

**Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques
Permanent Secretariat of the Federation**

Please send any corrections, additions, or other comments to the Secretary-General at sec.gen@fiav.org before January 23, 2018

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

Summary:

- Resignation of SVN announced, reducing number of FIAV Members to 51
- GA 24 minutes approved
- No applicants for FIAV membership
- GSI withdrew its bid to organize ICV 29 (2021)
- Expression of interest in organizing ICV 30 (2023) for Beijing
- ICV 28 (2019) will be held in San Antonio and co-organized by VAST and FRC
- ICV 25 *Proceedings* (Rotterdam 2013) are published
- ICV 26 *Proceedings* (Sydney 2015) are pending publication
- HS selected to organize ICV 29 (2021) in Ljubljana
- Board's proposed amendments to FIAV Constitution approved as amended:
 - Removed official translations of FIAV name (English, German, and Spanish)
 - Changed one of FIAV's four purposes from "sanction international standards" to "recognize international standards"
 - Changed notice of Board recommendation on membership application from three months to one month, and authorized Board to make no recommendation on membership application
 - Replaced requirement of "autochthonous" representative of membership applicant to requirement that "representative must serve an active role in conducting the applicant's affairs" unless excused by General Assembly
 - Replaced requirement for association applicant to have minimum of five "dues-paying members" to have minimum of five "active members"
 - Added registration of institutional representatives at ICVs to membership application factors
 - Clarified that Member's nonattendance at special session does not invoke voluntary-resignation provision
 - Allowed Board to require Member to provide written response to potential violation of article 11 and allowed Member to participate in any vote to remove it from FIAV
 - Changed definition of Laureates of the Federation to persons who have made outstanding original contributions to the science of vexillology
 - Added definition of Fellows of the Federation
 - Changed voting majorities in General Assembly from fractions of "Members present and voting" to fractions of "Members and Officers present"

- Clarified that voting majority to excuse Officer's absence is same as for Officer's election
- Removed General Assembly's ability to assess dues from Members
- Combined articles 17 and 18, defined General Assembly held at ICV as "regular session," required General Assembly to be held at each ICV, redefined "emergency session" as "special session," changed minimum requirement for requesting special session from three-quarters to two-thirds, and required that request for special session be made in writing to President
- Added requirement that Board give notice of date, time, and location of any session (regular or special)
- Redrafted article 19(b) to precisely define term of office for Board, clarified that current Officers remain in office if for any reason General Assembly does not elect new Officers at its regular session, and added requirement that election of Officers be on agenda of each regular session.
- Clarified that only Officers who can vote in General Assembly are those Officers elected under article 19(a), (b), and (c)
- Removed official languages (English, French, German, and French), and allowed General Assembly to designate languages for use in FIAV and ICVs, while prohibiting requiring delegate, applicant, Officer, or Congress attendee to use any specific language
- Removed *The Flag Bulletin* from Constitution and added requirement that beginning with ICV 29, Congress organizer(s) must grant FIAV license to host digital version of ICV *Proceedings* on FIAV website
- Recognized Officer flags
- Removed requirement that three-quarters of FIAV Members be present to consider motion to dissolve FIAV
- Provided for dissolution of FIAV if no General Assembly session is held with quorum present within six years from adjournment of previous session
- Continued recognition that has historically been given to *The Flag Bulletin*, but not as part of FIAV Constitution
- Authorized FIAV Board to request in General Assembly's name that organizers of ICV 1–28 grant FIAV licenses to host digital version of ICV *Proceedings* on FIAV website
- Voted to take no further action on Flag Information Code, releasing it from further control by FIAV and allowing future innovation with Code to occur amongst FIAV Members
- Adopted memorial resolution in memory of Whitney Smith
- Recognized October 1 as World Vexillology Day, to promote vexillology as defined in FIAV Constitution
- Renamed Best Paper Award as The Whitney Smith Award
- Current Board reelected
- CFA, CFZ, FRCSL, IVA, and MZT did not send a delegate (Constitution article 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.")
- FRCSL voluntarily resigned as Member effective at adjournment of this session,

reducing number of FIAV Members to 50

- Awards and honors presented at closing banquet:
 - The Whitney Smith Award presented to Rachel Phelan for "What's Up with the Bug Green Flag? The Conservation of the Flag of the Irish Republic"
 - Vexillon Award presented to Pierre-Jean Guionin for "Album des pavillons nationaux et des marques distinctives"
 - Fellows of the Federation presented to Roger Baert, Katheryn Kearney (COR), Kenneth W. Reynolds, Maggie Sumner (COR), and Leigh Wetherall (COR) (COR = ICV 27 Congress Organizing Representative)
 - Laureate of the Federation presented to Željko Heimer

1. Call to order by the President; official opening of the Twenty-Fifth Session

The President, wielding the FIAV Gavel, called the meeting to order on August 8, 2017 at 4:50 p.m. in the Huxley Building of Imperial College in South Kensington, London, England, United Kingdom and officially opened the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

2. Resignation of SVN The President announced his March 12, 2017 receipt of the Stichting Vlaggenmuseum Nederland's letter of resignation. Pursuant to FIAV Constitution article 8(b), the resignation is effective on the date of its receipt, reducing the number of FIAV Members to 51. See *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 4 (May 2017).

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

AAV	Gustav Tracchia
ACV	Sebastià Herreros I Agüí
BS	Marco Mecacci
BHVS	Stoyan Antonov
BDA	Charles Spain
CEBED	Rudi Longueville
CISV	Roberto Breschi
CVS	Aleš Brožek
CBFA	Gustav Tracchia
GSI	Stanislav Zamyatin
DGF	Falko Schmidt
FHF	Anne Platoff

FI	John Hall
FRC	Scot Guenter
FSA	Ralph Kelly
FOTW	Rob Raeside
CIDEC	Gustav Tracchia
GWAV	Kevin Harrington
HS	Aleksander Hribovšek
HVK	Roman Klimeš
HGZD	Željko Heimer
IHW	Alfred Znamierowski
KVV	Alain Raullet
MHZ	Stoyan Antonov
NVvV	Marcel van Westerhoven
NEVA	Edward Kaye
NZFA	Ralph Bartlett
JAVA	Edward Kaye
NF	Rold Lindquist
NAVA	John Hartvigsen
PH	Michel Lupant
PTW	Alfred Znamierowski
PFA	Max Liberman
RCVH	Victor Lomantsov
SSV	Emil Dreyer
SEV	Tomás Rodríguez Peñas
SVB	Roger Baert
SGHAPG	Michel Lupant
SFV	Hervé Calvarin

SAVA	Bruce Berry
SCHG	Mamuka Gongadze
SVPR	Marcel van Westerhoven
SVI	Aleš Brožek
UHT	Roman Klimeš
VAST	Hugh Brady
WVRI	Roman Klimeš

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

The SG called the roll as follows:

Members present (46): AAV, ACV, BS, BHVS, BDA, CEBED, CISV, CVS, CBFA, GSI, DGF, FHF, FI, FRC, FSA, FOTW, CIDEK, GWAV, HS, HVK, HGZD, IHW, KVV, MHZ, NVVV, NEVA, NZFA, JAVA, NF, NAVA, PH, PTW, PFA, RCVH, SSV, SEV, SVB, SGHAPG, SFV, SAVA, SCHG, SVPR, SVI, UHT, VAST, and WVRI.

Members absent (5): CFA, CFZ, FRCSL, IVA and MZT.

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 46 of the 51 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-Fifth Session of the General Assembly was properly constituted.

Because the representatives of 46 Members and three Officers were present for a total of 49 possible votes, the SG reminded the General Assembly that a simple majority vote would require 25 votes, a two-thirds majority vote would require 33 votes, and a three-fourths majority vote would require 37 votes, as long as the persons authorized to exercise the 49 possible votes remained present.

5. Appointment by the President of tellers to count votes The President appointed Andreas Herzfeld and Ian Sumner as 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 Moved by the SG, seconded by SSV, "That the minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly, as published in published in *Info-FlAV* No. 40, at pages 1–9 (February 2016), be approved." Passed (majority = two-thirds).

7. 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 these two last years.

I have to pay my duty to the memory of Dr. Whitney Smith who died November 17 in 2016. He was one of the founders of FIAV, but he was mainly a kind of father in vexillology for many of us. His *Flags Through the Ages and Across the World* published in 1975 was the first important scholarly flag book.

We are in 2017 and it is a great pleasure for the Board of FIAV to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of FIAV on September 3, 1967 at the Second International Congress of Vexillology held in Zürich, Switzerland and, the 50th anniversary of the FIAV flag, designed by Klaes Sierksma, which was first hoisted during ICV 2 on Sunday, September 3, 1967, at the Institute Gottlieb Duttweller Rüschnikon (Zürich). We also celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Info-FIAV*, which as first published in May 1987.

Since Sydney the Board has conducted FIAV's business. Most of that activity is routine in nature, but we have spent a lot of time. I can tell you the collaboration between the Officers is always very great. That collaboration is of a great interest for the development and the future of FIAV. We work by consensus, and our discussions are always filled with a great cordiality that creates a great wisdom.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Charles and Graham for their excellent work. It is a great honor for me to work with them.

Since my election in Cape Town, my objective is to make FIAV more known, and I think it is always a success. Between Sydney and London I visited 11 countries in 3 continents. I did all my best to meet vexillologists, to participate in association meetings, to meet local authorities, and to research information in museums or archives. It was not so easy as in the past.

In Australia (mainly Tasmania and Queensland), Norfolk Island, I met the president of the society of descendants of Pitcairn Settlers, who have adopted their own flag in November 1985, a red civil ensign with the Norfolk pine as a badge. In Timor-Leste I saw only the national and political-party flags flying, not district flags as published on the Internet. In Thailand I received a friendly welcome by the president of the Thailand Vexillological Association, who is here at the London Congress, and I saw the Siam flag museum. I also visited Italy (Piedmont, Liguria, and the Principality of Seborga), the autonomous republic of Abkhazeti within Georgia (Batumi), and Iceland.

I was present in Paris at the 2016 and 2017 general assemblies of the Société française de vexillologie. In July 2016 I was a flag bearer at the Ommegang parade in Brussels, which commemorates the joyful entry of Emperor Charles V in Brussels in 1549. I was in Ustí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic at the 2016 national congress of Česká vexilologická společnost. I was in Tbilisi for the first national conference of vexillology and heraldry organized by the საქართველოს პარლამენტთან არსებული ჰერალდიკის სახელმწიფო საბჭო / State Council of Heraldry at the Parliament of Georgia. I was the guest of honor in Bern on May 6, 2017 at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Fahnen- und Flaggenkunde / Société Suisse de Vexillologie / Società Svizzera di Vexillologia, and I thank its President, Emil Dreyer.

No associations have applied this year for FIAV membership, but I know of vexillologists in Brazil, China, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia, Thailand, and Uruguay. The Board is working with the Chinese to organize a

vexillological association or institution that will apply for FIAV membership, and I hope more vexillological associations or institutions will be created in the near future and apply.

It is the evidence that vexillology is alive and well. It is necessary for FIAV to promote vexillology, bringing into closer cooperation people interested in all aspects of flags. I have worked in that direction.

Je souhaite la bienvenue à Londres 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 América Latina. Le deseo una agradable estancia en la ciudad de Londres 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 London. Ich hoffe dass sie interessante Vorträge hören und an lebhaften Diskussionen teilnehmen werden.

I hope the discussions will be fair and respectful of each other. I remind delegates of the requirement that a motion be seconded and that during the General Assembly, only a delegate or Officer has the right to speak and vote.

I wish you a good General Assembly!

(b) Secretary-General. Charles Spain—

Dear delegates and friends,

I must begin by thanking my fellow Board members Michel and Graham.

The 1995 General Assembly in Warsaw is ancient history for most of you, but it was my first Congress, and the General Assembly session was long, unpleasant, and chaotic, conducted over four days, likely the longest session in FIAV's history. Michel and I ran for the Board in 1997, and each of us was motivated to do so in large part to try to bring order out of chaos. Bruce Berry joined us in 1997, with Graham stepping into Bruce's position in 1999. The General Assembly session in 1999 was conducted over two days. Each session since 1999 has been completed on the day it began. For two decades this Board has worked tirelessly to promote vexillology, expand the geographic reach of the Congresses, recognize the accomplishments of deserving individual vexillologists, modernize communications and procedures, and—most of all—emphasize civility, respect, and friendship in the pursuit of our common goal. Some of our work, such as constitutional reform, has been slow and deliberate. We have resolved the issue of inactive Members without resorting to contentious votes to remove Members. By their dedication and hard work Michel, Graham, our friend Bruce, and many others have changed the culture in FIAV, such that most of you don't remember what Warsaw was like. That is a good thing.

So, again, I thank my friends Michel and Graham. When I tell you every two years that we do not always initially agree with each other, I am serious. But we work it out because our cordial and collegial relationship leads us to consensus decisions with which each of us is comfortable. Michel and Graham come to serve, and their service honors FIAV.

For the first time since 2009, the Board has proposed amendments to the FIAV Constitution for consideration by this session of the General Assembly. This proposal is the result of the Board's experience over many years and reflects a desire not to fiddle with the Constitution every session. Much of what is proposed is nonsubstantive and an attempt to conform the Constitution with longstanding practice. The Board believes that procedure in the

General Assembly should be fair, simple, and transparent, and to the extent that we are not literally following the Constitution, that must be resolved going forward.

As I always do, I thank Jon Radel for having the foresight to reserve the domain www.fiav.org back when none of the rest of us knew what the Internet was. And I can report that the information on the FIAV website, especially Member information, has been updated. It is not the purpose of FIAV to compete with FIAV Members in advancing the work of vexillology, but the FIAV website should be a resource where people can find FIAV Members and have access to information about FIAV. That is my goal with the website. Finally, my thanks to the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas for its financial support of FIAV in the past biennium. Whitney Smith told me 20 years ago that a privilege of serving on the Board was paying for FIAV's expenses from the wallets of the Board members. VAST's help is appreciated.

Four issues of *Info-FIAV* (numbers 40, 41, 42, and 43) were produced and distributed in the last two years, that included a listing of current Members analyzed by territory, an obituary of Whitney Smith, and a people index covering 52 years. That index sounded like a good idea to me, but compiling it caused me to have other thoughts. In any event, it is done. And regarding the death of FIAV co-founder Whitney Smith, I will save my comments for the memorial service on Thursday.

On behalf of the Board, I have received very little correspondence in the past two years apart from some proposed amendments to the FIAV Constitution. I would like to believe that the lack of correspondence is due to the fact that people are generally pleased with the direction the Board and FIAV have taken, but perhaps that is not as true this year. I am aware that some are concerned with the cost and venues of the Congresses, but if FIAV is to be truly international, then we cannot limit our meeting to Europe and North America.

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.

Live long and prosper.

(c) Secretary-General for Congresses. Graham Bartram—

Dear delegates and friends,

I'd like to start by thanking my colleagues in the Flag Institute for all the work they have put into organizing this Congress. It has been great to work with such an enthusiastic team. In particular I would like to thank the three Congress Organizing Representatives: Maggie Sumner, Leigh Weatherley, and Kath Keraney; and Ian Sumner for organizing the programme of papers and presentations.

The *Proceedings* of Sydney are due to be published soon after this Congress. I'd like to thank Flags Australia (the Flag Society of Australia) for all the work in getting them ready. 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 Vexillological Association of the State of Texas is organizing ICV 28 in 2019 in San Antonio, Texas, USA. At this General Assembly, we have to take a decision on the hosting of ICV 29. The Irish (Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann Teoranta / Genealogical Society of Ireland) have spoken with me and withdrawn their candidacy, leaving the field clear for the Slovenes (Heraldica Slovenica). The Chinese have expressed an interest in hosting ICV 30 in Beijing, and the French (Société française de vexillologie) have expressed an interest in organizing ICV 31 in Paris in 2025.

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 the venues for ICV 27 when the original venue fell through, and it didn't cost a penny.

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, and I believe we make a good team.

Thank you.

8. Announcements:

(a) Candidates for the FIAV Board

(i) President. Michel Lupant announced his candidacy for reelection. Roman Klimeš announced Alfred Znamierowski's candidacy for election.

(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: none

(c) ICV 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. GSI has verbally withdrawn its candidacy in a conversation with the SGC.

(ii) HS, Ljubljana, Slovenia (see *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 4 (May 2017))

(d) Proposals to organize ICV 30 (2023). Zhao Xinfeng presented a proposal to organize the Congress in Beijing, China.

9. Report on ICV 28 (San Antonio, 2019) organized by VAST and FRC VAST informed the FIAV Board on June 9, 2017 that VAST had invited the FRC to join as a co-organizer of ICV 28, *Hemisflag: Flags at the Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas*, to be held July 15–19, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas USA, and the FRC has accepted (see *Info-FIAV* No. 44, at page ** (December 2017)). VAST and FRC presented an overview of the Congress program and introduced the Congress flag.

10. Report on status of ICV Proceedings:

(a) ICV 25 (Rotterdam 2013) organized by NVvV, SVN, and SVPR. The Proceedings of the *Twenty-Fifth International Congress of Vexillology* were published in 2017 and sent to participants on a compact disc. Additional copies are available from NVvV for €15.

(b) ICV 26 (Sydney 2015) organized by FSA. The *Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth International Congress of Vexillology* are being edited and are 75% completed, with projected publication on compact disc in December 2017.

11. Presentation of certificate to current Members that have been ICV organizers if publication of the Proceedings has occurred The Board will present certificates, signed by all three current Board members, to NVvV and SVPR for ICV 25 at the closing banquet.

12. Selection of ICV 29 (2021) organizer Moved by SGC, seconded by SSV, “That HS be selected as the organizer for the Twentieth-Ninth International Congress of Vexillology in 2021, to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia .” Passed (majority = two-thirds). The tentative date for ICV 29 is July 2021.

13. Consideration of Board’s resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at pages 6–15 (May 2017)) Moved by SG, seconded by SAVA, “That the Board’s resolution proposing amendments to the Constitutions be adopted.”

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

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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
- (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

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 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 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.

- 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 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"

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

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).

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.
 - (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.

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.

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.

- (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 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; and~~²⁰
- ~~(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

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.

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 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 [~~17 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

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.

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.

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 ~~17 and~~] 18;²⁶
 - (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

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.

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.

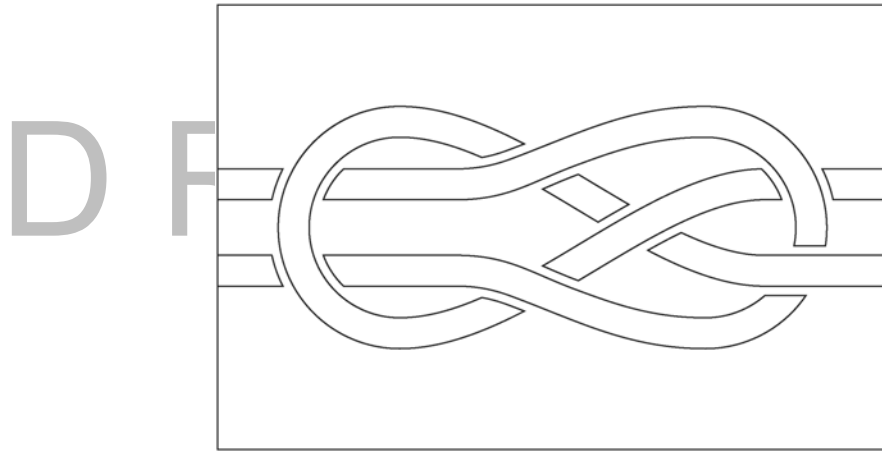
Historically the General Assembly has conducted General Assembly sessions in a way that has satisfied the delegates who were present. The proposed amendment to article 22 has been drafted with this historical pragmatism in mind, while recognizing that continuing to list specific languages implies a status 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.

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 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~~

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.

²⁹ Corrects the capitalization of "flag."

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

~~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 the last session at which a quorum was present, then FIAV is dissolved.³⁴

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.
- (f) 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.

Moved by PFA, seconded by FHF, "That the proposed amendment be amended to sever and consider separately articles 7(b)(4), 15, 18, and 25. Failed (majority = simple).

Moved by PFA, seconded by FHF, "That the proposed amendment to article 18 be amended as follows:

The Board convenes a session of the General Assembly. The Board shall [must] give notice of (1) the date, time, and location of the session and (2) the

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.

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.

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.

Passed (majority = two-thirds).

As so amended, the main motion passed (majority = three-quarters). Pursuant to section 2(f) of the motion, “All portions of this resolution receiving approval shall be effective at the time the General Assembly has concluded its consideration of the entire resolution.”

14. Consideration of WVRI’s proposed amendments to the Constitution (published in *Info-FIAV* No. 43, at page 16 (May 2017))

(a) The President declared moot the proposed motion “That Constitution article 23(b) be repealed” because of the passage of the Board’s resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution.

(b) Moved by WVRI, seconded by UHT, “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”

Failed (majority = two-thirds).

Moved by VAST, seconded by IHW, “That items 15, 16, 17, and 18 be consolidated into a single motion and that motion be passed.”

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 “That the following memorial resolution be adopted:

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 Federation 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 as 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.”

The motion to consolidate items 15, 16, 17, and 18 into a single 18 and pass passed (majority = two-thirds).

19. Election of 2017–2019 Board Moved by SSV, seconded by SAVA, “That Charles Spain and Graham Bartram be reelected as Secretary-General and Secretary-General for Congresses, respectively.” Passed by acclamation (majority = simple).

The President surrendered the chair to the Secretary-General to conduct the election for President.

Moved by UHT, seconded by HVK, “That the election for President be conducted by secret ballot.” Failed (majority = two-thirds).

The election was held between Michel Lupant and Alfred Znamierowski. President Lupant was reelected (majority = simple).

With the conclusion of the election for President, the Secretary-General surrendered the chair to the President.

20. 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-Fifth Session of the General Assembly: CFA, CFZ, FRCSL, IVA, and MZT.

The Member without a delegate for three consecutive General Assembly sessions was FRCSL. This Member voluntarily resigned as a Member effective at the adjournment of this session.

The Members without a delegate for two consecutive General Assembly sessions were: CFA and CFZ. Any of these Members that do not send a delegate to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the General Assembly will voluntarily resign as a Member effective at the adjournment of the Twenty-Sixth Session (2019).

The Members without a delegate for only one General Assembly session were IVA and MZT. 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-Sixth and Twenty-Seventh Sessions, will voluntarily resign as a Member effective at the adjournment of the Twenty-Seventh Session (2021).

21. Final adjournment of the Twenty-Fifth Session by President With no further business pending, the President adjourned the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly with a loud bang of the FIAV Gavel at 6:55 p.m. without fixing a time and day for another meeting of the session, noting with approval that the session lasted for only two hours and five minutes. As a consequence, Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka voluntarily resigned as a Member, reducing the number of FIAV Members to 50.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Spain
FIAV Secretary-General
Houston, November 26, 2017

APPENDIX

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.”
- 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 recognize international standards facilitating the development of these activities.
- 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

- 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 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 the applicant and Members of its recommendation not later than one month before the convening of the next session of the General Assembly.

(3) The Board may recommend acceptance of the applicant as a Member, recommend rejection of the applicant, or make no recommendation.

(4) The General Assembly at its next session shall vote on the application. An authorized representative of the applicant must appear at the session to 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.

(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 active members (minimum of five);
- (4) registration of its members or representatives in International Congresses of Vexillology; and
- (5) the length of time it has existed.

- 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.
 - (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 shall be notified at least three months before the convening of the next regular session of the General Assembly. The Member shall be invited to present its defense before the General Assembly and may participate in the vote on the matter.

- 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 Members in this respect.

- 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.
 - (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.
 - (c) Except as provided in article 19(d), Laureates and Fellows have no special rights in the General Assembly.

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 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.
 - (b) A session of the General Assembly is not constituted unless delegates of at least half of the Members are present.
 - (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:

- (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.
- (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 merit in the field of vexillology (this power may be delegated to the Board); and
- (f) establishes such Commissions as it deems necessary and appoints Commissioners.

Art. 17 The General Assembly holds a regular session every two years 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.

Art. 18 The Board convenes a session of the General Assembly. The Board shall give notice of (1) the 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 of the next session.

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 serve a term that commences after the final adjournment of the 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 agenda of each regular session. Consent of the candidates for election is required. The Officers are eligible for re-election.
- (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 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.

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 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

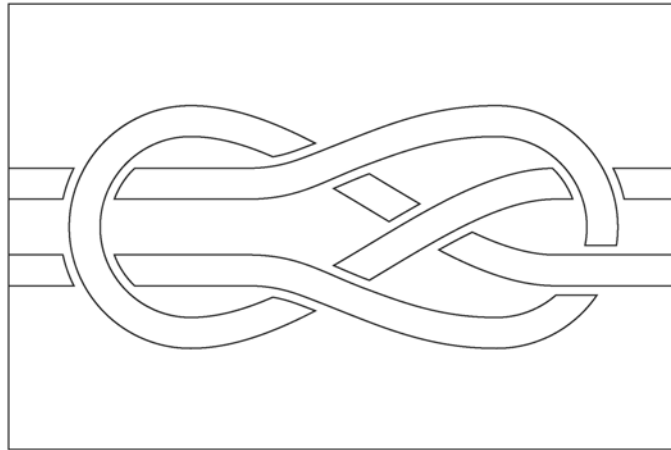
Art. 22 The General Assembly may designate languages for use in FIAV and the International Congresses of Vexillology, taking into consideration the global nature of vexillology and the related practical and economic concerns, but may not require a delegate, applicant, Officer, or Congress attendee to use any specific language.

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 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.

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 System U293 and the color yellow is defined as Pantone Matching System U123. The flag is illustrated as follows:



- (b) The General Assembly may adopt Officer flags and other symbols for FIAV.

IX. DISSOLUTION

- Art. 25 (a) The General Assembly may dissolve FIAV and establish the terms of the dissolution.
- (b) If the General Assembly does not hold a session at which a quorum is present within six years from the final adjournment of the last session at which a quorum was present, then FIAV is dissolved.

Adopted September 27, 1989 by the Eleventh Session of the General Assembly held during the Thirteenth International Congress of Vexillology at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

Amended August 12, 1997 (article 14(a)) by the Fifteenth Session of the General Assembly held during the Seventeenth International Congress of Vexillology at Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa.

Amended July 29, 1999 (adding new article 1 and renumbering and amending remaining articles) by the Sixteenth Session of the General Assembly held during the Eighteenth

International Congress of Vexillology at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Amended July 23, 2001 (eliminating the distinction between Full and Associate Members and amending articles 15 and 23) by the Seventeenth Session of the General Assembly held during the Nineteenth International Congress of Vexillology at York, England, United Kingdom.

Amended August 7, 2007 (articles 19(d) and 24) by the Twentieth Session of the General Assembly held during the Twenty-Second International Congress of Vexillology at Berlin, Germany.

Amended July 14, 2009 (article 8) by the Twenty-First Session of the General Assembly held during the Twenty-Third International Congress of Vexillology at Yokohama, Japan. Note: The first General Assembly session to which article 8 applied was the Twenty-Second Session in 2011. The first resignations under article 8(a) occurred at the adjournment of the Twenty-Fourth Session in 2015.

Amended August 8, 2017 (articles 1; 3(d); 7(b), (c); 8(a); 9; 10; 13; 14(a), (b); 15(a); 16(e), (f), (g); 17; 18; 19(b), (d); 20(d); 22; 23(b); 24(a), (b); and 25(a), (b), (c)) by the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly held during the Twenty-Seventh International Congress of Vexillology at London, England, United Kingdom.