
A Proposed Structure For Comment And Discussion

26 May 1998

Over the past several months, the interim-board of the WFAE has been devising a structure for the organisation. The discussion has identified the need for the creation of a flexible structure which allows for the maintenance of the current WFAE status in short term as well as providing for expansion as we successfully pursue our long term goals. This Model is to be presented to the General Assembly in Stockholm in June.

Features of the structural Model are:

- WFAE is to become an 'association of Organizations' operating under by-laws agreed to by the membership at large.
- WFAE membership:
 - Affiliated Organizations
 - Special Affiliates (Individual Memberships)
 - Associated Organizations
- WFAE is directed by a board answerable to the membership at large.
- WFAE Board:
 - Affiliated representatives (ONE board vote)
 - Associated representatives (no board vote)
 - Appointed individuals (no board vote)
- WFAE is administered by a General Secretary answerable to the Board

Please provide feedback and comments to any of the following people:

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We look forward to your responses and seeing you all in Stockholm in June.

PRINCIPLES:

The structural model is based on the fundamental principle that the WFAE is to become a forum wherein disparate ORGANIZATIONS (in collaboration with active individuals) from around the world correspond with and assist each other to actuate and maintain activities pertaining to Acoustic Ecology.

The World Forum for Acoustic Ecology (WFAE), founded in 1993, is an international interdisciplinary Association of Organizations concerned with the state of the world soundscape as an ecologically balanced entity.

As Acoustic Ecology is the study of the relationship between living organisms and their sonic environment (soundscape), it is WFAE's main task to draw attention to unhealthy imbalances in this relationship, to improve the acoustic quality of a place wherever possible and to protect and maintain acoustically balanced soundscapes where they still exist.

The membership of the WFAE is committed to caring for the quality of the acoustic environment through the individual perspectives of geographers, composers, educators, architects, social planners, philosophers, psychologists, and many others working in areas of scientific, social and cultural importance.

Within this framework of care for the sonic environment WFAE works in collaboration with it's Affiliated and Associated Organizations to promote:

- education and learning;
- research and study;
- the communication and dissemination of information
- environmental activism in the field of acoustic ecology.

The WFAE operates under a set of by-laws which have been accepted and/or modified by a majority of voting members at large.

The WFAE is directed by a Board. There are voting and non-voting members on the board. Any number of Affiliated members can be appointed to the board but only Affiliated Organization Representatives can vote. The board elects a Chairperson and vice-Chairperson from its membership.

Responsibility for administration falls to the WFAE General Secretary who is appointed by majority vote of the WFAE Board.

The General Secretary is assisted by appointed committees and individuals.

MEMBERSHIP:

WFAE has two membership types - AFFILIATES and ASSOCIATES

1. AFFILIATES

This category is designed for memberships of organizations who wish to take an active role in the leadership and functioning of the WFAE.

- Each Affiliated organization has ONE vote on the board of the WFAE.
- Each Affiliated individual has ONE vote at ballots of the membership at large.

Any properly constituted organization which pays a nominated component from each of its individual member's fees to the WFAE becomes Affiliated and is entitled to nominate one representative to the Board of the WFAE.

1. each Affiliated individual member will receive the WFAE newsletter
2. each Affiliated individual member has voting rights in ballots of the membership at large
3. each Affiliated organization has a single VOTE on the WFAE board
4. any individual from an Affiliated organization can be appointed to the board
5. any individual from an Affiliated organization can nominate for position of General Secretary of WFAE

1.a SPECIAL AFFILIATES (Individual Memberships)

In a bid to encourage memberships from all over the world the General Secretary of the WFAE shall operate a Special Affiliates Group. This category is designed to cater for individuals who are not currently members in an Affiliated Organisation. It is intended to be a temporary holding area for individuals.

The WFAE would assist these members to nurture their own group into existence and become affiliated with WFAE. Such groupings may not be made according to geographical location alone but rather according to the profile of the Special Affiliates themselves.

Individual members of Associated Organisations may apply for membership in the Special Affiliates Group.

Membership of this groups is by payment of full fees to the WFAE. Subsidies would be offered at the discretion of the General Secretary to individuals who require financial assistance with the payment of fees.

- a. each Special Affiliate individual member will receive the WFAE newsletter
- b. each Special Affiliate individual member has voting rights in ballots of the membership at large
- c. any Special Affiliate individual can be appointed to the board
- d. any Special Affiliate individual can nominate for position of General Secretary of WFAE

2. ASSOCIATES

This category is designed for memberships of groups who have an interest in the field of Acoustic Ecology and wish to support WFAE. Associate Organisations can be involved in the deliberations of the Board of WFAE but do not have voting rights.

Any organization can become an Associate of the WFAE by paying an annual fee (proposed to be on a sliding scale dependent on size of membership). Associate organizations are entitled to limited rights within the WFAE.

- a. each Associate organization receives one WFAE newsletter which it may choose to distribute to its membership
- b. Associate organization have the option of placing a single NON-VOTING representative on the WFAE board<
- c. each Associate organization has the right to ONE vote at WFAE general assemblies

ADMINISTRATION

A General Secretary administers the WFAE office for a 2 year period assisted by the past General Secretary where possible.

Any Affiliated (or Special Affiliated) member of the WFAE may nominate for the position of General Secretary. The full board of WFAE gives consideration to the selection of General Secretary but only VOTING board members (Affiliated Organisation Representatives) elect the General Secretary.

The General Secretary is a NON-VOTING member of the board.

The General Secretary will perform the following tasks:

1. Operate the WFAE finances
2. Co-ordinate WFAE board forum in conjunction with the Chairperson
3. Liaise with project committees operating in name of WFAE
 - a. Journal
 - b. Conference
 - c. other?
4. Communication
 - a. correspondence
 - b. listserv (with listserv manager)
 - c. www (with web page manager)
 - d. newsletter (with NSN editor)

(these roles are performed by volunteers appointed by the board from time to time)

5. Operate the Special Affiliates group and actively encourage and assist them to create new Affiliated Organisations.
6. Coordinate and support WFAE fundraising
7. Provide regular reports to WFAE Board

ACTIVITIES of the WFAE

Some items that can be tabled for discussion by new WFAE board.

The WFAE board should have the sole authority to administer and approve the use of the title "WFAE - World Forum for Acoustic Ecology". Unauthorized use requires some action.

A number of existing activities need to be brought under the control and administration of the WFAE board. The people doing this work would continue with their tasks but responsibility for them passes to the WFAE board.

Some activities:

1. Web page - what do we want to publish, promote, avoid
2. Listserv discussion publishing (see Copeland report)
3. Next WFAE conference
4. What advice can we give to new AE groups? Produce a booklet?
5. Some events/activities we have organized and why they worked/didn't work
6. Commission scientific research, soundscapes & New media Art
7. Other?