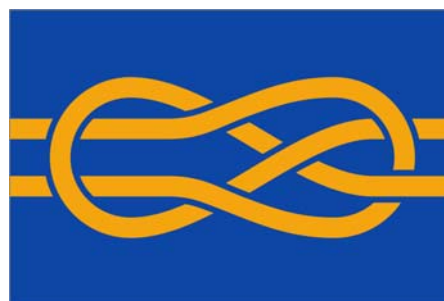

Info-FIAV

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Fédération internationale
des associations vexillologiques



Federación Internacional de Asociaciones Vexilológicas
International Federation of Vexillological Associations
Internationale Föderation Vexillologischer Gesellschaften

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AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE CONVENED AUGUST 8, 2017 LONDON, ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

It is the responsibility of each FIAV Member to forward a copy of this agenda to the person who will serve as the Member's delegate to the General Assembly.

Note: On July 23, 2001, the General Assembly at its Seventeenth Session in York adopted *Bourinot's Rules of Order* (ISBN 0-7710-8336-X) on a permanent basis.

1. Call to order by President; official opening of the Twenty-Fifth Session
2. Verification by the President of written credentials of delegates from FIAV Members
3. Roll call of delegates; recognition of quorum by Secretary-General; declaration by President that the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly is constituted
4. Appointment by President of tellers to count votes
5. Approval of the minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly held September 1, 2015 in Sydney (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 40, at pages 1–11 (February 2016))
6. Reports by the Board:
 - (a) President (Michel Lupant)
 - (b) Secretary-General (Charles Spain)
 - (c) Secretary-General for Congresses (Graham Bartram)
7. Announcements:
 - (a) Candidates for the FIAV Board
 - (i) President
 - (ii) Secretary-General
 - (iii) Secretary-General for Congresses
 - (b) Applicants for FIAV membership: none
 - (c) Proposals to organize ICV 29 (2021)
 - (i) GSI (Vexillology Ireland), Dún Laoghaire, Ireland.
 - (ii) HS, Ljubljana, Slovenia
 - (d) Proposals to organize ICV 30 (2023)
8. Report on ICV 28 (San Antonio, 2019) organized by VAST
9. Report on status of ICV *Proceedings*:
 - (a) ICV 25 (Rotterdam 2013) organized by NVvV, SVN, and SVPR
 - (b) ICV 26 (Sydney 2015) organized by FSA

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10. Presentation of certificate to current Members that have been ICV Organizers if publication of the *Proceedings* has occurred
11. Election of 2017–2019 Board:
 - (a) President
 - (b) Secretary-General
 - (c) Secretary-General for Congresses
12. Selection of ICV 29 (2021) organizer
13. Consideration of Board's proposed amendments to the FIAV Constitution (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at pages 6–15 (May 2017))
14. Consideration of WVR's proposed amendments to the FIAV Constitution (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 16 (May 2017))
15. Consideration of proposal to amend the Flag Information Code by commission established by the Board to study SAVA's proposal on behalf of Christopher Southworth, Terence Martin, and Andries Burgers to adopt vexillological conventions for flag descriptions, including possible amendments to the Flag Information Code (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 17 (May 2017))
16. Consideration of Board's proposed memorial resolution to the family of Whitney Smith
17. Consideration of FRC's proposal to recognize October 1 as World Vexillology Day (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 17 (May 2017))
18. Consideration of NAVA's and SAVA's proposals to rename the Best Paper Award the Whitney Smith Award (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at pages 17, 18 (May 2017))
19. Canvas of Members that did not send a delegate for purposes of Constitution article 8; final adjournment of the Twenty-Fifth Session by President



Charles A. Spain
FIAV Secretary-General
Houston, May 8, 2017

COMMENTS TO THE AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Item 2: Every FIAV Member is **strongly** encouraged to appoint a delegate and alternate to represent it at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the FIAV General Assembly on August 8, 2017. If no person from a FIAV Member is able to come to the General Assembly Session, that FIAV Member is **strongly** encouraged to appoint as its delegate either the delegate of another FIAV Member or one of the three FIAV Officers.

Credentials should be brought to the General Assembly Session. If at all possible, credentials should be on the Member's official stationery.

The suggested form of written credentials is as follows:

To the President of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques:

[Name of FIAV Member association or institution] appoints [name of person (and alternate, if desired)], as its delegate to the Twenty-Fifth Session of the FIAV General Assembly, to be convened August 8, 2017 in London, England, United Kingdom.

[Delegate's name] has full powers to act on behalf of [name of FIAV Member association or institution] during the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly [or] The powers of [delegate's name] to act on behalf of [name of FIAV Member association or institution] during the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly are limited as follows: [describe].

[signature of authorized representative of FIAV Member association or institution]

[printed name]

[title]

[date]

[seal (optional)]

Item 6: The Board will present both oral and written reports in London.

Item 7(a): The President, Michel R. Lupant, Secretary-General, Charles A. Spain, and Secretary-General for Congresses, Graham Bartram, announce their intentions to stand for re-election.

Item 7(b): No membership applications were received.

Item 13: The General Assembly last voted to amend the FIAV Constitution in 2009. For many years the Board has observed the operation of FIAV, the General Assembly, and the Board, with the intention of proposing at the appropriate time a comprehensive set of amendments to ensure that the Constitution reflects the current needs of FIAV. The Board has decided to propose these amendments at the Twenty-Fifth Session, most of which are housekeeping matters.

Some of the proposed amendments go beyond mere housekeeping, and the rationale for each proposed change is explained in the footnote comments. The Board believes that the amendments reflect President Lupant's and the Secretaries-General's belief (1) that both the Board and FIAV itself exist to serve FIAV Members and vexillology and (2) that Members do not join FIAV to serve either FIAV or the FIAV Board. The Board also believes that vexillology has matured to the point that the work of vexillology is now carried out by individual vexillologists, FIAV Members, and other vexillological associations and institutions—**not** by FIAV, the General Assembly, or the Board. The Board drafted the proposed amendments based on these beliefs.

Two proposed amendments merit highlighting. First, the Board believes that the reference to *The Flag Bulletin* should be retired, but notes that *The Flag Bulletin* has not ceased publication. Passage of the proposed amendments would not revoke the recognition that the General Assembly has previously given to *The Flag Bulletin*. Second, the Board proposes to require the organizers of future Congresses to grant a licence to FIAV to provide an online version of the Congress Proceedings. As previously announced in Board Action 2016–1 (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 40, at page 12 (February 2016)), the Board is requesting the ICV 1 through 28 Organizers to grant FIAV an educational-use license to host digital copies of the Congress Proceedings on the FIAV website. ICV organizers will retain all other intellectual property rights. Steven A. Knowlton has accepted the Board's invitation to manage this project.

The Board respectfully recommends adoption of its proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Item 14: If the Board's amendments to the Constitution are adopted, then the first item proposed by WVRI is moot. The Board notes that *The Flag Bulletin* has not ceased publication. Regarding the second item proposed by WVRI. Laureate and Fellow are already lifetime honors, and the Vexillon is an award for the most important contribution to vexillology during the two years preceding an International Congress of Vexillology. While it is unusual for an individual to receive the Vexillon more than once, the Vexillon is not a life achievement award. The Board does not recommend changing the criteria for awarding the Vexillon.

Item 15: At the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly (Sydney 2015), the recommendation for the General Assembly to take no further action on the Flag Information Code was made in the final report by the commission established by the Board to study SAVA's proposal on behalf of Christopher Southworth, Terence Martin, and Andries Burgers to adopt vexillological conventions for flag descriptions, including possible amendments to the Flag Information Code (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 40, at page 9 (February 2016)). The Board supports the commission's recommendation because the Board believes that vexillology should be conducted by individual vexillologists, FIAV Members, and other vexillological associations and institutions, not conducted directly by FIAV. The Board, however, believes that it would be constructive for the General Assembly to recognize the work of individual vexillologists, FIAV Members, and other vexillological associations and institutions, when the General Assembly deems it appropriate.

Item 16: The Board will draft a proposed memorial resolution to the family of Whitney Smith and distribute it in advance of the General Assembly session.

Item 17: The Board recommends the adoption of FRC's proposal to recognize October 1 as World Vexillology Day, which was an idea that was originated by PFA and has been supported by many FIAV Members.

Item 18: The Board recommends the adoption of NAVA's and SAVA's proposals to rename the Best Paper Award the Whitney Smith Award.

Item 19: The Board hopes that the business of the General Assembly can be conducted as efficiently as in recent sessions.

IN MEMORIAM

FIAV notes with sorrow the deaths of the following vexillologists:

James W. Ritchie (NAVA), Elizabethton, Tennessee, USA (NAVA)

March 25, 2017

RESIGNATION OF THE STICHTING VLAGGENMUSEUM NEDERLAND

On March 12, 2017, the President received the following letter concerning the Stichting Vlaggenmuseum Nederland (SVN). Pursuant to article 8 of the FIAV Constitution, SVN's resignation became effective when it was received by the President.

Dear Mr. President,

This is to inform you that the Stichting Vlaggenmuseum Nederland (SVN) has ceased to exist. The two remaining board members, Kees Vrijdag and me, and the boards of Stichting Vlaggenparade Rotterdam and the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde, decided to discontinue all activities to establish a flag museum or documentation center, because after years of toil and effort we still could not find the funds and housing to make it happen.

Therefore we wish to withdraw the FIAV membership of the SVN.

Best regards,

on behalf of the former Stichting Vlaggenmuseum Nederland,

Marcel van Westerhoven
board member of the former Stichting Vlaggenmuseum Nederland

HS LETTER REGARDING ICV 29

April 6, 2017

Dear Kin,

Heraldica Slovenica is still interested in hosting the 29th ICV in Ljubljana and would like to stand as a candidate at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly in London.

Kind regards,

Aleksander Hribovšek
www.heraldica-slovenica.si



FIAB BOARD



The Board at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the FIAB General Assembly: Charles Spain, Secretary-General; Michel Lupant, President; and Graham Bartram, Secretary-General for Congresses.

Behind the Board are the FIAB flag and the Officer flags.

Photo courtesy of Manuela Schmöger

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“C’est avec ces hochets qu’on mène les hommes.”

President Emeritus: Hugh Boudin
Secretaries-General Emeritus: Emil Dreyer, Ralph G.C. Bartlett, and Bruce B. Berry

PROPOSAL BY THE FIAV BOARD

Resolution by the FIAV Board

Resolved by the Members of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION. The FIAV Constitution is amended as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS VEXILLOLOGIQUES

I. NAME AND PURPOSES

Art. 1 The name of this association is the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques, which is abbreviated as "FIAV." ~~[The official translations of FIAV's name are: International Federation of Vexillological Associations (English); Internationale Fédération Vexillologischer Gesellschaften (German); and Federación Internacional de Asociaciones Vexilológicas (Spanish).]~~¹

Art. 2 FIAV unites those associations and institutions throughout the world whose object is the pursuit of vexillology, which is the creation and development of a body of knowledge about flags of all types, their forms and functions, and of scientific theories and principles based on that knowledge.

Art. 3 FIAV has as its purposes:

- (a) To create a strong bond among those associations and institutions and to encourage and coordinate their work, studies, and research;
- (b) to promote the organization of International Congresses of Vexillology and to lend its support to their organizers;
- (c) to encourage the creation in all countries of associations and institutions dedicated to vexillology; and
- (d) to ~~[sanction]~~ recognize international standards facilitating the development of these activities.²

Art. 4 FIAV, being strictly scientific, has no commercial ends and renounces any political or religious activity or stand.

II. HEADQUARTERS

Art. 5 The administrative headquarters of FIAV are located at the residences of its two Secretaries-General. If necessary, the General Assembly may establish a legal headquarters for FIAV.

III. MEMBERSHIP

¹ This change is proposed because FIAV is now truly international. Providing translations of FIAV's name for some, but not all, of the languages used by Members is unnecessary and unequal.

² This change is proposed because currently the work of vexillology is done by Members and other individuals and entities, rather than by FIAV directly. FIAV can recognize international standards developed by others, but any such work does not need FIAV's permission.

Art. 6

An applicant for membership in FIAV:

- (a) must be an organization of the type expressed in article 2;
- (b) must be committed to the purposes of FIAV expressed in article 3; and
- (c) must be constituted in conformity with the laws of the country where it is located.

Art. 7

- (a) Membership in FIAV is open to any association or institution anywhere in the world having as a substantial purpose the scientific study of vexillology.
- (b) The processing of membership applications is the responsibility of the Board. ~~[The Board may delegate this responsibility to a person appointed by it for this purpose.]~~³ The procedure consists of the following:
 - (1) The applicant shall submit a membership application, which must be received by the Board no later than six months before the convening of the next session of the General Assembly.
 - (2) The Board shall consider the application and inform ~~[make a recommendation to the General Assembly relative to the applicant and shall communicate that recommendation to]~~ the applicant and ~~[to existing]~~ Members of its recommendation not later than one ~~[three]~~ month[s] before the convening of the next session of the General Assembly.⁴
 - (3) The Board may recommend acceptance of the applicant as a Member, ~~[or may]~~ recommend rejection of the applicant, or make no recommendation.⁵
 - (4) The General Assembly at its next session shall vote on the application. An authorized representative of the applicant ~~[may]~~ must appear at the session to ~~[re]~~present its case. Unless excused by the General Assembly, the representative must serve an active role in conducting the applicant's affairs. If the applicant is an association, then the representative must also be a member of the association. A rejected applicant has the right to reapply for membership at any later session of the General Assembly.⁶

³ To date, the Board has never delegated this responsibility. This should be a mandatory responsibility for the Board.

⁴ Nonsubstantively simplifies the text and changes the notice date from three months to one month. This gives the Board more time to work with an applicant.

⁵ Allows the Board to make no recommendation on a candidate's application, which the Board has previously done on some occasions, thus conforming the Constitution to current practice. As article 19(a) requires the Board to act by unanimous agreement, practicality requires that the Board have the option to make no recommendation.

⁶ Moves the requirement that an applicant have an authorized representative at the General Assembly session from article 7(c)(6) to 7(b)(4), where it logically belongs, deletes the confusing term "autochthonous," which means "indigenous," and requires the representative "must serve an active role in conducting the applicant's affairs" unless excused by the General

- (c) The Board and the General Assembly, in making their decisions about an applicant, shall have regard to the following:
- (1) the existence of a written constitution and its provisions;
 - (2) the vexillological and non-vexillological activities of the applicant, including meetings, publications, and international relations;
 - (3) in the case of an association, the number of its ~~[dues-paying]~~ active members (minimum of five);⁷
 - (4) registration of its members or representatives in International Congresses of Vexillology; and⁸
 - (5) the length of time it has existed~~[-and~~
 - ~~(6) the presence of an autochthonous and authorized representative of the applicant at the session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application].⁹~~

Art. 8

- (a) A Member voluntarily resigns if it does not send a delegate to three consecutive regular sessions of the General Assembly. The resignation is effective at the adjournment of the third consecutive regular session.¹⁰
- (b) A Member may voluntarily resign by writing to the President. The resignation is effective on the date of its receipt.
- (c) FIAV cannot reject a Member's voluntary resignation.

Art. 9

At its discretion, the Board may require a Member to furnish evidence of its continued qualification for membership under the terms set forth in article 7 or to provide a written response to a potential violation of article 11. On the basis of this evidence, the Board may make a recommendation to the General Assembly on the continuation of the membership of the association or institution. If the recommendation is made to remove a Member from FIAV, the Member in question [must] shall be notified at least three months before the convening [in advance] of the next regular session of the General Assembly [at which there is to be a vote on the matter]. The

Assembly. In an increasingly mobile world, a requirement that the representative be indigenous to the applicant's territory is problematic at best. Substituting a requirement that the representative "must serve an active role in conducting the applicant's affairs" preserves a limitation on who may be an applicant's representative, but replaces national origin with a legitimate limitation that the representative must be actively involved with the applicant. The phrase "serve an active role" is intentionally vague because it is impossible to predict how potential applicants conduct their affairs.

⁷ Substitutes "active" for "dues-paying" because the historically the applicant's finances have not been reviewed.

⁸ In considering a membership application, adds registration of representatives in International Congresses of Vexillology, which extends this factor to include institutions, not just associations.

⁹ Moves the current requirement that an applicant have a representative at the General Assembly session from article 7(c)(6) to 7(b)(4), where it logically belongs.

¹⁰ Clarifies that a Member's nonattendance at a special session does not invoke the voluntary-resignation provision.

Member shall be invited to present its defense before the General Assembly~~[- but shall not]~~ and may participate in the vote on the matter.¹¹

Art. 10 Each Member regulates its own affairs in complete freedom, limited only by [this Constitution and](#) the laws in effect in the territory where it functions. FIAV may not [otherwise](#) limit the rights of ~~[the]~~ Members in this respect.¹²

Art. 11 Members shall not undertake any activities contrary to the interests of FIAV.

Art. 12 (a) FIAV may not act on behalf of its Members without their authorization expressed in the General Assembly. Members may not make commitments nor act on behalf of FIAV.

(b) Members may not hold international vexillological meetings outside of International Congresses of Vexillology. Notwithstanding this prohibition, a Member holding a vexillological meeting in any year in which no International Congress of Vexillology is held may invite participation by a Member from a contiguous country.

Art. 13 [\(a\)](#) The General Assembly may name as “Laureates of the Federation” persons who have made outstanding, [original](#) contributions to [the science of](#) vexillology. The General Assembly may delegate this power to the Board. ~~[The status as a Laureate does not confer any right within FIAV.]~~¹³

[\(b\)](#) [The General Assembly may name as “Fellows of the Federation” persons who have made significant contributions to vexillology and/or rendered significant service to FIAV or a FIAV Member. The General Assembly may delegate this power to the Board.](#)¹⁴

[\(c\)](#) [Except as provided in article 19\(d\), Laureates and Fellows have no special rights in the General Assembly.](#)¹⁵

IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 14 (a) The General Assembly is composed of the Officers together with a delegate from each of the Members. Each delegate ~~shall~~ [must](#) present to the President written credentials from the Member represented. A Member may delegate any or all of its powers in writing to a delegate from any other Member or to an Officer.

¹¹ Simplifies the text, provides a procedure for perceived violations of article 11, and changes the provision that denies a vote to a Member on the matter of its removal.

¹² Recognizes the existing reality that the Constitution currently limits the rights of Members, e.g., articles 7, 11, and 12.

¹³ Conforms the definition of a Laureate to that in use by FIAV since 2001. The text of the last sentence is moved to new article 13(c).

¹⁴ Adds a definition of a Fellow, which was established by FIAV in 2001. Fellows were first mentioned in the Constitution in a 2009 amendment creating article 19(d).

¹⁵ Modifies the former provision “The status as a Laureate does not confer any right within FIAV,” which is not literally true, to clarify that Laureates and Fellows have no special rights in the General Assembly, other than as provided in article 19(d) for Fellows. Laureates and Fellows have the right to use postnominals and to wear the decorations that are presented to them.

- (b) A session of the General Assembly is not constituted unless delegates of at least half of the Members are present~~[, except as provided for in article 25]~~.¹⁶
- (c) Each Member and each Officer is entitled to one vote in the General Assembly.

Art. 15

Majorities in the General Assembly consist of the following fractions of those Members and Officers present [and voting].¹⁷

- (a) A simple majority in the election of Officers or to excuse the absence of an Officer under article 19(d). If more than two candidates stand for election for an Office and no candidate receives a simple majority, then the candidate with the least votes shall be eliminated from the next ballot, and so on.¹⁸
- (b) A simple majority for a motion to amend a motion under consideration, to proceed to the next item of business on the agenda, to defer consideration of a motion, to refer a motion to a Commission, to appeal a ruling of the chair, for a record vote, or to adjourn a session of the General Assembly.
- (c) Two-thirds for all other motions.
- (d) Three-quarters for amendments to the Constitution or dissolution of FIAV.

Art. 16

The General Assembly:

- (a) elects Officers;
- (b) examines and approves the administration of the Board and the Commissions;
- (c) examines all questions concerning FIAV and in particular the organization of the International Congresses of Vexillology;
- (d) interprets the Constitution;
- (e) names Laureates and Fellows of the Federation pursuant to article 13 and awards such other distinctions as it deems appropriate to persons or institutions who have shown particular

¹⁶ Conforms to the proposed amendment to article 25.

¹⁷ Conforms the definition of voting majorities to FIAV's longstanding practice, in which (1) the total number of possible votes is used to calculate majorities (total delegates plus Officers) and (2) abstentions do not modify the majorities. As literally written in the Constitution, if 30 Members have delegates at the General Assembly session, all 3 Officers are present, and 5 delegates abstain on a vote (and thus do not vote), the two-thirds majority to pass a motion is 17 votes $((30 - 5)(2/3))$; note that currently abstentions by the Officers do not affect the two-thirds majority). Longstanding practice calculates a two-thirds majority to pass a motion as 22, because it includes the 3 Officers and does not allow abstentions to change the number of votes needed to pass a motion. This redraft will avoid the necessity to precisely count each vote (in favor, against, abstentions) and calculate the applicable majority; something not anticipated when this provision of the Constitution was originally adopted. This issue has not been addressed by the Board in recent sessions because of a lack of close votes.

¹⁸ Clarifies that the voting majority to excuse an Officer's absence is the same as for election of an Officer.

merit in the field of vexillology (this power may be delegated to the Board); and¹⁹

(f) ~~[determines the amount and disposition of the annual dues, if any, to be paid by Members; and²⁰~~

~~(g)]~~ establishes such Commissions as it deems necessary and appoints Commissioners.

Art. 17 The General Assembly holds a regular session ~~[at least once]~~ every two years ~~[, normally on the occasion of]~~ during each International Congress of Vexillology. If extraordinary circumstances exist, a special session may be called with the notice specified in article 18 by either the Board or upon written request to the President by at least two-thirds of the Members.²¹

Art. 18 The Board convenes a session of the General Assembly. The Board shall ~~[must]~~ give notice of the (1) date, time, and location of the session and (2) the agenda, including any membership applications, amendments to the Constitution, or a motion to dissolve FIAV, to all Members at least three months before the convening [in advance] of the next session.²²

~~[Art. 18] The General Assembly may be called into an emergency session if extraordinary conditions require this, as determined by the Board, or if three-quarters of the Members request this of the Board.]~~²³

V. ADMINISTRATION

Art. 19 (a) The administration of FIAV is entrusted to a Board which acts only by unanimous agreement. The Board is composed of three Officers: the President, the Secretary-General, and the Secretary-General for Congresses.

(b) The Officers ~~[are elected at the end of each session of the General Assembly and]~~ serve a term that commences after [until] the final adjournment [election] of the ~~[new Officers at the next]~~ session of the General Assembly at which they are elected and ends at the final adjournment of the next session at which Officers are elected. The election of Officers shall be on the

¹⁹ Adds Fellows, which were established in 2001.

²⁰ Removes the ability to assess dues, something that was last discussed at GA 14 (1995). That discussion was divisive and unpleasant. At the Second Session of the General Assembly in 1971 the FIAV Board renounced reimbursement for expenses. *See Info-FIAV* no. 14, at p. 23 (July 1999). As a practical matter, collecting dues would be a serious problem, as FIAV is an unincorporated international organization. FIAV Members have made voluntary contributions to assist the Board in paying for the expenses of the FIAV website, awards, et cetera, and the proposed amendment would not affect future voluntary contributions.

²¹ Combines existing articles 17 and 18, defines a General Assembly held at an International Congress of Vexillology as a regular session, requires that the General Assembly hold a session at each International Congress of Vexillology, redefines an emergency session as a special session, changes the minimum requirement for requesting a special session from three-quarters to two-thirds, and requires that a request for a special session be made in writing to the President. FIAV has always held its General Assembly sessions at the International Congresses of Vexillology, and it would be impractical to hold the regular session at some other time and place. The current three-quarters requirement for requesting a special session would be virtually impossible to achieve.

²² Adds a requirement that the Board give notice of date, time, and location of any session (regular or special).

²³ Moved to article 17 and redrafted.

[agenda of each regular session](#). Consent of the candidates for election is required. The Officers are eligible for re-election.²⁴

(c) The Secretary-General and the Secretary-General for Congresses must reside on different continents. The Secretary-General manages the Permanent Secretariat of FIAV and the Secretary-General for Congresses manages the Permanent Secretariat of the International Congresses of Vexillology. The Board is considered to be in continuous session, conducted by correspondence.

(d) A vacancy on the Board occurs if an Officer dies, resigns, or lacks mental capacity under the laws where the Officer resides. Absence of an Officer at a session of the General Assembly creates a vacancy on the Board unless excused by the General Assembly. The resignation of an Officer must be received in writing by another Officer, or if no Officer remains, then by the organizer of the next International Congress of Vexillology. The resignation is effective on the date of its receipt. If a vacancy occurs, the position shall remain vacant and the duties of that Officer shall be performed by the remaining Officers. If no Officer remains to perform the duties of the Board, then the organizer of the next International Congress of Vexillology shall select an interim Secretary-General from among the Fellows of the Federation, if available, who shall have the limited authority to take those acts necessary to convene a session of the General Assembly pursuant to article ~~[47-or]~~ 18 and preside until the General Assembly elects a presiding officer for the remainder of the session. [Neither the interim Secretary-General nor the presiding officer serving under this article shall be considered as a voting Officer under articles 14 and 15.](#)²⁵

Art. 20

The Board:

- (a) manages the current affairs of FIAV and establishes the duties and obligations of its Officers;
- (b) issues directives which it considers necessary to the success of the activities of FIAV, including the International Congresses of Vexillology;
- (c) establishes such Commissions as it deems necessary and appoints Commissioners;
- (d) convenes sessions of the General Assembly pursuant to article~~s~~ [47-and\]](#) 18,²⁶

²⁴ Redrafted to precisely define the term of office for the Board, clarify that the current Officers remain in office if the General Assembly for any reason does not elect new Officers (such as a lack of a quorum) at its regular session, and adds a requirement that the election of Officers be on the agenda of each regular session. The objective of the revised article 19(b) is to require the election of Officers to be on the agenda at each regular session of the General Assembly, but ensure that the Board does not disappear if that election nonetheless does not occur.

²⁵ Removes the reference to article 17 because of the proposed amendments to articles 17 and 18 and clarifies that the only Officers who can vote in the General Assembly are those Officers elected under article 19(a), (b), and (c).

²⁶ Removes the reference to article 17 due to the proposed amendments to articles 17 and 18.

- (e) represents FIAV in its relations with other national and international institutions; and
- (f) manages membership procedures pursuant to article 7 and encourages vexillological associations and institutions to apply for FIAV membership.

Art. 21 FIAV's assent to an agreement imposing a binding obligation on FIAV may only be given by a written document signed by all Officers. Current correspondence may be signed by any single Officer.

VI. LANGUAGES

Art. 22 ~~[The official languages of FIAV and the International Congresses of Vexillology are English, French, German, and Spanish. Other languages may be used when appropriate.] The General Assembly may designate languages for use in FIAV and the International Congresses of Vexillology, taking into consideration the global nature of vexillology and the related practical and economic concerns, but may not require a delegate, applicant, Officer, or Congress attendee to use any specific language.~~²⁷

VII. PUBLICATIONS

Art. 23 (a) FIAV shall publish a newsletter concerning its activities at least once a year for the benefit of its Members, which may be freely reproduced. The General Assembly may initiate or authorize other publications.

(b) ~~[The Flag Bulletin (ISSN 0015-3370) is recognized as a journal for the publication of scientific articles in the field of vexillology.] The Proceedings of the International Congresses of Vexillology shall be published by the Congress organizer(s). Beginning with the Twenty-Ninth International Congress of Vexillology, Congress organizers shall grant a license to FIAV to provide an online version of the Proceedings.~~²⁸

VIII. SYMBOLS

Art. 24 (a) FIAV's flag is described as follows: "On a blue field, extending horizontally from hoist to fly, two yellow halyards forming two interlaced loops." The color blue is defined as Pantone Matching

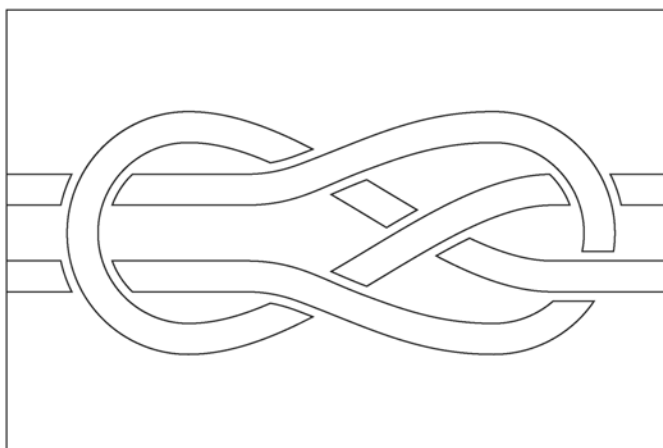
²⁷ FIAV has grown beyond its initial predominately European and North American origins without securing a practical way to provide translation into all the languages of its Members. The last simultaneous translation offered at an International Congress of Vexillology was English to French in Victoria, British Columbia (1999), which was only possible because of a grant from the Canadian government.

Historically the General Assembly has conducted General Assembly sessions in a way that has satisfied the delegates who were present. The proposed amendment to article 22 has been drafted with this historical pragmatism in mind, while recognizing that continuing to list specific languages implies a status that no longer exists as a practical matter and could be considered by some as exclusionary. The proposed amendment recognizes the status quo that has existed for decades and allows the General Assembly to work out this issue at a non-constitutional level.

²⁸ Removes The Flag Bulletin from the Constitution and adds a requirement that beginning with the Twenty-Ninth International Congress of Vexillology, the Congress organizer(s) must grant FIAV a license that will allow FIAV to host a digital version of The Proceedings of the International Congresses of Vexillology on the FIAV website.

The removal of The Flag Bulletin from the Constitution is proposed with the profound gratitude of the FIAV Board for the work of the late FIAV co-Founder Dr. Whitney Smith for publishing over many decades in The Flag Bulletin both the activities of FIAV and many Congress Proceedings.

System U293 and the color yellow is defined as Pantone Matching System U123. The flag ~~[Flag]~~ is illustrated as follows:²⁹



- (b) The General Assembly may ~~[initiate or authorize]~~ adopt Officer flags and other symbols for FIAV.³⁰

IX.

DISSOLUTION

Art. 25

- (a) ~~[A motion to dissolve FIAV may be considered only at a session of the General Assembly at which delegates of at least three-quarters of the Members are present.]~~³¹
- (b) ~~Instead of sending a delegate, a Member may chose to submit to the President a written, notarized statement expressing that Member's vote in favor of, or in opposition to, the motion to dissolve. A Member that submits any such statement shall be considered present at the session for the purpose of determining that the session is constituted to consider a motion to dissolve.~~³²
- (c) The General Assembly may dissolve FIAV and establish~~es~~ the terms of the dissolution.³³
- (b) If the General Assembly does not hold a session at which a quorum is present within six years from the final adjournment of

²⁹ Corrects the capitalization of “flag.”

³⁰ Simplifies the language and recognizes the existing Officer flags that have been adopted.

³¹ It serves no real purpose to require a supermajority quorum to dissolve FIAV. The Constitution can currently be amended by a three-quarters majority vote with a regular quorum, so nothing prevents a General Assembly constituted with a regular quorum from amending article 25 and then proceeding to dissolve FIAV. If there is a three-quarters majority vote to dissolve FIAV (as currently required by article 15(d)) at a General Assembly constituted with a regular quorum, it is fundamentally undemocratic to attempt to stop that. No one is advocating the dissolution of FIAV, but current article 25(a) is unworkable.

³² Current article 25(b) unnecessarily duplicates the provisions of article 14(a).

³³ This redraft states the power that the General Assembly currently has, but in simple terms.

SECTION 2. MISCELLANEOUS.

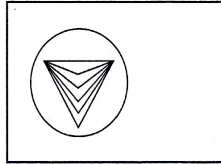
- (a) Severability. Portions of this resolution may be separately considered by the General Assembly, and approved or disapproved individually.
- (b) Font. Additions to the Constitution are indicated by underlining and deletions to the Constitution are indicated by ~~enclosure in brackets and strikeouts~~. If approved, the modified text shall appear in nonunderlined black font without the bracketed and struck-out text, line numbering, and footnotes.
- (c) Comments. Comments to proposed additions or deletions are indicated in footnotes. The comments are provided for explanatory purposes only and do not form part of the proposed amendment.
- (d) Recognition of the historical role of The Flag Bulletin. Adoption of the resolution would not revoke the recognition that has historically been given to The Flag Bulletin.
- (E) Licenses for digital versions of the previous Proceedings. While the General Assembly cannot demand that the organizers of the First through Twenty-Eighth International Congresses of Vexillology grant FIAV licenses to host digital versions of the previous Proceedings, adoption of the resolution authorizes the FIAV Board to request in the General Assembly's name that those organizers grant such licenses.
- (d) Effective date. All portions of this resolution receiving approval shall be effective at the time the General Assembly has concluded its consideration of the entire resolution.

Info-FIAV

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³⁴ This is a self-executing housekeeping provision to dissolve FIAV in the event it has already ceased to exist from a practical standpoint. The purpose this provision would serve is to dissolve the Board, which would otherwise continue to exist if no election was held. No one is suggesting that FIAV should or will dissolve.

PROPOSAL BY THE WORLD VEXILLOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



WORLD VEXILLOLOGICAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SKLENSKÁ 35, 198 00 PRAHA 9
CZECH REPUBLIC, EUROPE

Member of Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques (FIAV)

To
Mr. Charles A. Spain, Jr.
Secretary-General

Prague, 20.5.2016

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am sending you two propositions on Change of Constitution of FIAV

FIAV Changes

Ad 1) I Info-FIAV No. 41, page 30 is following text:

VII. PUBLICATIONS

Art. 23 (a) FIAV shall publish a newsletter concerning its activities at least once a year for the benefit of its Members, which may be freely reproduced. The General Assembly may initiate or authorize other publications.

(b) The Flag Bulletin (ISSN 0015-3370) is recognized as a journal for the publication of scientific articles in the field of vexillology.

The Flag Bulletin is no more edited.

Proposition: To delete this part of CONSTITUTION OF THE FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS VEXILLOLOGIQUES.

Ad 2)

They are existing 3 types of Awards of FIAV.

1. Fellow of the Federation
2. 2) Laureat of the Federation
3. Vexillon

Proposition: With all these three awards can be one person awarded only one time per life.

Reason: In 2015 by International Congress of Vexillology in Sydney, Australia was Mr. Gordon Bromwell awarded by Vexillon in second time. (First time in 1995). It is not good idea that one person receive one award more times.

Sincerely yours

Roman KLIMES
World Vexillological Research Institute

WORLD VEXILLOLOGICAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SKLENSKÁ 35, 198 00 PRAHA 9
CZECH REPUBLIC, EUROPE

**PROPOSAL FROM THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD
TO STUDY SAVA'S PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF
CHRISTOPHER SOUTHWORTH, TERENCE MARTIN, AND ANDRIES BURGERS
TO ADOPT VEXILLOLOGICAL CONVENTIONS FOR FLAG DESCRIPTIONS,
INCLUDING POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE FLAG INFORMATION CODE**

At the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly (Sydney 2015), the Commission delivered its final report, recommending that the General Assembly at its Twenty-Fifth Session in London "vote to take no further action on the Flag Information Code, thus allowing future innovation to occur among the Members of FIAV, rather than by FIAV acting through the General Assembly." (see *Info-FIAV* No. 40, at page 9 (February 2016)).

The Board restates the proposal as follows, "That the General Assembly vote to take no further action on the Flag Information Code, thus releasing it from further control by FIAV and allowing future innovation with the Flag Information Code to occur among the Members of FIAV, rather than by FIAV acting through the General Assembly."

PROPOSAL BY THE FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

March 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

The Flag Research Center asks that the following item be placed on the agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly (London 2017):

That FIAV recognize October 1 as World Vexillology Day, to promote vexillology as defined in the FIAV Constitution, which is "the creation and development of a body of knowledge about flags of all types, their forms and functions, and of scientific theories and principles based on that knowledge."

Very truly yours,

Hugh L. Brady, Director

**PROPOSAL BY NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION-
ASSOCIATION NORD-AMÉRICAIN DE VEXILLOLOGIE**

April 6, 2017

Dear Secretary-General Spain:

As you know, The Best Paper has since its inception in 2005 been sponsored by the North American Vexillological Association-Association nord-américaine de vexillologie. (NAVA). With the passing of Dr. Whitney Smith, the creator of vexillology, the co-founder of FIAV, and the founder of NAVA, NAVA asks that the following motion be placed on the 2017 General Assembly session agenda: "That The Best Paper Award be renamed The Whitney Smith Award."

Very truly yours,

John M. Hartvigsen
President | Président
North American Vexillological Association |
Association nord-américaine de vexillologie

PROPOSAL BY SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



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SOUTH AFRICA

(Fax: +27 11 206-3502)
(e-mail: secretary@savaflags.org.za)
(Website: <http://www.savaflags.org.za>)

A Member of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations

The Secretary General
Fédération internationale des associations vexillogiques

07 April 2017

Dear Sir

RE: GA25 AGENDA ITEM

SAVA wishes to propose the following for inclusion on the agenda of the forthcoming General Assembly:

That the *Best Paper Award* be renamed the **Whitney Smith Award**.

Whitney Smith dedicated his life to the promotion of Vexillology. The re-naming of the award is not only a tribute to his memory, it is also a recognition of the recipient's contribution to maintaining Whitney's legacy and contributing towards a high standard within the discipline.

Yours faithfully

BRUCE BERRY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MAJORITIES

This chart calculates the number of votes required for majorities in the General Assembly, consisting of specified fractions of those Members present and voting (Constitution article 15):

Total Members present and voting	Majority	Two-thirds	Three-fourths
28	15	19	21
29	15	20	22
30	16	20	23
31	16	21	24
32	17	22	24
33	17	22	25
34	18	23	26
35	18	24	27
36	19	24	27
37	19	25	28
38	20	26	29
39	20	26	30
40	21	27	30
41	21	28	31
42	22	28	32
43	22	29	33
44	23	30	33
45	23	30	34
46	24	31	35
47	24	32	36
48	25	32	36
49	25	33	37
50	26	34	38
51	26	34	39
52	27	35	39
53	27	36	40
54	28	36	41
55	28	37	42
56	29	38	42
57	29	38	43
58	30	39	44
59	30	40	45
60	31	40	45

61	31	41	46
62	32	42	47
63	32	42	48
64	33	43	48
65	33	44	49

RULES OF ORDER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Originally published in *Info-FIAV* number 15, at pages 9–11 (November 2000):

REPORT OF THE 1997-1999 FIAV STANDING ORDERS COMMISSION

The standing orders commission was reestablished at ICV 17 (1997) in Cape Town with a membership consisting of Don Healy (continuing), Roman Klimeš, and Ralph Kelly. The commission was charged with the task of reviewing *Bourinot's Rules of Order* (ISSN 0-7710-8336-X), to establish its suitability as a set of rules of order to govern the conduct of FIAV General Assembly sessions. A decision was made in Cape Town to use these Canadian rules on a trial basis during the General Assembly session in Victoria.

The standing orders commission did not have an opportunity to meet prior to this session of the General Assembly due to the unexpected nonattendance of two of its members and, as a statement of fact, the commission members did not undertake correspondence that established a uniform view on these matters. My report, therefore, is, of necessity, an interim one.

Many of the matters contained in *Bourinot's Rules of Order* are addressed in the FIAV Constitution or relate to parliamentary procedures beyond the scope of the needs of the General Assembly. Specifically, the procedures for notices of meetings, attendance quorums, voting majorities, and election of Officers are dealt with adequately in the FIAV Constitution. The order of business is also adequately covered by existing procedures of the FIAV Board.

The areas of useful guidance for the chair of the General Assembly (the FIAV President or another person acting as the President's substitute, with the consent of the General Assembly) relate to the rules concerning debate, motions, amendments, points of order, and questions (*Bourinot's Rules of Order* articles 30 to 50 on pages 42 to 63). These rules appear to conform substantially to the practices that have evolved for conducting General Assembly sessions

The relevant rules, as properly applied to FIAV, can be summarized as follows:

1. A motion must be proposed and seconded at the General Assembly session before it is debated. [Note: The General Assembly should consider dropping the requirement that a motion which has been timely submitted and published in the agenda must still be proposed and seconded at the General Assembly session. Motions already published in the agenda could be considered to have been seconded by a member of the Board.] A motion that is not seconded may not be considered. Once the motion is seconded, the President puts the question of the motion to the General Assembly for debate. If necessary, the President may restate the motion in a formal or more precise style of language. After the President puts the question on the motion for debate, the motion belongs to the General Assembly and may be withdrawn only by the consent of the General Assembly.

2. The delegates of FIAV Members have a right to speak about the motion during debate on the question; however, in order to manage time, the President may limit the number of times each delegate may speak and the length of speeches, as long as any such limitations are uniform. Notwithstanding any such limitations, a delegate may always make a substantive correction of fact or remedy a misquote.

3. A motion to amend a motion currently under consideration (the “main motion”) may be proposed and seconded, and the motion to amend is debatable and must be voted on before the delegates vote on the question of the main motion. More than one motion to amend can be proposed, including a motion to amend the motion to amend. Each motion to amend should be voted on in the order in which it was proposed, except for a motion to amend a motion to amend, which should be voted on immediately before the motion to amend to which it relates.

4. An amendment may alter the intent or effect of the main motion, but the President should reject a motion to amend that would nullify the main motion or a motion to amend that is not relevant to the main motion.

5. Once the question on a main motion has been debated and a vote is conducted, that decision (including any amendments to it) becomes the decision of the General Assembly. Further motions on the same subject matter at the same session of the General Assembly are not in order, unless they were timely submitted and published in the agenda. However, a delegate may make a motion to reconsider (if the original motion failed) or rescind (if the original motion passed).

6. In debates, the President selects from those delegates who indicate a wish to speak and normally there is no mandatory sequence of speakers for or against the motion. Speakers should address the President in making their remarks, even if the speaker wishes to ask a question of another delegate. A speaker has the right to be heard without interruption so long as the speaker’s remarks are relevant to the question under debate and the remarks do not offend propriety. The President can overrule remarks or questions that are not relevant or that offend propriety.

7. If a delegate believes a breach of the rules of order has occurred, the delegate can interrupt debate on the question of a motion by raising a question of privilege. The President must immediately rule on the question of privilege before allowing further debate.

8. The following procedural motions can be made during the debate of the question of a main motion:

(a) Motion to put the question to a vote—must be seconded and is debatable; this motion is used to end debate on the pending motion (which could be a motion to amend the motion) and force a direct vote on the pending motion. If the motion to put the question carries, then the pending motion must be voted on without any further debate or amendment.

(b) Motion to proceed to the next item of business—must be seconded and is not debatable; this motion is used to set aside the question being considered and proceed to the next item on the agenda. Although, the main motion, including, any motions to amend the main motion, is deemed to have failed, further motions on the same subject as the main motion are permissible because there was no vote on the main motion.

(c) Motion to defer the question—must be seconded and is debatable; this motion postpones consideration on the question of the motion (including any motions to amend the motion) to either a specified time (so more urgent business may be conducted) or indefinitely (thus, “killing” the motion). If a motion is deferred indefinitely, then a motion to reconsider the motion to defer must be made, seconded, debated, and carried before the question is reconsidered.

(d) Motion to refer the question to committee (commission)—must be seconded and is debatable; this motion is used when the subject of the motion requires further consideration than can be given at the current General Assembly session.

(e) Motion to adjourn the meeting—must be seconded and is not debatable; if carried, this motion sets aside the question being considered, and when the General Assembly reconvenes, it proceeds to the next item on the agenda. A motion to resume debate on the previous question may be made when the General Assembly reconvenes, and if the motion is seconded and—after debate—is carried, then the General Assembly returns to consider the previous question.

9. The President is responsible for maintaining order during the General Assembly session, both as to proper procedure and decorum. If the President believes that a speaker is out of order, the President should call the speaker to order by simply saying, “Order, please.” The speaker must stop while the President explains the point of order. The President’s ruling on a point of order is not debatable, but may be challenged by a motion to dissent to the ruling of the chair. Such a motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and must be put to a vote immediately. If the motion to dissent to the

ruling of the chair passes, the President's ruling is overturned. If the President is unable to establish order, the President may adjourn the session to a later time or day. The President does not have the authority to discipline or penalize delegates; this may only be done by the General Assembly by a motion, which must be seconded and which is debatable.

10. When all the business of the session has been accomplished and the President is satisfied there is no other business that should be addressed, the President may, on his own authority and without a motion, finally adjourn the session without fixing a time and day for another meeting. If all the business has not been accomplished, the President may suggest that the session be adjourned to a later time or day, but an appropriate motion must be made, seconded, and passed. The President should adjourn the session without a motion if, at the relevant time, a quorum is not present at the session's outset or the quorum is subsequently lost.

11. The minutes should accurately record the actions taken and decisions made at the session. The minutes should not attempt to be a verbatim account of the session, but can include reference to the major issues discussed during debate. The minutes should be complete, clear, and succinct. The minutes should be affirmed at the next session or approved as corrected by an appropriate motion that has been seconded. There should be no debate on the policy or merits of a question dealt with in the minutes, and remarks on the minutes should strictly relate to the alleged error.

On behalf of the commission, I recommend that the General Assembly authorize the standing orders commission to assess whether the use of *Bourinot's Rules of Order* at this General Assembly session was effective in facilitating the efficient, orderly, and fair conduct of the session. If the commission is so continued, it could present an expanded report at the next session on the use of *Bourinot's* and possibly draft a stand-alone set of FIAV rules of order (including, for convenience, relevant provisions of the FIAV Constitution).

Ralph D. Kelly
July 29, 1999

At the Seventeenth Session of the General Assembly (July 23, 2001, York), the General Assembly adopted the following motion, "That *Bourinot's Rules of Order* (ISBN 0-7710-8336-X) be adopted for use on a permanent basis." Published in *Info-FIAV* number 19, at page 12 (August 2001).

UPCOMING DATES

June 15, 2017	Deadline for Members to submit suggestions for Laureate and Fellow recipients to the Secretary-General for consideration by the FIAV Board (send to sec.gen@FIAV.org)
June 30, 2017	Submission of final version of presentation ICV 27 (www.ICV27.co.uk)
August 7–11, 2017	Twenty-Seventh International Congress of Vexillology, London, England, United Kingdom
August 8, 2017	Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly convenes