

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

1. Call to order by the President; official opening of the Twenty-Fifth Session
2. Resignation of SVN (See *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 3 (May 2017).)
3. Verification by the President of written credentials of delegates from FIAV Members
4. Roll call of delegates; recognition of a quorum by the Secretary-General; declaration by the President that the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly is constituted
5. Appointment by the President of tellers to count votes
6. Approval of the minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly held September 1, 2015 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 40, at pages 1–9 (February 2016))
7. Reports by the Board:
 - (a) President. Michel Lupant
 - (b) Secretary-General. Charles Spain
 - (c) Secretary-General for Congresses. Graham Bartram
8. Announcements:
 - (a) Candidates for the FIAV Board
 - (i) President. Michel Lupant is standing for reelection
 - (ii) Secretary-General. Charles Spain is standing for reelection
 - (iii) Secretary-General for Congresses. Graham Bartram is standing for reelection
 - (b) Applicants for FIAV membership: none
 - (c) IVC organizer bids for ICV 29 (2021) as presented at GA 24 (see *Info-FIAV* No. 40, at page 7 (February 2016))
 - (i) GSI (Vexillology Ireland), Dublin (Dún Laoghaire), Ireland.
 - (ii) HS, Ljubljana, Slovenia (see *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 3 (May 2017))
 - (d) Proposals to organize ICV 30 (2023)
9. Report on ICV 28 (San Antonio, 2019) organized by VAST and FRC
10. 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
11. Presentation of certificate to current Members that have been ICV Organizers if publication of the Proceedings has occurred
12. Selection of ICV 29 (2021) organizer
13. Consideration of Board's resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at pages 6–15 (May 2017))
14. Consideration of WVRl's proposed amendments to the Constitution (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 16 (May 2017))
 - (a) "That Constitution article 23(b) be repealed"
 - (b) "That Constitution article 16(e) be amended by adding the following underlined text:

names Laureates of the Federation pursuant to article 13 and awards such other distinctions as it deems appropriate to persons or institutions who have shown particular merit in the field of vexillology (this power may be delegated to the Board),
with the limitation that no individual may receive more than one Laureate,

Fellowship, or Vexillon Award; and"

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)) "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."

16. Consideration of Board's proposed memorial resolution to the family of Whitney Smith:

The General Assembly of the
Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF WHITNEY SMITH

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques honors and commemorates the life of Whitney Smith, who died November 17, 2016, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Smith was born on February 26, 1940, in Arlington, Massachusetts; he developed an interest in flags at the young age of five, and at the age of 17, he coined the term "vexillology," a word now universally used to describe the scholarly study of flags; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith graduated from Harvard College in 1961; he went on to earn both master's and doctoral degrees from Boston University, where he taught for six years; he began publication of *The Flag Bulletin* in 1961, established The Flag Research Center in 1962, was instrumental in convening the First International Congress of Vexillology in The Netherlands in 1965, co-founded the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques in 1967; and established the North American Vexillological Association in 1967 and the Flag Heritage Foundation in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's research took him to more than 50 countries and he acquired the largest collection of printed material on flags in the world, which is today known as the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection and is part of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Smith was the preeminent scholar on the significance of flags, and his work inspired and helped shape countless vexillologists around the globe; he was respected and admired by many, and he leaves behind memories that will long be cherished by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques hereby extend sincere condolences to the family of Whitney Smith; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the General Assembly.

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)): "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.'"

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)) : "That The Best Paper Award be renamed The Whitney Smith Award."

19. Election of 2017–2019 Board

20. Canvas of Members that did not send a delegate for purposes of Constitution article 8

21. Final adjournment of the Twenty-Fifth Session by President

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

Item 3: 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 7: The Board will present oral reports in London.

Item 8(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 8(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" as "The Whitney Smith Award."

Item 21: The Board hopes that the business of the General Assembly can be conducted as efficiently as in recent sessions.

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 Föderation 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

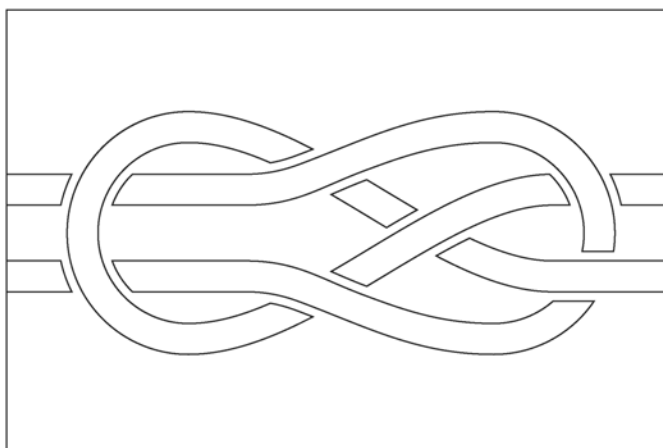
²⁷ FIAV has grown beyond its initial predominately European and North American origins without securing a practical way to provide translation into all the languages of its Members. The last simultaneous translation offered at an International Congress of Vexillology was English to French in Victoria, 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.

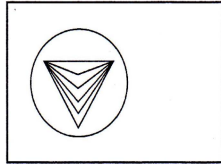
- (a) Severability. Portions of this resolution may be separately considered by the General Assembly, and approved or disapproved individually.
- (b) Font. Additions to the Constitution are indicated by underlining and deletions to the Constitution are indicated by ~~enclosure in brackets and strikeouts~~. 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

Info-FIAV (ISSN 1560-9979) is published by the Permanent Secretariat of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV) and edited by FIAV Secretary-General Charles A. Spain, 504 Branard St., HOUSTON TX 77006-5018, USA, 1 713 248 0416, sec.gen@FIAV.org. *Info-FIAV* is distributed free of charge to each FIAV Member using the Member's e-mail address on file with the Secretary-General. Neither FIAV nor Charles Spain individually claims a copyright in the material appearing in *Info-FIAV*, although material appearing in *Info-FIAV* may be the intellectual property of another person. Subject to such intellectual-property rights, *Info-FIAV* may be freely reproduced. It is the responsibility of each FIAV Member to copy and internally distribute *Info-FIAV* as necessary. Individual subscriptions to *Info-FIAV* are not available.

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 delate 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) Lauretat 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



P O BOX 836
PINEGOWRIE
2123
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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Berry'.

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

Info-FIAV

No. 40, February 2016
ISSN 1560-9979



Fédération internationale
des associations vexillologiques

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

www.FIAV.org

[www.Facebook.com/FIAV.org](https://www.facebook.com/FIAV.org)

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Summary:

- GA 23 minutes approved as amended
- Board has worked to enforce FIAV Constitution article 12(b)
- President discussed problems of public campaigning for fellowships; Board asks any Member which does not trust Board to award Fellows to place issue of direct election of Fellows by General Assembly on agenda for GA 25 in 2017
- Website has been replaced; Board will ask for licenses to host digital copies of the *Proceedings of the International Congresses of Vexillology* on the website
- VAST donated FIAV flag set consisting of organizational and Officer flags
- Expressions of interest in organizing IVC 29 (2021) by GSI for Dún Laoghaire and HS for Ljubljana
- ICV 27 (2017) will be held in London
- Current Board reelected
- No new Members admitted
- Vexillological Conventions for Flag Descriptions Commission concluded its work by recommending that no action be taken and that General Assembly at GA 25 vote to take no further action on the Flag Information Code
- AVS, CFA, CFZ, FRCSL, HAVSOM, IHW, MBV, NFF, NF, PH, PTW, RCVH, SRV, TWMF, UHT, and VSHS did not send a delegate (Constitution article 8(a): "A Member voluntarily resigns if it does not send a delegate to three consecutive sessions of the General Assembly. The resignation is effective at the adjournment of the third consecutive session.")
- AVS, HAVSOM, MBV, NFF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS voluntarily resigned as Members effective at the adjournment of this session
- Awards and honors presented at closing banquet
 - Best Paper Award presented to Anne M. Platoff for "Old Flags, New Meanings" (paper co-authored with Steven A. Knowlton)
 - Vexillon Award presented to Frederick G. Brownell for *Convergence and Unification: The National Flag of South Africa (1994) in Historical Perspective*
 - Fellows of the Federation presented to Anthony C. Burton (COR), Hervé Calvarin, Petr Exner, Edward B. Kaye (COR), Željko Heimer, Gerald Naughton (COR), Theun Okkerse, and Ronald C. Strachan (COR = ICV 26 Congress Organizing Representative)
 - Laureate of the Federation presented to Frederick G. Brownell

IN THIS ISSUE

GA 24 Minutes	1–11
FIAV Board	11
Board Actions	12
Publication of Minutes . . .	13–14
Upcoming Dates	14
Presidency	14
Member Admissions	15

Current Members by Date of Establishment	16
Permanent Secretariat of FIAV	16
Permanent Secretariat of ICVs	16
Officers	17–18
Awards and Honors	18–20

ICVs	21–22
CORs	23
GAs	23
Standard Abbreviations . .	24–25
GA Attendance	26–33
GA Delegates	34–46
GA 24 Credentials	47–89

1. Call to order by the President; official opening of the Twenty-Fourth Session The President, wielding the FIAV Gavel, called the meeting to order on September 1, 2015 at 4:17 p.m. in the Telstra Theatre in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia and officially opened the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

2. Verification by the President of written credentials of delegates from FIAV Members The President verified the written credentials of the following FIAV Members and Applicants:

AAV	Tomás Rodríguez Peñas
ACV	Sebastià Herreros i Agüí
BS	Nicolas Hugot
BHVS	Željko Heimer
BDA	Charles Spain
CEBED	Michel Lupant
CISV	Sebastià Herreros i Agüí
CVS	Josef Hubka
CBFA	John Lowe
GSI	Stanislav Zamyatin
DGF	Andreas Herzfeld
FHF	Scot Guenter
FI	Geoffrey Parsons
FRC	Scot Guenter
FSA	Ralph Kelly
FOTW	Jonathan Dixon
CIDEC	Charles Spain
GWAV	Scot Guenter
HS	Aleksander Hribovšek
HVK	Andreas Herzfeld
HGZD	Željko Heimer
IVA	Shivar Kumar
KVV	Alain Raullet
MZT	Nozomi Kariyasu
MHZ	Željko Heimer
NVvV	Marcel van Westerhoven
NEVA	Edward Kaye
NZFA	John Moody
JAVA	Nozomi Kariyasu
NAVA	Anne Platoff
PFA	Max Liberman

SSV	Michel Lupant
SEV	Tomás Rodríguez Peñas
SVB	Michel Lupant
SGHAPG	Michel Lupant
SFV	Nicolas Hugot
SAVA	Bruce Berry
SCHG	Michel Lupant
SVN	Marcel van Westerhoven
SVPR	Marcel van Westerhoven
SVI	Petr Exner
VAST	Scot Guenter
WVRI	Charles Spain

3. Roll call of delegates; recognition of a quorum by the Secretary-General; declaration by the President that the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly is constituted

The SG called the roll as follows:

Members present (43): AAV, ACV, BS, BHVS, BDA, CEBED, CISV, CVS, CBFA, GSI, DGF, FHF, FI, FRC, FSA, FOTW, CIDECE, GWAV, HS, HVK, HGZD, IVA, KVV, MZT, MHZ, NVvV, NEVA, NZFA, JAVA, NAVA, PFA, SSV, SEV, SVB, SGHAPG, SFV, SAVA, SCHG, SVN, SVPR, SVI, VAST, and WVRI.

Members absent (16): AVS, CFA, CFZ, FRCSL, HAVSOM, IHW, MBV, NFF, NF, PH, PTW, RCVH, SRV, TWMF, UHT, and VSHS.

Officers present (3): Michel R. Lupant, President; Charles A. Spain, Secretary-General (SG); and Graham M.P. Bartram, Secretary-General for Congresses (SGC).

The SG determined that 43 of the 59 Members were present, which satisfied the constitutional requirement that delegates of at least half of the Members be present. The SG recognized the presence of a quorum, and the President declared that the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly was properly constituted.

Because the representatives of 43 Members and three Officers were present for a total of 46 possible votes, the SG reminded the General Assembly that a simple majority vote would require 24 votes, a two-thirds majority vote would require 31 votes, and a three-fourths majority vote would require 35 votes, as long as the persons authorized to exercise the 46 possible votes remained present.

4. Appointment by the President of tellers to count votes The President appointed Ralph Bartlett and Edward Kaye as tellers to count votes.

5. Approval of the minutes of the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly held August 6, 2013 in Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands Moved by the SG, seconded by CEBED, "That the minutes of the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly, as published in published in *Info-FIAV* number 38, at pages 1–8 (July 2015), be amended to change the initial heading from 'MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY' to 'MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY,' and as so amended, that the minutes be approved." Passed by two-thirds majority.

6. Reports by the Board:

(a) President. Michel Lupant—

Dear delegates, dear friends,

I express my gratitude for placing your trust in me to serve as FIAV President for a long time and especially these two last years.

Since Rotterdam the Board has conducted FIAV business. Most of that activity is generally routine in nature, but it was harder these last two years.

I can tell you the collaboration between the Officers is always very great. I have to say to all the delegates at this General Assembly session that if the members of the Board do not always initially agree, they always act agreeably and unanimously when they make a decision. I do not think people fully appreciate how seriously the

members of the Board take the responsibility entrusted to them and the amount of time and money they invest in their duties. The Board's collaboration is very important for the development and the future of FIAV.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Charles and Graham for their excellent work. It is a great honour for me to serve with them. I value highly their friendship and counsel. They are the pillars of FIAV.

If you remember, delegates at the 1995 General Assembly were unhappy with the contentious and never-ending session in Warsaw. Someone asked why should he spend a week of vacation arguing night after night about unnecessary flag politics when he could spend time with his family and friends. I agree with him, why?

The President and the Secretary-General were elected in 1997 and the Secretary-General for Congresses in 1999. The members of the Board accepted their job to conduct FIAV affairs, but the goal was to change the unhappy reality of Warsaw. Since then, the Board has made many difficult decisions that not everyone at the time agreed with, but I believe the Board has the respect of the overwhelming majority of vexillologists for being fair and having strength of purpose and wisdom.

The Board's hard work creates order. The members of the Board do it quietly and not for praise. The members of the Board do it because it is the right thing for FIAV, for the future of the International Congresses of Vexillology, and for vexillology. The members of the Board do it at the expense of their families, friends, jobs, and hobbies.

The past two years have been the most challenging for the Board since it took office in 1997.

The members of the Board have worked quietly and diplomatically to preserve the integrity of the International Congresses of Vexillology. That point is especially important for Congresses like Sydney, but also all FIAV Members benefit from having ICVs that are geographically diverse. I remember that in the FIAV Constitution article 12 it is written that a FIAV Member cannot organize an international vexillological meeting outside of an ICV, with the exception that a Member holding a vexillological meeting in a year in which there is no ICV may invite participation by a Member from a contiguous country. Many words, I know, but this point in the Constitution is very important and the Board has worked quietly to enforce it since Rotterdam.

In the last year there was great pressure placed on the Board due to public campaigning for FIAV awards, particularly for designation of Fellows. I was very sad.

The Board receives letters from some FIAV Members to nominate individuals especially in recognition for service to FIAV or to a FIAV Member, and it is very important that FIAV Members nominate such persons. Those nominations have always been confidential and must be in the future if the Board is to continue determining who is to be awarded a Fellowship. This protects the nominee and the integrity of the selection process.

If the General Assembly wants a public selection process, then the Board believes that the selection process should occur in the General Assembly session so that it is fully transparent, not in e-mail campaigns. The Board asks that any Member which does not trust the Board to award Fellows should place the issue of direct election of Fellows by the General Assembly on the agenda for GA 25 in 2017.

If the selection process remains with the Board, then the Members and their delegates must trust the Board to do the right thing.

For years the Board has done its best to award Fellowships following the wishes of Members, but if some Members are very active in that way, others are sleeping, and it is unfortunately not always the case that each of those nominations gives specific reasons for the nomination. The members of the Board have also done their best to award Fellowships in such a way as to recognize the size and diversity of FIAV Members.

The Board does not expect everyone to agree on everything the Board does, but it is critical that we trust each other to do what is best for FIAV. Without that basic trust, the Board cannot continue to function.

The members of the Board have asked for trust in the past two years, but there has been great difficulty because the Board has been unwilling to compromise the confidentiality of awarding Fellowships, and the Board's actions have been questioned.

At the last Congress, there was a controversy caused by the loss of an e-mail about a Fellow nomination dated August 5, 2012 from two individuals, which was sent to me but not sent to the Secretary-General. Because I received the e-mail a long time before Rotterdam, the e-mail was forgotten and the Secretary-General never knew about it. When discussing nominations for Fellows before Rotterdam, the members of the Board either did not

know or had forgotten about the 2012 e-mail, and there was no nomination from a FIAV Member. In August 2013 I apologized to the two individuals who sent the 2012 e-mail. Just after the Rotterdam Congress, the Board decided to treat the 2012 letter from the two individuals as a nomination from a FIAV Member and unanimously voted to award in Sydney the Fellowship in controversy.

The Board has made it clear in *Info-FIAV* number 32, page 16 that the three Congress Organizing Representatives will be considered for Fellowships for service to FIAV. I will ask Graham to speak more about this in his report.

The Board also wanted to maintain the confidentiality of the nominations as has always happened since 2001 when the Board suggested the idea of Fellows. I ask the delegates of the Members present at this General Assembly session to respect the current process, and I tell you that the current Fellowship controversy was resolved in Fall 2013, making this whole unfortunate situation completely unnecessary. The Board has given timely explanations, but was still criticized.

I also have to tell you that we are all friends and all volunteers. We do not have to agree all the time, but we must at least all try to be civil and have respect for each other.

Since my election in Cape Town, my objective was to make FIAV more known, and I think it is always a success. Between Rotterdam and Sydney I have visited 9 countries in 3 continents. I did all my best to meet vexillologists, to participate at association meetings, and to meet public officials. It was not so easy as in the past.

I was present at the General Assembly of the French Association in Paris 2015 to celebrate their twentieth anniversary.

In Albania, Belgium, Cuba, France, Iran, Italy (Puglia region), Montenegro, Portugal (Madeira), and Russia (Moscow, Tatarstan, Ekaterinburg, Buriatia, and Siberia), I purchased information on flags and had contact with local people.

Only two associations have applied this year for FIAV membership, and one has withdrawn its application.

There are also vexillologists in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Pakistan, Serbia, Thailand, Uruguay, and probably in other countries. I hope some new vexillological associations will be created in the near future.

It is the evidence that vexillology is well alive.

It is necessary to develop the promotion of vexillology as the scientific study of flags, bringing into closer cooperation people interested in all aspects of flags. I have worked within the Board in that direction.

Je souhaite la bienvenue à Sydney à tous nos amis de la francophonie : de Belgique, de Bretagne, du Canada, de France, et de Suisse. C'est un plaisir pour moi et pour tout le bureau de la FIAV de les accueillir. Je leur souhaite un agréable séjour. Je leur souhaite des discussions franches et captivantes, je leur souhaite de découvrir ces richesses vexillologiques qui transparaîtront dans les nombreuses lectures qui nous seront proposées.

Le deseo la bienvenida a todos los amigos de la Hispanidad especialmente los amigos de España, y de America Latina. Le deseo una agradable estancia en la ciudad de Sydney y espero que podrán cambiar y descubrir muchas nuevas informaciones sobre las banderas.

Um alle meine deutschsprachigen Freunde aus Deutschland und der Schweiz willkommen zu heissen. Ich wünsche ihnen einen angenehmen Aufenthalt in Sydney. Ich hoffe dass sie interessante Vorträge hören und an lebhaften Diskussionen teilnehmen werden.

I wish you a good General Assembly!

(b) Secretary-General. Charles Spain—

Dear delegates and friends,

My friend Tony Burton recently and affectionately addressed me as “Sir Kin of Spock,” a reference to the 1960s television character. And like Mr. Spock, I can appear unemotional and logical, which is how I have always delivered my report to the General Assembly. And so I tell you that the Federation, with its current 59 Members, is well, if not completely tranquil.

As promised, the dated website FIAV.org has finally been replaced and is a work in progress. I will spare you the travails in getting this done, but will happily explain later over a drink in a bar.

For a very long time Jon Radel has hosted the website and Officer e-mail addresses. He also had the foresight to reserve the domain name FIAV.org before any of the rest of us thought about it. VAST has generously provided financial assistance with the website's revision, and Graham Bartram has drawn the vector art for the Congress flags. I thank them all.

I will be adding more material to the website and formatting the existing material. There is a place for the flag art of each FIAV Member, which I will be asking you to supply. The Board will also be asking for a license to host digital copies of the *Proceedings of the International Congresses of Vexillology* on the FIAV website.

Three issues of *Info-FIAV* (numbers 37, 38, and 39) have been produced and distributed in the past two years. All of the back issues of *Info-FIAV* are available on the FIAV website.

You see behind us a wonderful set of FIAV flags—both organizational and for each Officer. I thank Graham Bartram for drawing them and for working with me across the Big Pond with fabric swatches so that we could translate Pantone numbers into the practical reality of textiles. It was a lot of work. Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co.—one of our corporate sponsors of ICV 28 in San Antonio in 2019—made the flags, and I thank Pete Van de Putte for doing that at a substantial discount. VAST purchased the flags and donated them to FIAV. Sixteen years after the General Assembly adopted the late William Crampton's designs for the Officer flags, we finally have a full-sized set!

FIAV had to replenish its supply of presentations folders because of all the certificates the Board has handed out beginning in 2011. VAST also provided the money to purchase a supply that will hopefully last for more than a decade. Between the website, flags, and presentation folders, VAST has donated in excess of US\$5,000. It takes money to run FIAV, and there is no treasury. The Board pays from the wallets of the Officers, so VAST's assistance is greatly appreciated.

Other than correspondence regarding membership and awards, the Board has received little else. Quiet is good.

Now I would like to make some comments from the emotional side of my human-Vulcan personality. My first Congress was Warsaw in 1995 at the request of my friend and mentor Whitney Smith, FIAV's co-founder. Warsaw was the site of many contentious nights spent in the General Assembly. While I participated fully in that process, I left wanting something better for FIAV. Along with my friends Michel Lupant and Bruce Berry, we were elected in 1997 with a purpose to stress unity and friendship. My friend Graham Bartram joined the Board in 1999. I value my colleagues' wisdom and friendship more than they know.

What we do on the Board, we do as a group, and a great wisdom comes from that collaboration that none of us individually possesses. It is an honor to serve with Michel and Graham, and I thank them publicly with all my heart. You are my friends, and I treasure that.

When I come to International Congresses of Vexillology, I see snapshots of all of you, my friends, in two-year intervals. I may see you at every Congress, or only once a decade. As I grow older, I realize how lucky I am to have these opportunities. And as the person in FIAV who collects the names of our friends and colleagues who are now forever absent, I feel the loss of their presence. I miss John Purcell, as I do so many others. While we all know our time is limited, it is hard to accept.

We do what we do in vexillology because we love flags, we love exploring why people will fight and die for flags, and we treasure the friendships we have from the company of our fellow travelers.

So I thank you for the honor of serving as your Secretary-General, a position my friend Whitney Smith held. I also thank you as either old friends or new ones. My hope is that our differences are respectful and over matters of substance, and that when all is done, we are still friends with a common purpose.

Napoleon said, "C'est avec ces hochets qu'on mène les hommes"—"It is with these things that men are led." What a privilege it is to study these extraordinary objects that reflect the values of the people who created them.

So to embrace the personality that Tony has accurately accused me of having, Live long and prosper.

Dear delegates and friends,

I'd like to start by thanking the Flag Society of Australia for organizing this Congress and having us as guests. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into organizing a Congress, and only those who have done so truly appreciate that. So I would like to thank the organizing committee in particular, Ralph Kelly, Ralph Bartlett, Tony Burton, Ted Kaye, and Gerald Naughton.

The *Proceedings* of Rotterdam are due to be published shortly after this Congress. I'd like to thank the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde for all the work in getting them ready, especially Marcel van Westerhoven for editing them. Until you have tried to turn people's presentations and slides into a coherent set of proceedings, it is difficult to understand just how much work is involved!

On future Congresses, The Flag Institute is organizing ICV 27 in 2017 in London, UK, and the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas is organizing ICV 28 in 2019 in San Antonio, Texas, USA. At this General Assembly we have two expressions of interest in organizing ICV 29 in 2021: from the Irish (Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann Teoranta / Genealogical Society of Ireland) and the Slovenes (Heraldica Slovenica). The decision on ICV 29 will need to be taken at the General Assembly in London as both the bids arrived too late to be included on the agenda for this session. The French (Société française de vexillologie) have expressed an interest in organizing ICV 31 in 2025.

We still need an organizer for ICV 30 in 2023, so get your thinking caps on. I am happy to discuss organizing a Congress with any FIAV Member, and of course you have lots of time. There are plenty of organizations out there that were created specifically to bring congress business to their country or city. Often the help they give is free of charge. If you are thinking of organizing a Congress then please consider using them. The Flag Institute used London Partners to help find a new venue for ICV 27 when the original venue fell through, and it didn't cost a penny.

Michel has asked me to address the question of Congress Organizing Representatives. The FIAV Board created these roles in 2011 to address the situation in which there are multiple organizations organizing a Congress, and limiting the number of people who communicate with FIAV to three was a sensible measure to make life easier. The Board also decided that this was a way of the Congress Organizers informing FIAV who the main people doing the work were, and as such the Board would normally award the three Congress Organizer Representatives a fellowship at the end of the Congress for service to FIAV. The policy was also written to encourage prompt publication of the *Proceedings*.

I should note that we are trying to embrace modern technology. If you are interested in attending a future ICV, please sign up on FIAV's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FIAV.org/app/100265896690345/>).

Finally I'd like to thank my fellow Board members, Michel and Charles, for their help and support over the past two years. It makes a lot of difference to how difficult it is to do this job if you have colleagues who you can get on with.

Thank you.

7. Announcements:

(a) Candidates for the FIAV Board

- (i) President. Michel Lupant announced his candidacy for reelection.
- (ii) Secretary-General. Charles Spain announced his candidacy for reelection.
- (iii) Secretary-General for Congresses. Graham Bartram announced his candidacy for

reelection.

(b) Applicants for FIAV membership (arranged in order membership applications were received):

- (i) สมาคมชัยวิทยาแห่งประเทศไทย

(Samakom Touchchavittaya Hangprathedthai) (TVA) Thai Vexillological Association (received August 21, 2014; withdrawn June 2, 2015) (see *Info-FIAV* number 39, at page 10 (July 2015) and *Info-FIAV* number 37, at page 2 (July 2015)).

(ii) Australian Flag Society (AFS) (received January 26, 2015) (see *Info-FIAV* number 37, at pages 2–4 and 8–88 (July 2015)). No representative present.

(c) IVC 29 (2021) organizer expressions of interest

- (i) GSI (Vexillology Ireland) discussed organizing the Congress in Dún Laoghaire.
- (ii) HS discussed organizing the Congress in Ljubljana.

8. Report on ICV 27 (London, 2017) organized by FI FI reported that ICV 27 has been moved from Greenwich to London. The venue is Imperial College, and the dates are August 7–11, 2017. More information is available at the Congress website www.ICV27.co.uk.

9. Report on ICV 28 (San Antonio, 2019) organized by VAST VAST submitted the following report:

24th Session of the General Assembly
Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE
28th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY**

Mr. President, Messrs. Secretaries-General, Delegates:

I am pleased to report that planning for HEMISFLAG, the 28th International Congress of Vexillology in San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A., is proceeding according to the initial schedule set by the organizing commission established by the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas, selected by the General Assembly at its 23rd Session in Rotterdam, as the Organizer of this Congress. Current members of the commission are Hugh L. Brady FF; James T. Liston; Charles A. Spain WSF; and H.P. (Pete) Van de Putte, Jr. CFEE FVAST.

The Congress is tentatively scheduled for 14–19 July 2019. The North American Vexillological Association-Association nord-américaine de vexillologie has tentatively agreed to hold its 53d annual meeting concurrently with the Congress.

The organizing commission will be preparing a budget for consideration by the VAST board of directors in 2016. Major venues have been identified and contracts will be let as needed to secure venue space. Currently, the St. Anthony Hotel has been identified as both the Congress hotel and as the venue for Congress plenary sessions, including the 26th Session of the General Assembly. The traditional tour will likely take place on Wednesday, 17 July, and will feature travel to Austin, Texas, the home of the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection at the Briscoe Center for American History on the campus of The University of Texas.

A call for papers will be issued in September 2017 and will be reviewed by a scientific committee that will be named at that time. The proceedings will likely be printed as a special issue of *The Flag Bulletin*. A proceedings editor will be named at the same time as the scientific committee is named.

We will report again on the status of HEMISFLAG at the General Assembly's 25th Session in London.

Respectfully submitted,

Scot M. Guenter Ph.D. LF FF WSF FVAST
Delegate for the
Vexillological Association of the State of Texas

(WSF = Whitney Smith Fellow, CFEE = Certified Festival and Event Executive, and FVAST = Fellow of the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas)

10. Election of 2015–2017 Board Moved by SAVA, seconded by DGF, "That Michel Lupant, Charles Spain, and Graham Bartram be reelected as President, Secretary-General, and Secretary-General for Congresses, respectively." Passed by simple majority (acclamation).

11. Report on status of ICV 25 *Proceedings* from NVvV, SVN, and SVPR NVvV, SVN, and SVPR submitted the following report:

As you may have read or heard by now, I have good news and bad news concerning the publication of the *Proceedings of the Twenty-Fifth International Congress of Vexillology*. The good news is that the work on them is almost finished and they are ready for publication on a compact disc. The bad news is that we could not finish publication before the start of the Sydney Congress.

For the last half year, the ICV 25 program committee has been working very hard to get the *Proceedings* in order and publish them. Theun Okkerse and I are the two who do the lion's share of this job. For the last two years, we have been very aware that we still have an obligation to the vexillological world in general and to the

participants and speakers in particular. So half a year ago, we committed ourselves to making every effort to publish before the start of the Sydney Congress.

We had to do a lot of editing, as we chose to give the articles a uniform layout style which we think is pleasing to the eye and ensures readability. This summer, the galley proofs were all sent to the authors and nearly of them replied. The amount of corrections that we have to make is manageable, but still quite extensive. This September, the necessary corrections and approvals to the papers will be made. After I return from Australia, I can do the final checks together with the other members of the program committee and arrange for the final publication and distribution of the compact discs. Our new target for publication is October.

We apologize for the delay, ask for a little more your patience, and hope you will trust that the *Proceedings* are imminent. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcel van Westerhoven

12. Report of 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 (see original proposal at *Info-FIAV* number 22, at pages 12–15 (July 2007)) The FIAV Board in 2007 originally appointed a commission to address this proposal, and the commission is currently composed of Graham Bartram, chair; Željko Heimer; and Charles Spain. The SGC, as chair of the commission, gave the commission's final report. After much discussion and reflection, the commission concluded its work by making two recommendations. First, the commission recommends that no action be taken on the proposal as FIAV Members are in a better position to take action either by themselves or by collaborating with one another. Second, the commission recommended 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.

13. Consideration of applicant AFS for membership No representative was present. The Board did not recommend AFS's admission (see *Info-FIAV* number 37, at page 5 (July 2015)), and the President did not solicit a motion on the application.

14. Canvas of Members that did not send a delegate for purposes of Constitution article 8 The SG confirmed that the following Members did not send a delegate to the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly: AVS, CFA, CFZ, FRCSL, HAVSOM, IHW, MBV, NFF, NF, PH, PTW, RCVH, SRV, TWMF, UHT, and VSHS.

The Members without a delegate for three consecutive General Assembly sessions are AVS, HAVSOM, MBV, NFF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS. These Members will voluntarily resign as Members effective at the adjournment of this session.

The Members without a delegate for two consecutive General Assembly sessions are FRCSL and NF. Any of these Members that do not send a delegate to the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly will voluntarily resign as a Member effective at the adjournment of the Twenty-Fifth Session (2017).

The Members without a delegate for only one General Assembly session are CFA, CFZ, IHW, PH, PTW, RCVH, and UHT. Any of these Members that do not send a delegate to the next two consecutive General Assembly sessions, i.e., no delegate at both the Twenty-Fifth and Twenty-Sixth Sessions, will voluntarily resign as a Member effective at the adjournment of the Twenty-Sixth Session (2019).

15. Final adjournment of the Twenty-Fourth Session by President With no further business pending, the President adjourned the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly with a loud bang of the FIAV Gavel at 5:40 p.m. without fixing a time and day for another meeting of the session, noting with approval that the session lasted for only one hour and twenty-three minutes. As a consequence, Asociación Venezolana de Simbología VENEZIMBOL, The Heraldry and Vexilology Society of Malta, Mauritius Buch Verlag GmbH, National Flag Foundation, Societatea Română de Vexilologie, Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags, and Västra Sveriges Heraldiska Sällskap voluntarily resigned as Members, reducing the number of FIAV Members to 52.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles A. Spain
FIAV Secretary-General
Houston, February 4, 2016