

If selected, I'll share adventures from years knowing Walter & Madeleine Willis, James & Peggy White, and other legendary fans of yore while meeting new friends of all ages. Timebinding, you bet! Hope to see you on the Funway in Dublin and Belfast. She/her; [fancyclopedia.org/geri-sullivan](http://fancyclopedia.org/geri-sullivan)

*Nominated by: (NA) Joe Siclari & Edie Stern, Pat Virzi, Dave O'Neill; (Europe) Claire Brialey, Gareth Kavanagh*

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

[ ] Teresa Cochran [ ] Sarah Gulde [ ] Michael Lowrey [ ] Geri Sullivan [ ] 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 do not publish your data or pass it to any other organization. All votes must reach the administrators by midnight (Eastern US time) on Monday, April 22, 2019.

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: [John A. Purcell](#)