



## FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 1 September 2015

FIAV (Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques) held its 24<sup>th</sup> session of the FIAV General Assembly from 4:00 pm on Tuesday, 1 September 2015. The Agenda and details of the meeting were circulated by email to each of the FIAV members. The meeting was held in the main auditorium of the Telstra Theatre. Each delegate presented their written credentials to the Secretary-General at the beginning of the meeting and each delegate was given a voting card for use during the meeting. Whilst all ICV participants could attend the General Assembly, only the appointed delegates were permitted to speak.

Office bearers:            Michel Lupant - President  
                                 Charles Spain - Secretary-General  
                                 Graham Bartram – Secretary-General for Congresses

Written credentials were verified for **43 FIAV members present in person or by proxy**, with 25 individuals at the meeting. A quorum was recognised as more than half of the 59 total members were represented, and the President declared the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly properly constituted. In addition, the three officers also held voting rights. Ralph Bartlett and Ted Kaye were appointed as tellers to count votes.

**Minutes were approved** for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Assembly held 6 August 2013 in Rotterdam.



**The President, Michel Lupant delivered his report.** He noted the collaboration and time and hard work invested by the Board members in conducting the business of FIAV between General Assemblies. The Board has sought to ensure compliance with the rules that international meetings do not interfere with the integrity of the two-yearly ICVs. Michel was disappointed that the normal process of nominations of individuals to FIAV awards has led to email lobbying of the FIAV membership in support of proposed Fellows. The problem has been that the Board has been unwilling to compromise the confidentiality of awarding Fellowships and that led to questioning of the Board's opaque intentions. One aspect was that an email nomination in 2012 for an individual to become a Fellow was not fully circulated amongst the Officers and forgotten when the 2013 nominations were decided.

Michel has travelled widely promoting FIAV and vexillology and meeting vexillologists, visiting 9 countries since the Rotterdam meeting, including Paris in 2015 where he attended the General Assembly of the French Association on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Only two associations have applied to join FIAV this year, but one has withdrawn its application (The Thai Vexillological Association). Vexillologists have been identified in at least 11 countries which currently don't have associations. In French, Spanish and German, Michel welcomed delegates to the Sydney ICV and wished that they hear interesting lectures and discover vexillological riches as they participate in discussions amongst delegates.

**Secretary-General Charles Spain delivered his report.** He noted that the dated FIAV.org website was being replaced with the financial assistance of VAST (Vexillological Association of the State of Texas). Charles will be adding more material to the website and formatting the existing material. The Board will be asking previous ICV hosts to license digital copies of their Proceedings so that they can be available on the FIAV website. All the back issues of Info-FIAV are on the website, and Charles has produced and distributed three issues in the past two years.

A new set of full-sized flags for FIAV and each officer was made by Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co. and VAST purchased the flags at a substantial discount and donated them to FIAV for use at ICVs. A replenished supply of presentation folders was also donated by VAST, part of its financial support in excess of \$5,000. Charles observed how he sees a snapshot of delegates each two years (or perhaps longer) and it is a good opportunity to share the friendships we have with those who share a love of flags, exploring their importance and learning more about our common interest.



**Secretary-General for Congresses Graham Bartram delivered his report.** He thanked Flags Australia for organizing this Congress, acknowledging the tremendous amount of work that goes into organizing a Congress. The organizing committee of Ralph Kelly, Ralph Bartlett, Tony Burton, Gerald Naughton and Ted Kaye were thanked by name.

*Proceedings* for ICV 25 in Rotterdam are well advanced, under the editorship of Marcel van Westerhoven. Future Congresses consist of ICV 27 in London in 2017, organized by the Flag Institute and ICV 28 in San Antonio in 2019, organized by VAST. Expressions of interest have been made in respect of ICV 29 by the Irish (Genealogical Society of Ireland – Vexillology Ireland) and the Slovenes (Heraldica Slovenica). The French (Société française de vexillologie) have expressed an interest in organizing ICV 31 in 2025. Graham encouraged members to consider organizing ICV 30 in 2023, and drew attention to the availability of help from local conference promoters. He also noted that Congress Organizing Representatives were the main people organizing an ICV and communications with FIAV were helped by identifying three lead individuals, and they would normally be awarded a fellowship for their services to FIAV.

**ICV 27** – The Flag Institute announced that the venue had been moved from Greenwich to Imperial College, London, and the dates are August 7 – 11, 2017.

**ICV 28** – VAST submitted a report on its planning for HEMISFLAG, the ICV in San Antonio, Texas, tentatively scheduled for 14 – 19 July 2019. The organizing committee is Hugh Brady, James Liston, Charles Spain, and Pete Van de Putte. NAVA has tentatively agreed to hold its 53<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting concurrently with the Congress. The venue was expected to be St. Anthony Hotel and the traditional tour was likely to be Wednesday 17 July with travel to Austin, Texas to visit the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection at the Briscoe Center for American History on the campus of the University of Texas.

**Election of the Board of FIAV** – The existing Board was re-elected without other nominations and passed by acclamation.

**ICV 25** – Report on status of publication of *Proceedings*. The organizers reported that work on the publication was almost finished, but it had not been possible to complete the task before the Sydney Congress. The main work in compiling and editing the lectures is being done by Marcel van Westerhoven and Theum Okkerse. Galley proofs of papers were sent to lecturers and a uniform layout style was adopted. The target for completion was October 2015.

**Report on Commission to study a SAVA proposal.** Three vexillologists were appointed in 2007 to study a proposal to adopt vexillological conventions for flag descriptions, including possible amendments to the Flag Information Code. 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

**Consideration of applicant Australian Flag Society for membership.** No representative was present at the General Assembly and Mr Nigel Morris was not a participant in ICV 26. 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. (Note that Flags Australia had strongly opposed AFS's proposed membership and was disappointed that the possibility of a vote on membership was under active consideration by the FIAV Board until the beginning of the General Assembly).

**Lapsed Memberships.** Seven FIAV members have not attended three consecutive General Assembly sessions in person or by proxy and under Article 8 of the FIAV Constitution, they are regarded as having voluntarily resigned at the end of this session. The members whose membership will lapse are AVS, HAVSOM, MBV, NFF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS. This reduced the number of members of FIAV to 52. Two members have not attended for two sessions, and a further seven members did not attend this session.

**Final adjournment.** 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., noting with approval that the session lasted for only one hour and twenty-three minutes. The full minutes of this General Assembly were published by the Board in *Info-FIAV* No.40 – February 2016.

