Minutes of the LepreCon Inc. Meeting
Held on May 1, 2005
JB’s Restaurant, I-17 & Indian School Rd., Phoenix, AZ

Meeting called to order 7:00PM Mike Standard Time.

Attendance: [Attendance of members should probably go here for convenience.]
Proxies: Ethan Moe to Mike Willmoth, Shahn Cornell to Mike Willmoth, Pinkie Gish to Ray Gish, Lee Whiteside to Mike Willmoth.
Phone Proxies: Richard Bolinski to Ray Gish (Witnesses – Mike Willmoth, Ray Gish, Gary Swaty).
Guests: Dostin Clark, Michelle Barilla, Janet White, Liz Hansen, Katherine DuVal, Danielle Boniece.

Secretary’s Report: Read and approved (Many, 0, a few).

Treasurer’s Report: Corporate - $7781.47 (Pending expenses: Insurance, trifolds, monitors, keyboards, bookshelves, video projector $1400.00); WHC - $7773.85; WFC - $42,193.60; Total ~$65,000.00. Approved as read (Many, 0, 1).

Committee Reports:

LepreCon 30 – Closed out with final balance pending. We expect the convention is close to break-even.

LepreCon 31 – One week out. Staff changes were made. We have 300 pre-reg including everyone. Rooms – 75 reserved/200 room nights. Call during business hours to get room rate. Room reservations are better than last year, but not as many as Embassy Suites in past years. Most hotel questions have been answered. We are still working out the Registration and Fan Table Locations. Pre-Con Hotel Meeting is set tentatively for 4 p.m. Wednesday. Lee Whiteside wanted to combine the Nebulas with LepreCon 32, but SFWA said no. Larry wants the third weekend in May for LepreCon 31. PR1 sent using LepreCon 30 data and the CASFS download data.

Nebulas – Lee Whiteside is working with SFWA. He has lined up the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel with lower rates. Lee Whiteside has Mike Willmoth customizing the WFC contract for the Nebulas. One ballroom will be used for banquets.

LepreCon 32 – Guests: Artist Alan M Clark; Author John Vornholt; Local Artist Gilead; Media: Bill Blair; Music: Bill Laubenheimer. Theme: Transcending Worlds or Dimensions.We have a time conflict with GoH, Alan Clark. Larry says to go ahead with the Embassy Suites Phoenix North as our Hotel as they have excellent concessions. (Point Squaw Peak quoted a rate of $149.00. Our bid was for a max of $109.00.)

Book Festival 2005 – We had no art because of weather worries. Attendance was flat. We gave out lots of fliers and our events went well.

WHC – After Mike Willmoth reviews the WHC DVD, production will begin.
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WFC – Some comps still Pending. Work on the WFC DVD will begin as soon as WHC is finished (very soon).

By-Laws – The new by-laws have been passed by the membership and are attached to these minutes. No changes from the draft. Bruce Farr now has them for our 501(c)(7) filing. Possible impact of new by-laws was discussed.

Database – Dave Rood is waiting for data from LepreCon 29 and 30.

Policy – Read to the members and attached to these minutes. Shahn Cornell objected to sections 2 and 4. Dave Rood wants a copy at once.

ASFA – Refused funding for coming to LepreCon 31 as it might compromise their 501(c)(3) status. Some members are coming anyway on their own.

New Members – Janet White, Michelle Barilla and Bill Bishop circulated petitions for membership and were accepted by the Board.

Discussions: Coordination of supplies for LepreCon 31 was discussed. Acquisition of Electronics (Monitors 2, Cables, receiver/amplifier for A/V); Mark is to spend up to $200 on DVD/VHS player, speakers and cables. (Approved Many, 0, 1)

Quartermaster – No report. Mark Boniece and Larry Vela will coordinate with Ivan Erickson.

Old Business

Donated computer works. Lee Whiteside should get Windows 2000 for it.

Registration computer is up and running.

Storage unit for temperature sensitive equipment is needed.

Registration computer should be passed from one registration person directly to the next. Passed as policy.

Non-Profit Status – Bruce is finishing up the 501(c)(7) paperwork.

Minutes Transcription – Janet White will transcribe the old minutes as soon as Gary gives them to her.

Shahn Cornell has video projector.

Jean Goddin now a corporate member.

Convention Committee Age Limit 18 - The Board has unanimously ruled that all
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Convention committee must be at least 18 years of age.

New Business

**Space Access** -- Henry Vanderbilt sent a $200.00 check in thanks for help with the Space Access Conference 2005 from LepreCon and its members.

**Shed Contents Ownership** – Legal advice given to CASFS indicates that common ownership of shed contents between a 501(c)(3) [CASFS] organization and a 501(c)(7) [LepreCon] would be unacceptable to the IRS. Two Board members of each organization will get together and divide the property hopefully before LepreCon 31. All items will be labeled as to ownership. Mike Willmoth and Ray Gish will represent LepreCon, Mark Boniece and David Hungerford, CASFS.

**Shed Storage Agreement** – CASFS Storage Agreement is attached to these minutes.

**LepreCon 31 Personnel Changes** – Two people were fired from the staff [Stephanie Bannon and Kim Martin]. Three more resigned as a consequence of the firings [Rick Andrews, Sean Martin and Rini ?]. Marj Koski [Staff Lounge] and James Koski [ConOps/Security] were added.

**LepreCon 31 Email Issues** – An email from Stephanie Bannon was copied to Hugh Gregory who is not a member of the LepreCon 31 mailist or committee. Hugh forwarded it to Mike Willmoth. Stephanie says she has no idea how it happened but she does not believe she is responsible. Mike Willmoth had removed Stephanie from the mailist before her termination and has protested to the CASFS Board that this copying of the email beyond the mailist members resulted in the improper release of confidential information to people outside of the committee. [Long policy discussion about what needed to be done about such releases and what action should be taken against Stephanie and any future violators of confidentiality. No final conclusions reached.]

**LepreCon 31 Needs Money** – Treasurer Bill Bishop requested money from Corporate Account. He needs $700.00 for computer rental and $2000.00 for Art Show, Registration etc. Approved unanimously.

**Fired and Resigned Committee/Staff** are not banned from LepreCon 31.

Announcements

**Barry Bard** has Pancreatic Cancer surgery this coming Monday [May 2, 2005]. Card approved, circulated and signed.

**Star Wars** – We rented a theater for May 19 at 6:10PM at Harkins Scottsdale 101.

Meeting adjourned 9:18PM Mike Standard Time.
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Guests -- None

PROXIES -- Jim Webbert to Liz Hanson
Doreen Webbert to Liz Hanson

Electronic – Jamie Shea to Mike Willmoth
David Hiatt to Mike Willmoth
Kim Hiatt to Mike Willmoth

Secretary’s Report -- Read and accepted with corrections. (Many, 0, 2)

Treasurer’s Report – Paper work from Ray Gish, our deceased Treasurer. We have complete World Horror Convention data, Complete World Fantasy Convention data, Complete LepreCon 31 data, and Huge quantities of Corporate records. Also from Ray we have the address corrections from the post office, the key to the P.O. Box, the corporate check book Mike has reviewed the records back 3 months and found all records present.

July Corporate Balance $4,453.98
July LepreCon 31 Balance $6,318.48
July World Horror Balance $9,631.52
July World Fantasy Balance $43,020.22

(LepreCon Corporate is running on money from WFC account until access is restored to the corporate account as Ray Gish, deceased, was the only signer on Corporate account)

Totals for all Accounts -- $63,942.10 (According to the bank with some outstanding checks.)

(Accepted – [Many, 0, 3])

Committee Reports

LepreCon 30 -- All work done. It was break-even or up to $100 plus.

LepreCon 31 – Expense numbers not yet available. Hotel bill not in ($500-$1000 for function space). Bill is expected to be around $1000.00. Computer deposit for rented computers has not yet been returned by Jonathan Bailey. Chairman, Larry Vela, says we did well with 263 room nights and a membership of approximately 420. We found the Carefree Inn difficult to deal with. Information was slow in coming. We never did get a table count from them and there was a skeleton staff on duty during the convention. We have more address corrections to be picked up from the Post Office and paid for. Media GoH’s Bear Berge and Dane ?? are coming to LepreCon 32 on their own nickel.

LepreCon 32 – We all ready have excitement and enthusiasm among the guests. We have formed a marketing group to centralize and coordinate our efforts. This will take stress off of Lee Whiteside and reduce duplication of effort. Alan Clark, our artist Guest of Honor thanked us for the invite and expressed eagerness to come.

Programming planning is beginning now. We will likely have tea-shirts again

ASFA members expressed their sorrow at the death of our Art Show Director, Ray Gish. Ray’s ex-wife Terry Berry will take over as Art Show Director for LepreCon 32. She will be assisted by Ray’s sons.

LepreCon 33 – Committee is forming says Chairman, Shahn Cornell. The Mesa Sheraton is under consideration. Gary Swaty asked if he/The Phoenix Filk Circle was to provide the Filk GoH. Shan Cornell told him to get the guest and agreed to provide a convention theme to guide the choice.

Nebula Awards – Our Toastmaster: Connie Willis is Connie Willis. Lisa Stallings Clark is providing art. (Tea shirts? Fau Paws?) SFWA signed late and we now have the Nebulas happening on the same weekend as LepreCon 32. In spite of this the presiding officials (Lee Whiteside and Larry Vela) express confidence that staffing will not be a problem

The Chicago Nebulas were discussed and Mike Willmoth expressed confidence in our ability to do it better. Discussed trying to get the Nebula attendees to come to Sunday Literary Panels at LepreCon 32.

World Horror Convention – DVDs are ready. Will be advertised on the Web site. Mike handed them out to staff and committee at the meeting. Will mail them to Guests of
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Honor. Will be available to attendees for $15.00.

World Fantasy Convention – Preparation of material for the DVDs has begun. There is lots of material. Mike Cassady said that there was too much material to put on one DVD. Mike Willmoth told him to go ahead with two as the burner we have won’t do the dual layer technology. He wanted to be able to include the Ellen Datlow and Betty Ballantine interviews. One DVD might have the interviews, the other Highlights. At World Fantasy, Mike Willmoth gave World Horror GoH, Brian Lumley a preliminary copy of the World Horror DVD.

Westercon Bid – Mike informs us that there is a considerable L.A. Presence on the Las Vegas bid. The Dohertys are running the Vegas Bid. It was they who brought us Conuluulu. Mike got a $500.00 advance from the LepreCon Board and went to the Calgary WesterCon (Westercon 58) to promote the bid. Mike sold 21 pre-supports. We are bidding the Tempe Mission Palms in 2008 or 2009 depending on whether someone in the priority zone bids or not. We have a contract with the Tempe Mission Palms to take affect if we get the bid. We discussed the difficulties with access to the hotel on the fourth of July, parking issues etc. Chairman will be Mike Willmoth, Jeff Richards will be Treasurer, Shahn Cornell will be Vice Chairman. Voting for 2008 will be in 2006 if there is no priority bid. If there is the vote will be in 2007 for 2009. At the Calgary WesterCon Party David Heartwell showed up and talked up the TPM as an excellent site.

By Laws – No Meeting.

Database — Almost up to date.

1. Nebulas Web Site — On SFWA Web Site. Link on LepreCon Web Site.

Privacy Policy – Pending

Strategic Planning – Critical issue. We must make a long range study of hotel rates. We may have to move the LepreCon date into June to keep the rate under $100.00. A $5.00 increase every other year in the at-con price was suggested. It was desired that we hold the line on pre-Con prices. Gary Swaty said that this might not be a good idea as too many people would then take advantage of the bargain resulting in an unacceptable cut in revenue. He cited the experience of TusCon as an example.

LepreCon event parties were planned at CopperCon, TusCon and LosCon to promote LepreCon, the Nebulas and our Westercon bid. We discussed scaling down LepreCon 34 if we get the Westercon. Decided it might not be necessary, but no final decision was made.

Computers and equipment — Buy updated computers for registration, programming and art show and a multi-user license for Windows XP. Athlon computers recommended. Adobe publications software also recommended. In addition purchase of two doublewide laminators and two more flat panel monitors was suggested.

Quarter master – No Report.

Old Business

Programming Computer is in the possession of Paul Tanton.

Registration Computer is in the possession of Mike Cassady.

501 c(7) paperwork was sent to the IRS. They lost it. We have to send it again at once to reactivate our application.

Mission Statement – Pending. Members who have ideas about it should send them to Larry Vela.

Bylaws – To be put up on the Web site.

CASFS Equipment Loan – LepreCon will loan the video projector and other equipment to CASFS upon receiving assurance that CASFS will repair or replace damaged equipment.

Re: Stephanie Bannon – On May 2, 2005 Mike Willmoth showed Emails and other records to the Bryson law firm. Got assurances which cause him to believe he is right to suggest action against Stephanie. The ByLaws do not specify who can discipline or expel a
member. The Lawyer's opinion will be attached when it is provided to me. Shahn Cornell made a motion to the Board that Stephanie Bannon be barred from holding any committee or staff position at any LepreCon event or at the Corporate level. Passed (3-0-1) Discussion occurred before vote. Three people spoke against the motion.

Mike Willmoth, Mike Cassady and Shahn Cornell spoke for the motion.

Discussed Westercon activity with Board, received $500.00 for promotion discussed earlier in Committee reports.

Property Division CASFS and LepreCon – On July 27, Mike Willmoth met David Hungerford and marked the property as to ownership. No list was provided. The Art flats were split 50-50 except for those belonging to the Western WSFA.

New Business

CASFSLepreCon Shed Agreement – Approved [4 – 0 -0]

LepreCon Event Promo Parties

CopperCon Party Help – Help for the Confusion Crew style at CopperCon requested


LosCon Party Help – (Thanksgiving weekend) Help needed

Elections

LepreCon 34 2008 Sole nomination -- Liz Hanson (elected by acclamation)

LepreCon Inc. Board (at large position)

Nominations – Richard Bolinski, Ethan Moe, Doreen Webbert, Lee Whiteside

Lee Whiteside elected.

Board Two year (former Convention Chair slot as Larry Vela is ineligible)

Nominations – Richard Bolinski, Jean Goddin, Shahn Cornell, Ethan Moe.

Shahn Cornell elected

Board One Year (Replacement for Ray Gish, Deceased)

Nominations – Ethan Moe, Richard Bolinski, Jean Goddin

Jean Goddin – elected

Treasurer Sole Nomination -- Jeff Richards (By Acclamation)

Replaces Ray Gish, deceased, as Treasurer and signer on the corporate account.

Secretary Sole Nomination – Gary Swaty (elected by Acclamation)

Board Members (as of adjournment of this meeting)

Mike Willmoth (Two years remaining in term) – Chairman, Also to be a signer on the corporate account.

Lee Whiteside (Three year term)

Shahn Cornell (Two year term)

Jean Goddin (One year term)

Mark Boniece (One Year remaining in term)

Announcements

Lee Whiteside – Three Alien invasion shows being introduced for the upcoming TV season. Also coming “Ghost Whisperer and a new “Night Stalker” series

CopperCon 25 Wake for Ray Gish – A wake will be held in the Staff Lounge [Room 3037] on Saturday night at the Convention. Convention membership not required.

Phoenix Costumers' Guild wishes to explore the possibility of LepreCon assisting them with a future CostumeCon here in the valley in April of 2011 or 2012. CostumeCon historically has had from 400-900 members. They expect around 450. A straw pole was taken by a show of hands. (many, 0, 0). They are working with an expert to get 501 c(3) status. The convention is a Professional Convention sort of like World Fantasy.

Adjourned 9:48 p.m.
Attendance:
Guests: Sylvana Gish, David Gish

Secretary’s Report: Read and Approved [Many, 0, 3]
Treasurer’s Report: Back Files sorted back to LepreCon 23. Bruce Farr filed extensions for taxes. When taxes have been filed, all materials will be inventoried. Bruce Farr has been provided with current data. Worksheets are attached. Checks for LosCon and TusCon promotional parties [Westercon Bid, Nebulas, LepreCon] to be written tonight [11/13/2005]. Check also for Mike Cassidy to cover the Registration computer cost as previously authorized. The $100 remaining from money donated for Barry Bard’s Wake will be donated to the American Cancer Society in Barry’s name. Various expenses listed, some of which were paid out of the WFC account because Ray Gish, deceased, was the only signer on the corporate account. [This has been corrected and our Treasurer and Mike Willmoth are now signers.]

Westercon Bid Pre-supports – $660.00
WFC – $42,381.12 [$430.00 written to Sanders & Clark for Corporate]
Lep Convention Account – $4,152.09
WHC – $9579.02 [$49.50 to CASFS]
Total in all Accounts – Approx $60,000.00
Report Accepted [Many, 0, 0]

Lep 31 – Final Accounting $543 Loss for the Convention. All reimbursements for expenses have been made. The Hotel Bill has been paid.

Lep 32: Bill Bishop and Larry Vela have cut $2500.00 out of the budget. We have lower guest costs this time. Computer Room has been cut. T-shirts have been budgeted. Need help for Promo Parties at TusCon and LosCon. Current Lep 32 membership numbers not available. Dave Rood wants data early.

Lep33: We are opening talks with the Mesa Marriott and Convention Center. 30,000 sq. ft programming space.

Lep 34: Our hotel may be Mesa Marriott pending Lep33. We are looking at guests.

Nebulas: No meeting today. SFWA advice on funding sought. The website is being updated. We won’t know who is coming until the Nebula nominations are out. There are three entrees for the banquet but costs have not been finalized. We allocated $500.00 to WFC Hospitality in Madison, Wisconsin, to promote the Nebulas.

WHC – About $9600.00 left after mailing DVDs. We are going to promote DVD sales to raise more money. We are finishing up.

WFC Madison – Madison’s hospitality suite was inferior and the Dealers’ Room and Art Show were small. They had two tracks of programming. They had higher attendance of Approximately 900. They used three spill over hotels. Artists receptions was well attended. The discussions were excellent. I learned much [Mike Willmoth] At-Con badges were holographic.

WFC Board Meeting – Discussed current convention in closed session.

WFC – DVDs are being prepared and will be mailed to all members of the con.

Westercon Bid: Promotional Funds $500.00 was spent of the $660.00 allocated. Fan table sold pre-supports at NASFIC. Thanks to all who helped. [LV (opposition) was barely there.] We also promoted both the Nebulas, Lep32 and the Westercon Bid at CopperCon.
$250.00 spent. Costs split between the three events. If no one in the new area bids, our Westercon bid will be for 2008 (competing with Las Vegas otherwise the bid moves to 2009 and Vegas moves to 2010).

**By-Laws** -- The By-Laws are online. Suggestions are welcome. Kevin McAlonan has been added to the Committee.

**Database:** LepreCon 28-31 Data has been added. We have only 60 members listed for LepreCon 27. None for LepreCon 25 and 26. LepreCon 21-24 data is good. Earlier data spotty. Westercon pre-support data to be provided to Jeff Richards and Dave Rood. At Mark Boniece’s insistence the matter of the re-design of the database was discussed at length. The Leprecon Board had issues with the claim of data ownership made by the CASFS Board that led to the Leprecon FanMaster Database being created independent of the CASFS FanMaster Database.

**Website:** Our domains will be renewed through a domain service. Tried to acquire WFC2004 to scavenge traffic. The Lep32 site is being updated. The By-Laws are being put up. We let WFC2004 expire but kept WorldFantasy2004.org and whc2004.org.

**Privacy Policy:** New Wording Approved. (Many 0, 1) [Attached]

**Strategic Planning:** Logo designed by Larry submitted by Larry. Accepted (Many, 0, 2) [Attached] Move LepreCon to later in the year to preserve $100.00 room rate. New hotels are helping keep the rates down. Tempe Mission Palms not available because of ASU graduation over Mother’s Day Weekend.

**Quartermaster:** Ivan Erickson – Some equipment not returned after CopperCon. Mike Willmoth ventured into shed without Ivan being present; Mike notified Ivan who claimed not to receive notification. Art flats damaged at CopperCon 25. CopperCon has promised repairs. Approximately 15 were damaged. Art clips and hooks are missing. Shed food service equipment will be inventoried by Mary Erickson and Liz Hanson. Climate controlled storage not located by Mike Willmoth. Lee Whiteside asked to assist.

**Old Business:**

- **Computers** – Vicki Mieth has Registration Computer. Billy Bishop uses his own for Treasurer. Programming has the Programming Computer (stolen with truck during this meeting).

- **IRS** – By law no 501(c)(7) Corporate member may profit from sponsored events. Various scenarios were discussed. Mike suggested that convention members do not become corporate members until the meeting following the convention and lose it if they don’t attend the meeting. Therefore artists and dealers may profit. Gary suggested that they be eligible for membership the following year if they attend corporate meetings.

- **Equipment Purchases** – Video Projector [Manual missing] $820. More purchases to be made. Two USB capable label printers with power supplies to make Lep independent in the reg equipment area. LepreCon’s existing labeler must be located. Vickie will approach Staples about labeler donation. It was noted that some events are too close together and equipment is over committed. Nebulas will need Registration materials. Must add the New Equipment to the inventory. Art show will need a combo printer copier [Mike W. $150-$200 for inkjet] David Gish recommends the Brother Laser at $200 with $60 cartridges as the better buy
when operating costs are considered. Laser prices are to be checked. Most agreed that ink jets would cost a lot more to operate. Up to $350 approved [Many, 0, 1]

**Climate Control Storage Pricing** – Lyn Jeppesen reports $115/month for 8' x 6' storage

**Auto Theft Recess** (see above)

**New Business:**

**Letter From CASFS:** Attached. In short, in response to LepreCon’s complaint about the behavior of Stephanie Bannon the letter stated that she did not violate CASFS Policy or By-Laws. The letter was discussed. The Board is going to decide what response to make to CASFS. The letter from our lawyer [Also Attached] in the same matter was also discussed. Duration of the decision regarding Stephanie and any responsible Leprecon positions was determined to be open ended, but subject to review as needed. In regards to communications between Larry Vela and Rini, the conclusion was that no inappropriate behavior occurred. There will be no pass thru for Stephanie Bannon or her immediate staff due to her firing. No further action against Stephanie is contemplated. Mike Willmoth will keep watch on Stephanie and her online activity. He stated that she is rated low on reliability on the SMOF’s mailist.

**Barry Bard Wake at Tempe Mission Palms** – 75 people attended Barry Bard Wake. The room was decorated with movie posters and some freebies were given away as mementoes. Amount remaining rounded up to $100 and donated to American Cancer Society in Barry’s name.

**Mike has been appointed our Statutory Agent.** [Many, 0, 1]

By-laws changed to satisfy IRS concerns about profit going to members. Approved [Many, 2, 0]

**Reimbursement** – Lee Whiteside reimbursed $70 and $75 respectively for ads in the TusCon and LosCon Program Books.

**Announcements**

[Omitted]