

# **ACOFS - The Australian Council of Film Societies**

## **Film Society Handbook**

### **Chapter 16: JOIN A STATE FEDERATION**

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You have finally decided to form a film society and you've been through all the preliminaries, have a working committee and are planning your first season. Everything is fine. So now it is time to spend a few more dollars to join a state Federation.

Membership with a state Federation will provide the following benefits:

- Credibility:** Your membership with a recognised parent organisation will give your group status within the film world and show that you adhere to the recognised International principles for film societies.
- Knowledge:** You will come in contact with people running other film societies, allowing an exchange of ideas, information and support.
- Insurance:** Your society will be covered by film damage and loss insurance. This includes loss or damage to the film while in transit as well as damage while it is being projected. You cannot obtain this sort of insurance anywhere else. Some Federations also offer public liability and equipment insurance policies under their own "umbrella" policies, at competitive rates. Check with your state Federation.
- Library Access:** To gain access to restricted films in the NTLC at the National Film and Sound Archives you must register your society. You will be asked which Federation you belong to.
- Appraisal Sessions:** Some state Federations run film appraisal sessions which are free of charge. You may also run your own appraisal sessions in which case the Federation will supply a list of sources with interesting sounding films and appraisal forms which you will need to send back to them. A small subsidy towards the freight costs may be available from the Federation. Contact your Federation secretary.
- Film Availability:** State Federations have information on film availability, new, classic, features and shorts.
- Screening Rights:** ACOFS has negotiated with several DVD distributors a mechanism for getting screening rights approval for a minimal payment. This is available only to film societies that are a member of a state Federation.

**Information:** Newsletters and mailouts from your Federation will cover news from the Federation, other film societies and ACOFS. It will advise on new films and DVDs available, technical developments etc.

**Delegation:** You will have the right to be a delegate to the federation and assist in running the Federation.

**Attendance:** You will have the right to attend workshops, appraisals and conferences organised by the Federation.

Individual Federations offer other services e.g. workshops on various aspects of running a film society, "box schemes" to reduce freight costs, regular newsletters or magazines, film reviews, access to technical advice, film festivals, etc.

So make sure you join one of the State Federations. They are all affiliated with ACOFS.

A society is not required to join their local Federation if there are factors which make it preferable to join a neighbouring Federation. Queensland and Northern Territory film societies are invited to join the NSW Federation and SA societies the Victorian Federation. In addition, Deniliquin, which has strong links to Victoria, is a member of the Victorian federation although they are in NSW.

Contact details can be found on the ACOFS home web page.