

LepreCon, Inc. | Minutes: Annual General Meeting 08/27/2017

Call to Order

Date: Sunday, August 27, 2017

Location: Spoke & Wheel Tavern, Phoenix, Arizona

The meeting was called to order by Paul Tanton at 2:58 p.m.

Attendance

Voting Board Members Present: Hal C. F. Astell (*Vice Chair, Secretary, Quartermaster, Webmaster* - expires August 2017), Margie Grady (expires August 2017), Kevin McAlonan (*Treasurer* - expires August 2019), Paul Tanton (*Chair, Database Administrator, Social Networking Coordinator* - expires August 2018).

Voting Board Members Absent: None.

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Dee Astell (*President*), Michael Fett (*Vice President, Assistant Vice President*).

Non-Voting Board Members Absent: None.

Members Present: Stephanie L. Bannon, Len Berger, Woody Bernardi, Mark Boniece, Craig Dyer, Michael Falinski, Leslie Fish, John Grigg, Earl C. Hedges, Jr., Sharan Hoyle, Patti Hultstrand, Howard Mieth, Vicki Mieth, Marguerite Murray, John Paul Ried, Valerie Ritchie, Andrea Rittschof, Duncan Rittschof, Annette Sexton-Ruiz, Gary L. Swaty, J. B. Talbott, Sandra Tyra, Susan Uttke, Lee Whiteside.

Guests: Mike Cassidy, Donald Jacques, Frank D. Williams, Patrick.

Petitions for Membership: None.

Proxies: Valerie Ritchie and Sandra Tyra to Dee Astell (2); Victor Bugg, Ivy Chapman, Tom Deadstuff, Michael Flanders, Shawn Flanders, Jeff George, Khurt Khave, Gini Koch, Sue Martin, Michael Senft, Jocelyne Simone Weathers to Hal C. F. Astell (11); Vicki Mieth to Stephanie Bannon (1); Jim Strait to Mark Boniece (1); Margaret Grady, Howard Mieth Harlan Sparer, Jason Youngdale to Paul Tanton (4); Nadine Armstrong to Lee Whiteside (1).

Reports

Personal Thanks: Paul Tanton thanked everyone for their support after the passing of Mandy Parker. He also led a moment of silence in remembrance.

Secretary's Report: Hal Astell and Kevin McAlonan both circulated minutes from the 05/21/2017 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as read was approved 20-0-16.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin McAlonan provided balances for our bank accounts.

He also stated that Westercon 70 was mostly dealt with but some artists checks have not been cashed and postage costs are still unknown for sending printed materials to supporting members.

Margaret Grady asked for a rough profit/loss estimate; Kevin committed to between \$1,000 and \$10,000 profit. Michael Fett asked if that included the advance from Westercon 70 to LepreCon, Inc.; Kevin said that it did not.

Board Business: Kevin McAlonan reported on online business and on the Executive Session held on July 23, 2017.

Executive Session: Bruce Farr expressed a wish to stand down as Treasurer. Kevin took on that role and Hal Astell took on Kevin's former role of Secretary. We agreed to archive and retire both LepreCon, Inc. blogs, create a new e-mail address

(webmaster@leprecon.org) and retire an old one (5@leprecon.org). We added a quarterly meeting for board members and committee heads; this will mean a meeting a month; a public meeting, an executive session and a board/committee meeting each quarter. Fundraising is an important function of the board. Much discussion on LepreCon 44, with the voting board members raising concerns to Michael Fett about programming and website.

Online Business: Michael Fett reported on LepreCon 44; we now have a dedicated area to use for art, gaming, literary, filk, science and special events and Earl Hedges is now the Game Coordinator. Discussion about GoHs for LepreCon 44 and the status of the policy about reusing GoHs; it had been rescinded. Discussion of changes to the corporate website and other website issues. Discussion about the role of the board in fundraising efforts. Discussion regarding LepreCon 44 status and programming, which included a request for the venue contract; this was not provided. Question about the ownership of the domain names for LepreCon 44. Discussion regarding LepreCon 44 status and programming. Request for all past con spreadsheets; Kevin McAlonan has not yet responded. Discussion of a potential sponsorship for LepreCon 44. Discussion regarding gaming at LepreCons and separate gaming events. Discussion regarding CASFS and their request for funding. Discussion regarding committee members and access to the boardlist. Question and discussion regarding the LepreCon, Inc. annual operating budget. Discussion regarding weapon or prop restrictions at Westercon 70 in light of events at Phoenix Comicon. Discussion regarding the role of corporate webmaster. Discussion about iPower hosting. Questions regarding LepreCon 44 access to PayPal account login information. Discussion regarding CGC issues.

Paul Tanton raised passthru data; Kevin stated that he may have this in the paperwork that Mike Willmoth passed on to him but he hasn't found it yet. A motion to approve board business was approved 34-0-4.

LepreCon 42 Report: Paul Tanton reported that there was no treasurer to close out the books, following the resignation of Mike Willmoth and the passing of Mandy Parker. Some details are in parts unknown, such as passthru information.

Vicki Mieth asked if passthru would affect the 100 member cap for LepreCon 44. Michael Fett stated that they would get full access to LepreCon 44 but wouldn't get a T-shirt otherwise included with the VIP membership (available for a \$10 fee). Increased space available means that he can increase the cap to 150. However, he needed passthru information to better plan his convention. He proposed that passthru information be located and processed within 30 days. Hal Astell asked what would happen if this could not be done; Michael said that the board could delay. This passed 28-0-16.

Westercon 70/LepreCon 43 Report: Dee Astell reported that Westercon 70 was a success with warm bodies estimated at just over 600. She thanked those who attended and worked the con, calling out Operations and Logistics for going above and beyond. The Charity Auction raised \$2,609 for the Challenger Space Center in Peoria; she thanked organizer Cathy Book and auctioneer J. B. Talbott. The Blood Drive had to close early because of 111° temperature with 16 people signed up and 8 successful donations; she thanked Gary Swaty for acting as liaison with United Blood Services and the Heinlein Society. The Utah for Westercon 72 bid won with 32 of 43 votes cast; the Astells will be representing there and working the event. Most tasks have been completed to close out the event; all artwork has been sent back with artists' checks, the hotel has been paid and we're about to mail out publications to supporting members.

Michael Fett asked about Challenger Space Center closing; Dee replied that it was not closing, just moving within state. Annette Sexton-Ruiz asked for a list of artists who haven't cashed their checks and Stephanie Bannon suggested putting an expiry date on checks; Kevin said that they were sent from the LepreCon, Inc. bank account to avoid expiring when the Westercon 70 accounts are closed. Vicki Mieth raised concerns about the Dealers' Room, as her booth made little money; Hal Astell heard her concerns and responded that most dealers did OK to very well with one dealer needing to restock twice during the event, but booksellers generally didn't do well. Earl Hedges mentioned that other events happened in close proximity; Dee highlighted that NASFiC the weekend after impacted us. Craig Dyer suggested that author signings are better held in the Dealers' Room; Dee mentioned that this was the plan but circumstances led to a change.

LepreCon 44 Report: Michael Fett reported he had doubled available space for LepreCon 44 by booking downstairs rooms at the Unexpected Art Gallery. Filk would be held outside for free. The Art Show and Vendor Hall would also be free. The

upstairs area would contain a VIP lounge with food and some special events such as concerts. Patti Hultstrand will run a literary track in the downstairs area for members. There will also be GoH panels and gaming, plus a room for photo ops. He emphasized that he felt the need to stay under a budget of \$8,500 to ensure profit and he can't afford a hotel. Manuel Flowers has signed as Tattoo GoH. Carlos Rivas is in the process of signing as Graffiti GoH. There is a verbal agreement in place for Leslie Fish to be Music GoH.

Vicki Mieth raised strong concerns about Michael's intention to finance the con on the backs of vendors and complained that he was consistently not supplying information about art gallery sales figures during Art Detour; Michael responded and Annette Sexton-Ruiz spoke to changes in galleries from one Art Detour to another making this information difficult. Stephanie Bannon asked for the current membership count; Michael stated that 6 memberships and 20% of art space has been sold. Paul Tanton asked about merchants; Michael stated that 1 table has been sold. Paul also asked if GoHs would have tables; Michael said yes. Hal Astell asked why the required corrections to the website that Michael agreed to at the July Executive Session were not done; Michael's committee were unaware of these so Hal promised to send information afresh to Michael and Patti Hultstrand. Hal proposed that Michael have 30 days to fix; this passed 34-0-10. Valerie Ritchie stated that the core filkers had met recently about concerns with LepreCon 44 and that they would not be attending; she thanked the organization for the last three years.

Bylaws Committee: Margaret Grady reported that she'd started a Facebook group and had asked Kevin McAlonan for our Articles of Incorporation and our 501(c)(3) documentation.

Database Committee: Paul Tanton reported no change since the last quarterly meeting.

Financial Review Committee: Hal Astell reported no change since the last quarterly meeting.

Policy Committee: Hal Astell proposed that the Policy Committee be merged with the Bylaws Committee; this passed 20-7-12.

Positions Committee: Margaret Grady reported that she has started a Google Doc to create a base of information.

Quartermaster's Report: Hal Astell reported that he worked with Westercon 70 Logistics to move stuff from storage to the con and back. He's organized everything in storage but hasn't yet done a fresh inventory. Everything looks good, in that we have the right number of obvious things but he hasn't delved into boxes yet. The ownership chain was broken at con when the Art Show took their stuff out of the truck, leaving everything in disarray. The only things missing at this time (no fingers pointed) are our readers: Square, chip and PayPal. Dee Astell and Paul Tanton returned them after Phoenix Comicon but they were not found at con and Westercon 70 had to function without them. Annette Sexton-Ruiz asked to have the word 'ransacked' removed; Hal agreed and the proposed report was passed 37-0-6.

Social Club Committee: Michael Fett reported that Margaret Grady is helping him. Margie said that she was considering a number of potential one day events: a filk event (no longer likely), a CONflagration gaming event, an author event with CASFS, an art exchange event and/or a social 'flashback' fandom event. She has a potential private venue in Glendale and has a tentative hold on November 4, 2017.

Vicki Mieth suggested that a private venue would open up problems and offered alternatives. Hal added that November 4 fell within the time of Tucson Comic-Con and was also the date of the Tempe Book Festival. Stephanie Bannon asked how we're handling insurance; Kevin McAlonan stated that we're purchasing it per event not per year.

Social Media Committee: Paul Tanton reported that Dee had posted a couple of updates for Westercon 70 and that he had set up Michael Fett with access rights to the corporate Facebook page (but not yet the Twitter). Michael mentioned issues with infighting on the Facebook page.

Strategic Planning Committee: No report as nobody is in place to chair this committee.

Surveys Committee: Margaret Grady suggested a couple of surveys: a general one and a LepreCon 44 one.

Michael Fett asked about an anonymous survey for Westercon 70. Vicki Mieth said that Survey Monkey would provide anonymity. Kevin McAlonan and Stephanie Bannon both suggested that we were past the ideal window.

Tablets Committee: Hal Astell said that he was not in charge of (or even on) the Tablets Committee, but that the two old tablets we have (that can't use current readers) were sold to Dee Astell, as per a previous quarterly meeting. Michael Fett stated that he would consider borrowing before buying for use at LepreCon 44.

Website Committee: Hal Astell reported that we were unable to move from iPower to HostGator before our hosting was up for renewal; he renegotiated the price down from \$179.40 to \$107.40. He also switched gears to see if we could stay at iPower if we clean up the crap. His investigations into our webspace found 8 WordPress instances, 10 databases and lots of data not in use. He's backed up everything to an offline source. He deleted over half our data, uninstalled a number of obsolete WordPress instances and dropped 5 databases. Someone had inadvertently moved our 4 oldest sites into other folders; he moved them back out to be live. He completely rebuilt the corporate site, adding a list of officers and board members and removing links to obsolete blogs. We're getting reports on where our infections are; all are in WordPress instances that have not been updated since installation and he's trying to find login information to update. He set up a webmaster@leprecon.org address for registrations, default contact on old websites and as a default login for WordPress instances. We let worldfantasy2004.org expire. Our live domains are now conalope.org (expires 10 Jul 2018), conflag.org (expires 23 Nov 2017), leprecon.org (expires 11 Aug 2018) and westercon70.org (expires 10 Jul 2018); all will auto-renew.

Donald Jacques suggested a method to archive WordPress sites. Woody Bernardi asked if cleaning up the crap might fix our problems at iPower; Hal replied that it could well do so but we'd find out when we go live with LepreCon 44 as a new WordPress instance. Paul Tanton asked when this could happen; Hal replied as soon as Lyle is back from a birthday out of town.

Old Business

1. Kevin McAlonan said that Mike Willmoth may have passed on the Preferred GoH List with other paperwork after his resignation but he hasn't seen it yet; it may have been kept in Mike's head. Paul Tanton asked people to mail in their preferences.
2. Paul Tanton proposed that we abolish the agenda item about how people received notifications for the meeting; this passed 39-1-0.
3. Paul Tanton passed around the Collection Cauldron. \$22 was collected.

New Business

1. Leslie Fish raised issues about her/her stuff smelling of cat urine at Westercon 70 and recounted a saga of the responses she got when asking the hotel about expenses. Mark Boniece, who was Hotel Liaison for Westercon 70, stated that there were no charges but he had asked the hotel to redirect her to Dee Astell, Westercon 70 Chair. Dee said that it was fair enough for her to ask the hotel about her own room but that any questions about con function space should come to the chair to handle officially; she added that the filk room had been cleaned by the hotel (at no cost to the con) after complaints. Sharan Hoyle mentioned that the head of housekeeping had told her that no special cleaning was done.
2. Paul Tanton ran through the list of committees to identify changes:
 - (a) The Bylaws Committee is the voting board plus Sharan Hoyle. Margaret Grady is chair.
 - (b) The Database Committee will now be chaired by Michael Falinski. Donald Jacques mentioned that he can provide MySQL data.

- (c) The Financial Review Committee is Hal Astell, Margaret Grady and Sharan Hoyle. Kevin McAlonan will join the committee. Hal will chair until the group can elect a chair.
 - (d) The Fundraising Committee will now be chaired by Earl Hedges with Woody Bernardi and Sharan Hoyle.
 - (e) The Policies Committee has now been merged into the Bylaws Committee.
 - (f) The Positions Committee will remain chaired by Margaret Grady with Woody Bernardi, Earl Hedges and Paul Tanton. The chair is still to be determined. Stephanie Bannon mentioned that the WesternSFA site has some position data and that they're still willing to run ConRunners events.
 - (g) The Quartermaster remains Hal Astell.
 - (h) The Social Club Committee will remain Margaret Grady and Michael Fett. Sharan Hoyle and Earl Hedges will join them. Sharan will chair.
 - (i) Paul Tanton stood down as Social Media Coordinator but will remain on the Social Media Committee, with Dee Astell, Earl Hedges and Patti Hultstrand. Earl will chair.
 - (j) The Strategic Planning Committee was empty. John Grigg and Annette Sexton-Ruiz will join, the latter as of November. No chair yet. A proposal to defer this committee until the November meeting passed 41-0-2.
 - (k) The Surveys Committee will be Margaret Grady, Earl Hedges and Paul Tanton.
 - (l) Paul proposed that the Tablets Committee be disbanded; this passed 41-0-0.
 - (m) The Webmaster remains Hal Astell.
3. Paul Tanton proposed a change in the 12/02/2012 minutes from 'MadCap Theatres' to 'M.A.D.C.A.P. Theatres'; this passed 41-0-0.
 4. Paul Tanton stated that he had received an e-mail from Jeff Jennings asking if Westercon 70 would be willing to provide a grant to CASFS or sponsor a guest. Hal Astell added that he was going to suggest that LepreCon, Inc. consider sponsoring a Local Artist GoH at local science fiction conventions. Lee Whiteside suggested that this not be restricted to Local Artist GoH; Hal agreed. He proposed that LepreCon, Inc. consider sponsoring a GoH at local science fiction conventions and to let Jeff know that we'll defer a decision on his request until the Westercon 70 books are closed; this passed 38-2-4.
 5. Paul Tanton introduced elections for vacant board positions.
 - (a) Hal Astell listed those eligible to stand as Hal Astell, Mark Boniece, Margaret Grady, Sharan Hoyle, Marguerite Murray, Jim Strait, Gary Swaty and Susan Uttke.
 - (b) Michael Fett suggested a change in the requirement that members have to attend three of the last four public meetings to be eligible to stand for the board. Paul Tanton mentioned that this was a bylaw, so referred him to the Bylaws Committee to make a recommendation.
 - (c) Three members stood for election to the one year board position vacated by the passing of Mandy Parker: Margaret Grady, Sharan Hoyle and Gary Swaty. Gary Swaty was duly elected.
 - (d) Three members stood for election to the three year board position currently occupied by Margaret Grady: Hal Astell, Margaret Grady and Sharan Hoyle. Hal Astell was duly elected.
 - (e) Hal Astell proposed that elections for the chair of LepreCon 46 be deferred until the November meeting; this passed 32-4-1.
 - (f) Dee Astell will roll onto the board at the end of the meeting as chair of LepreCon 43 (Westercon 70).
 6. Paul Tanton introduced elections for officers.
 - (a) Paul Tanton stood unopposed for Chair and was duly elected 4-0-1.

- (b) Hal Astell stood unopposed for Vice Chair and was duly elected 5-0-0.
- (c) Hal Astell stood unopposed for Secretary and was duly elected 5-0-0.
- (d) Kevin McAlonan stood unopposed for Treasurer and was duly elected 5-0-0.

Announcements

1. Michael Fett stated that LepreCon 44 will have a table at First Friday in Phoenix each month.
2. Len Berger mentioned that SabotenCon will be held from September 1-4, 2017.
3. Patti Hultstrand mentioned that Mesa Book Festival will be held on December 9. Duncan Rittschof added that he would be one of the two merchants handling sales, the other being Bonny Books.
4. Hal Astell listed conventions between now and the next quarterly meeting: Saboten Con, RinCon, Thrill Halloween, YumaCon, Lady Death Fiend Festival, Doc Con, Arizona Cosfest, Tucson Comic-Con, Tempe Book Festival, TusCon, Phoenix Fan Fest and Arizona Fur Con.
5. Hal Astell mentioned that he and Dee Astell are Fan GoHs at TusCon 44 alongside Timothy Zahn, Theresa Mather and Melinda Snodgrass.
6. Hal Astell mentioned the Apocalypse Later International Fantastic Film Festival, which he runs.
7. Hal Astell also mentioned that the WesternSFA would be hosting ConKopelli 2, early in 2019, which he will be chairing.

Meetings

1. Meetings were set for:
 - (a) Committees Meeting (voting board and committee chairs) on Sunday September 24, 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at Denny's E Bell Rd (3205 E Bell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85032).
 - (b) Executive Session (voting board) on Sunday October 22, 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at Denny's E Bell Rd (3205 E Bell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85032).
 - (c) Quarterly Meeting (public) on Sunday November 19, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. at Spoke & Wheel (8525 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020).

Adjournment

Paul Tanton adjourned the meeting at 7.07 p.m. after a vote of 29-0-2.