On March 12, 2024 the Governing Council and Exective Officers unanimously approved the following policy for virtual attendance at the WSFH Annual Conference:

1. The Annual Conference is an in-person event with true logistical hurdles to accommodating virtual attendance. These include, but are not limited to:
   a. The cost of technology.
   b. Requirements for hotel reservations
   c. The need for registration fees to cover the cost of the Conference
   d. The burden placed on volunteers to accommodate various kinds of attendance

These logistical demands should be made explicit in WSFH Communications regarding the annual conference (e.g. the call for papers, the conference website) so that members understand the needs of the Society.

2. A limited number of panels for each conference will be permitted to have a virtual attendee. The precise number will be determined by the local organizers.

3. Calls for Papers should include the option for people to declare their need for virtual attendance and be able to explain why they need to attend remotely (for instance, medical issues, financial difficulties, etc). Explanations need not reveal private or personal information in any detail and will be kept confidential. Organizers will do their best to accommodate requests from members who are unable to attend the annual conference, but not all requests will be able to be accommodated.

4. Local organizers and the WSFH President will decide on a deadline for attendees to request virtual attendance after the call for papers (if they so choose). Attendees requesting virtual attendance after this deadline will not be accommodated.

5. All panels must have at least half of their participants attending the conference in person.

6. Those accepted to the conference as a virtual attendee will be expected to:
   a. Register for the conference at a rate determined by the local organizers and President of the Society. In order to cover the costs, this rate will likely be the same as in-person participation.
   b. Arrange tech support with their panelists (included, but not limited to, a Zoom link, required adapters, and a computer in the room). Conference organizers will not be responsible for supplying computers, adapters, or other supplies.

7. Those accepted as virtual attendees may record their presentation in advance which may be played by their panelists. Virtual attendees may make arrangements with their panel for participating in the question and answer period.

In addition, the WSFH commits to offering, as has been our practice since 2020, virtual events to accommodate members unable to attend the in-person conference and have the opportunity to present their work. A Committee drawn from the general membership will be formed to facilitate this commitment.