

Substantive Report of the Polish Union of Associations “Polish Fandom” for year 2024

The Board of the Polish Union of Associations “Polish Fandom” (pol. Związek Stowarzyszeń Fandom Polski) presents a substantive report on the activities of the Association for the past calendar year (2024).

1. List of Councils and Fandom Forums in 2024

- Fandom Council during KON_gres VII in Gniezno on 16/03/2024.
- Fandom Council (online) on 6/07/2024.
- Fandom Council during Copernicon Polcon in Toruń on 21/09/2024.
- Fandom Council during Nordcon in Jastrzębia Góra on 7/12/2024.

2. Electoral Fandom Council – KON_gres Gniezno

On 16/03/2024, the electoral Fandom Council of the Polish Fandom Association took place. The VII Board completed its term, consisting of:

- Michał Szymański – President
- Julianna Grefkowicz – Vice President for the Janusz A. Zajdel Award
- Andrzej Ziółkowski – Vice President for Polcon
- Artur Olchowy – Treasurer
- Magda Włochacz – Vice President for Communications

The ZSFP Audit Committee consisted of:

- Maciej Pitala – Chairman
- Bogusław Gwozdecki – Member
- Mamert Janion – Member

A new Board was elected for ZSFP:

- Anna Jaworska – President
- Julianna Grefkowicz – Vice President for the Janusz A. Zajdel Award
- Krzysztof Krakowiak – Treasurer
- Michał Herda – Vice President for Polcon
- Radosław Polański – Vice President for Communications

The new Audit Committee consisted of:

- Katarzyna Braciak – Chairwoman
- Błażej Adamski – Member
- Marcin Segit – Member

3. Changes in the ZSFP Board Composition (March – May 2024)

On March 25, 2024, Anna Jaworska submitted a written resignation from the ZSFP Board. Consequently, the remaining members of the VIII term, in accordance with the ZSFP statute, co-opted Adam Tkaczyk as the fifth Board member. There were also changes in Board positions:

- Julianna Grefkowicz – President
- Adam Tkaczyk – Vice President for the Janusz A. Zajdel Award
- Michał Herda – Vice President for Polcon
- Krzysztof Krakowiak – Treasurer
- Radosław Polański – Vice President for Communications

On February 14, 2025, the National Court Register (KRS) issued a decision rejecting the recognition of the update to the ZSFP entry in the register, citing Article 10, section 1e of the Associations Act and the lack of validity of the co-optation mechanism due to the absence of an updated Statute in the KRS. This means that the co-optation was not carried out correctly. Consequently, the ZSFP Board has proposed supplementary elections to be held on February 23, 2025.

4. Statutory Changes in ZSFP

During the past year, the following changes to the ZSFP Statute were adopted:

- Added a provision allowing co-option in case of resignation of a Board member (adopted at the Fandom Council in Gniezno on 16/03/2024).
- Introduced procedures for Board member resignation, dismissal, role changes, operational guidelines for an incomplete Board, and supplementary elections (adopted during the online Fandom Council on 6/07/2024).
 - These changes were rejected by the National Court Register (KRS), which, citing Article 10, section 1e of the Associations Act, questioned the validity of resolutions adopted at remote meetings held after the epidemic was lifted in Poland.

5. Other Documents and Regulations Adopted in 2024

During the year, the ZSFP authorities prepared a document describing a proposed optional electoral process for future ZSFP elections (presented during the Fandom Council at Nordcon)

6. New Regular Members of ZSFP in 2024

In 2024, the following organizations joined ZSFP:

- Cech Fantastyki "SkierCon" (during the Fandom Council at KON_gres in Gniezno on 16/03/2024)
- Fundacja "Fantastyczne Inicjatywy" (during the Fandom Council at Copernicon Polcon on 21/09/2024)

Additionally, on October 5, 2024, the ZSFP Board met with representatives of the "Grom in Żory" Association to present the idea of ZSFP and collaborative activities in the fantasy fandom. The "Grom in Żory" Association informed the ZSFP Board that they are considering joining ZSFP in 2025.

7. Suspension of Inactive ZSFP Members

As per the ZSFP Statute, participants of the Fandom Council on 21/09/2024 decided to suspend the following organizations due to inactivity and absence from Fandom Councils in 2023-2024:

- Mińska Gildia Fantastyki
- Stowarzyszenie Orkon - Konwent LARPów Terenowych

These organizations were suspended for one year and three months (until 31/12/2025). The Fandom Council expects representatives from both organizations to attend a Fandom Council meeting before the end of 2025 to clarify their inactivity.

8. Copernicon Polcon

According to the vote results conducted at the Fandom Forum at Kapitularz Polcon 2023, the function of Polcon in 2024 was fulfilled by the Toruń Festival of Games and SFF Copernicon. The convention was attended by over 3,000 accredited participants.

During Copernicon, the Janusz A. Zajdel Award ceremony took place. The Fandom Forum also voted on future Polcon organizers for 2025 and 2026 and selected the winners of the Polish Fandom Award named after Piotr Rak. After the convention, this year's Polcon organizer contributed 15,200 PLN gross to the Polish Fandom Award fund.

9. Janusz A. Zajdel Award

The 2023 award was presented during a gala held on the penultimate day of Polcon. The event was also streamed live on Facebook.

The award for Best Short Story went to Agnieszka Hałas for "Świerszcze w soli." The award for Best Novel went to Istvan Vizvary for "Lagrange. Listy z Ziemi."

In 2025, the Janusz A. Zajdel Award ceremony will take place in Warsaw as part of Bazyliżek-Polcon. The nomination announcement will be held online in April 2025.

10. Piotr Rak Award

During the Fandom Council meeting in Gniezno on 16/03/2024, the proposal for the Piotr Rak Polish Fandom Award was presented. The proposal was approved by the votes of the ZSFP members. Over the course of the year, ZSFP gathered a number of nominations for both award categories – “Iskra” and “Płomień.”

The list of nominated individuals was discussed during the remote Fandom Council meeting on 6/07/2024, where no proposal was vetoed by the Fandom Council.

During the Fandom Council meeting at Copernicon Polcon on 21/09/2024, an anonymous vote was held among ZSFP members, resulting in the selection of the first laureates of the Piotr Rak Polish Fandom Award.

The award was presented by representatives of the ZSFP Board and the Audit Committee during the ceremonial Copernicon Gala on 21/09/2024. The laureates were:

- Szymon Kania, in the “Iskra” category
- Michał Szymański, in the “Płomień” category

11. Future Polcon Organizers

During Polcon–Copernicon, the Forum of Fandom voted on the future organizers of Polcons:

- 2025: The Avangarda Association as part of the Bazyliszek convention.
 - The counter-candidacy (Polcon in Pisz) was proposed by the Tatarak Foundation, represented by Artur Olchowy. The proposal was not accepted, and Artur Olchowy did not confirm whether he plans to propose the Polcon in Pisz again.
- 2026: The Zielona Góra SFF Club Ad Astra as part of the Bachanalia Fantastyczne convention.
 - The counter-candidacy was proposed by OKF Fenix as part of the Opolcon convention. Despite the rejection of OKF Fenix's proposal, they confirmed their intention to organize the Polcon in 2027.

Additionally, the ZSFP board held talks with other member organizations to find future candidates for organizing Polcons. At least one organization has expressed interest in organizing Polcon in 2027–2028.

12. KON_gres VII

On March 16-17, 2024, the VII KON_gres – a gathering of fan event organizers – took place in Gniezno. The 2024 edition was organized by the “Fantasmagoria” Association. The event was attended by 160 participants. The KON_gres Award, granted by the KON_gres committee, was awarded to Magda Stawniak.

Additionally, a publication titled KONtakty was released, featuring ten journalistic articles on various aspects of event organization.

In 2025, KON_gres will be held in Wrocław on February 22-23, organized by the Organizers’ Guild Association (Gildia Organizatorów).

KON_gres 2023, organized in Skierniewice by the Cech Fantastyki SkierCon, was nominated for the ESFS Award in the “Best Event” category.

13. Visual Identity of ZSFP

A complete visual identity for ZSFP, Polcon, and the Janusz A. Zajdel Award (NFP) has been developed in the form of a brand book/logo guide, which has been made available to all Association members and published on the Association’s website.

Preliminary designs for the logos of the Polish Fandom Award named after Piotr Rak, KON_gres, and Smoki Fandomu have also been proposed. All these logos are currently in the conceptual phase and will be incorporated into ZSFP’s visual identity in 2025.

14. Support for the "Smoki Fandomu" Initiative

The ZSFP Board contacted Barbara Świerczewska, who is currently the sole coordinator of the grassroots initiative "Smoki Fandomu," offering assistance in revitalizing the initiative and reaching a broader audience of fans.

Between September and November 2024, several meetings took place between Basia, the ZSFP Board, and members of the fandom (Maciej Olczak and Iwo Pancerski), who volunteered to help. A detailed action plan was established, primarily aimed at structuring "Smoki Fandomu," defining the core idea behind the initiative, systematizing the requirements for awarding the title of "Smok Fandomu" during Polcon, and gathering ideas for celebrating the 40th anniversary of "Smoki Fandomu" in 2025.

15. Promotion of Polish Fantasy Fandom at Worldcon Glasgow 2024

A delegation of Polish fantasy fans participated in Worldcon in Glasgow. More than 80 attendees from Poland were present. Prior to Worldcon, an online panel was held featuring Polish SFF fans discussing the specifics of the Polish SFF fandom. During Worldcon, a Polish programming track was coordinated by Radosław Polański, featuring panels on Polish SFF literature and fandom. The Polish fandom was promoted with dragon mascots from Imladris, representing ZSFP and its member conventions.

16. Participation in Fandom Events in Poland and Abroad

This year, representatives of the Association were officially present at the following events, promoting ZSFP activities and the Polish Fandom Awards:

- KON_gres in Gniezno – Fandom Council
- Silesian Fantasy Days in Chorzów – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Literary Seminar in Chorzów – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Pyrkon in Poznań – announcement of Zajdel Award nominees for 2023
- Bazyliszek in Warsaw – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Fantasmagoria in Gniezno – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Skiercon in Skierniewice – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Worldcon in Glasgow – promotion of Polish fantasy fandom
- Fantasy Days in Wrocław – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Kapitularz in Łódź – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Opolcon in Opole – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Copernicon in Toruń – Fandom Council, Fandom Forum, ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth, Zajdel Award Gala, and open meeting with Jadwiga Zajdel
- Imladris in Kraków – ZSFP and Zajdel Award booth
- Nordcon in Jastrzębia Góra – Fandom Council, Fandom Forum

17. Digitization and Organization of ZSFP Documentation from the Last 20 Years

The ZSFP Board conducted a comprehensive review of the Association's documentation, both physical and digital, carrying out thorough organizational work. All ZSFP documents collected since 2001, which were previously only available in physical form, have been scanned and cataloged.

18. Club Boards Meeting

The Club Boards Meeting, originally scheduled for November 30 – December 1 in Gdańsk, did not take place due to low interest from ZSFP members. Given the approaching end of the year, the ZSFP Board decided not to seek an alternative date or location for the meeting in 2024.

19. Promotion of Polish Fandom Activities Online

Throughout the year, numerous promotional campaigns were conducted on fandom-related social media, including:

- A series of historical posts highlighting past winners of the Polish Fandom Award named after Janusz A. Zajdel,
- A series of posts showcasing Polish organizations that promote fantasy,
- The "Zinoteka" series, presenting both historical and still-active fanzines published in Poland,
- A series of posts introducing the nominees for the Polish Fandom Award named after Piotr Rak.
- In 2024, an official ZSFP profile was also launched on Instagram.