

Lperecon, Inc. Meeting - Aug 23, 2009

Annual Meeting Minutes

Proxies

Anna Caggiano to Mike Cassidy

Gerry Nordley to Mike Willmoth

Michael Contos to Lee Whiteside

(Proxy for Theresa Contos is invalid)

Margie Grady to Mike Cassidy

Meeting Called at 3:12 pm

Bruce Farr on non-profit status.

About to submit revised financials and some Discworld publications. Submittal date will be after Discworld so can include program book as well as W62 publications. Shahn Cornell has a W62 program book with him that he gave to Bruce.

Bruce also wants updated financials for all but Discworld as Discworld will not show up until after end of fiscal year which is July 31st. Discworld monies are deferred income. Bruce will be at the Discworld convention and will get a program book then.

*He will be filing right after Discworld. He is donating the filing fee to Leprecon.

Guests - Bruce and Lea Farr, Doug Cosper

Secretary Report read and accepted.

Jeff Richards has no summary information. He will get a summary report to the board within two weeks.

Bank Balances as of 7/31 except Discworld

Corporate balance \$52,110.93

(\$9,684.27 outstanding PayPal deposits transferred after and \$1,098 in outstanding checks)

Leprecon balance \$807.38 - Mike Willmoth still has some membership deposits to make.

World Fantasy Convention - \$20,146.26

Discworld as of 8/20 - \$29,866.70

Westercon 62 - \$11,866.67 - \$6,451.03 outstanding checks

\$8,600 transfer from Corporate from Credit Card account

Discworld has \$35,000 outstanding including PayPal

W62 balance will be about \$13,000 after transfers

Gary asked about a total for Discworld.

*Jeff Richards said it will be about \$65,000. Jeff George said he has outstanding checks

Motion to accept - Many for, 0 against, 0 abstained

Committee Reports

LepreCon 35 – Ethan Moe contracted for Mesa Marriott, Oct 2-4, 2009 for a relaxacon. He has been working on programming. Room rates are \$99 per night and \$139 per night for suites. The Consuite will be in the Sedona room. The Cabana room will be used for Saturday programming. Registration will be in the Consuite. Membership is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. No pass thrus. Lep 34 pass throughs are going to LepreCon 36. It will be a 3 day party with some fun interactive stuff. It starts on Friday at 1 pm. Sedona Suite needs to be out of at 6 pm Sunday. Mike Willmoth is hotel liaison and treasurer, so buy memberships. Any questions for Ethan? No.

Worldcon Report (from Bruce Farr) - 3500 people attending, 4400 total memberships. 1200 rooms on peak nights. Definitely made money but not sure numbers until reimbursements are done. Will do pass along funds. Seemed to go well. Numbers were as expected and in line with the budget. Program participants will probably be reimbursed. Glad it's over. Bruce and Lea Farr then had to leave.

LepreCon 36 – Lee Whiteside: Slowly moving ahead, been busy with Discworld. David Gish is doing art show. Has a person for gaming. Not set with a dealers room coordinator yet. Still thinking about extra guests. Heavier publicity once Discworld is over. Spoke to Brotherhood without Banners, George RR Martin fan group, at their party at Worldcon and they are interested in throwing a party.

LepreCon 37 – Lee Whiteside: Had Convention and Visitors Bureau been sent out yet? Mike Willmoth said no. Lee is looking at guests but will not do offers until the dates are firmed up. Want to have it in early May to get away from Phoenix ComicCon, which will be staying over Memorial Day for the foreseeable future. First weekend in May is Mother's Day weekend, Lee is not sure about the impact of that.

World Fantasy Convention - DVDs in progress. Still has some to mail. Mike still needs to change the cover letter to acknowledge Jannie Wurts copyright of art on cover.

Westercon 62 - \$13,000 left barring refunds. Most members were there. Some problems with hotel were worked out. Went through registration materials and at con lists and PayPal with at least 550 warm bodies. Hotel room nights were low, about 550 room nights. In the middle of the range, so we had to pay some for function space as Mike Willmoth's commission went to Leprecon, the final hotel bill will be less than \$700 which will help. Positive feedback - Did do a

questionnaire and sent those on to Pasadena (W63) and San Jose (W64). Mike Willmoth is Fan GoH for San Jose. Overall it went well. Some construction issues with hotel, including noise. Pool deck access for fireworks became a non-issue. Fireworks were enjoyed by fans, although one complained they were too long. Hotel was mostly happy. Will be doing revenue sharing. 1/3 used for donations designated by staff, 1/3 to refund memberships for staff and program participants, corporate will keep 1/3.

Discworld - Over cap at about 985 members. 6 Supporting, 28 dealers, 951 members more than ideal. Jeff George has staff and program participants. Harper Collins did an email announcement and Neil Gaiman did a mention on his blog that got us over 150 members in 2 weeks, putting us over the cap. Jeff George has been working on membership transfers. The hotel is full due to an issue where cancellations did not go back into our block, so we have about 245 rooms with another 58 not in our block. Some rooms will not be remodeled but none are out of operation. Most suites now have a lock-off room. Contract will be amended to get rid of attrition and make the function space cost free. Have also gotten both hotels to commit to use shuttles between Tempe Courtyard and Mission Palms. Unlike Westercon, we will have most of the hotel so will have some clout dealing with mundanes. Jeff Richards should have certificate of insurance this week. It has been paid for. Jeff George asked if the insurance had lapsed. Mike Willmoth explained that Leprecon buys insurance for each event. The convention will have lots of newbies. We have had some difficulty with getting the program together, with special thanks to Kevin McAlonan. It is two weeks out. It will be a good convention. We will see about \$20K profit.

Bouchercon Bid - Got the materials off to the Standing Committee. They still are wanting us to block more rooms at the Point Tapatio and Point Squaw Peak. We are currently the only bid for 2012. Still do not have a contract with the hotel. Have been waiting for the Bouchercon SC to accept the bid with a 900 room commitment. This year's Bcon is the third weekend in October in Indianapolis. SC has been asking about the location and pointed out other hotels closer than overflow hotel, but not if you are driving. The overflow hotel, the Point Squaw Peak, has regular shuttle to the Pointe Tapatio. Lee thinks the location is good. \$199 room rate, higher for suites. Each building has a Presidential suite. Anchorage rate was lower, but Baltimore was \$179/199 double. Much cheaper than 2010 rates in San Francisco. No questions.

Bylaws

No report.

Database

No report.

Tucson Book Festival

Has announced some authors, including some genre authors. Lee is going to contact TusCon about table-sharing again.

Website

It's there-not much done.

Strategic Planning

No report.

Quartermaster

No report-did add some fabric from Westercon 62 Childrens' Room. There are now 3 video projectors, did get rid of 2 of the TVs and a VCR. May get rid of the other TV as the storage is very crowded. Some of the beverages are going to Discworld. Lee wants a copy of the inventory from the Westercon Consuite. He was told it was on the tops of the bins that were packed. A separate list was not made, only lists on the bins.

OLD BUSINESS

Non-profit was discussed earlier due to Bruce Farr's presence.

Corporate details-the bylaws are on the website, not yet the minutes. Gary does have the old minutes available.

There have been no submissions for the preferred guest list. Please send some.

Announcements lists-has been set up. Please use it.

Have one spare bulb with the new projectors. Still waiting on one. Did get the extended warranty on one projector - then the website had problems. Mike Cassidy suggested emailing a copy of the receipt to them and seeing if it can still be obtained for the other one.

Space Access

Leprecon received \$200.00 from Henry Vanderbilt for our help and the use of the credit card machine.

There was a side discussion of Alice Massoglias' Consuite at Westercon.

The storage of party supplies was asked about - after Discworld there may be some room. It's 5 large totes.

ONLINE BUSINESS

Last Tuesday September 8 we were finishing the load out from NADWCon when we realized that we didn't have enough storage room for everything. Besides the usual culprits of art flats, a/v cart, etc. we also had a substantial amount of soft drinks remaining from Consuite. Mike C, Lee W and Mike W were all present and agreed to try to rent a larger storage room.

The Public Storage manager said she only had a 10'x10' inside (climate controlled) unit available. We perused it and agreed to upgrade the latest 5'x5' to this. By doing so they gave us credit on the new one until January 1, 2010. Mike W bought two new locks which he'll submit receipts for to Jeff R for reimbursement. The manager gave us until Wednesday evening to clear out of the old one (C232), so Jean and Mike W did just this before the manager left on Wed. Additionally, to

facilitate this and future equipment movement, Jean, Lee and Mike W agreed to purchase a multi-function hand truck / cart from Costco which Mike W shall also submit for reimbursement. But it works like a hand truck, a hand cart or a leaning hand truck. There was no way for us to move everything into C83 any other way. The cart resides in C83.

So the 10'x10' contains the art flats (2 are broken), soft drinks, a/v cart and miscellaneous other stuff. The first 5'x5' (C321) we still have and we released the second 5'x5' back to PS. C321 is paid up through 6/30/10. C83 is paid up through 1/1/10. C321 is in Lep's name while C83 is in Mike W's name for Lep's use because of the original \$1 move-in deal. Lee and Mike W shall remain the key holders for these rooms. The two new locks went onto C83 while the two old locks went onto C321.

Kat Yeager was sent a letter thanking her for her printer donation to Leprecon, Inc. The Phoenix Horror/Scifi Film Festival again offered Leprecon a sponsorship package including a 1/2 page program book ad and an on-screen insert for 500.00. The board voted to do this for another year, as Lee Whiteside felt it was money well-spent.

Rowan Wakefield of the Phoenix Faerie Festival made a request to the board for a loan,

- > As some of you know, I am the founder and Coordinator of the Phoenix
- > Faerie Festival, which saw its inaugural event in the spring of 2007.
- > We are now in year three and still growing our fan base, our attendance
- > blossomed from over 500 attendees in '07 to 2000 in '08 but we are still
- > small enough that we have not yet been able to attract financial sponsor
- > partners.

- > This means that each year I must find resources and spearhead fund
- > raising efforts to raise the means to produce the event. A portion of the
- > annual production outlay comes from modest vendor fees, and the rest
- > comes out of my own pocket, stretched over the year.

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- > Besides entertainment, the largest single expense is the rental fence,
- > which is essential for a controlled entrance for ticket holders. Between
- > my personal funding and the vendor fees I have been able to raise funds
- > to cover the costs of facilities and promotional materials and some other
- > requirements but not enough for the perimeter fence, estimated at \$2500
- > from National Rentals.

>

- > This is where I need help. The Festival is approaching in a short few
- > months (November), and while I have a few small fund raising opportunities
- > left, I am concerned that I won't be able to raise the money for the
- > fence on my own.

>

- > So I'm coming to the Leprecon Board asking you to consider loaning
- > Fireland Faerie Nation Inc. the money to cover the fence rental (not to
- > exceed \$2500), to be repaid directly with funds from ticket gate sales
- > ahead of other expenses.

>

- > At only \$10 general admission (with children 5 and under free), the

- > Phoenix Faerie Festival is an affordable fun family event even in this thinly
- > stretched economy.
- > We are fortunate that the Press has shown a great interest in the PFF
- > and have run articles and photo spreads that aided us in our considerable
- > growth last year. There is also reason to believe that television news
- > crews will be present this year and that coverage will drive awareness
- > and attendance even more. As you know, news cameras love colorful costumes!
- >
- > If you are unfamiliar with the Phoenix Faerie Festival, please take a
- > moment to review the event website at
- > <http://www.westerngatesfaerierealm.com> ,
- > our Gallery photos and entertainment and attractions line-up to see what
- > we're all about. With the considerable amount of new interest and
- > excitement from potential attendees and new vendors, I believe in the
- > Phoenix Faerie Festival's ability to become a joyfully anticipated staple
- > of family entertainment for Arizona and I'd hate to lose momentum if we
- > had to cancel this year over a fence. Please consider helping us out so
- > that we can get over this hump.
- >
- >
- > Thank you for your time and consideration.
- > Rowan B. Wakefield / Phoenix Faerie Festival

The board voted to give her a \$500.00 grant and a \$2000.00 loan.

Mike Cassidy resigned from the board effective October 9th, 2009. Ethan Moe had then rolled on, as past Chair of LepreCon 35. Lee Whiteside then had to vacate his voting board position because as Chair of LepreCon 36 he is now the President per the bylaws. This left 2 positions vacant. Mark Boniece was appointed to fill the last year of Lee Whiteside's term, while Shahn Cornell was appointed to fill the last portion of Mike Cassidy's term.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin McAlonan mentioned that the annual Browncoats' fundraiser screenings of Serenity for Equality Now are coming up. There will be one in Tucson on September 15th, and one in Phoenix on the 17th. This year the screenings will also include Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog. He asked if Leprecon would donate money towards raffle prizes. It was mentioned that the Browncoats volunteered at Westercon. Kevin would like a donation of whatever we would give. Last year it was \$250.00. Nadine Armstrong moved to donate \$250.00 - Lee Whiteside seconded. There was no discussion. Many for, none against. 1 abstention. Kevin will get the details to Jeff Richards. Jim Webbert asked where the art was that was given to Leprecon Inc. There was discussion of what this was and where it might be. Mike Willmoth said that he would ask David Gish if he knew anything about it.

Margie Grady - Mike Cassidy brought up an issue with decorations for Discworld. Margie wants to rent them to the convention for \$2000 instead of being reimbursed for them. Discussion of monies and IRS rules for members to make a profit. Members can't get profit from art show and dealers room. Shahn Cornell wants to know what the rental includes. \$2000 plus supplies?

Response was that if they are not rented, Leprecon will have to store them. Discussion of rental vs purchase of Discworld decorations. Most are in bins. Margie wants \$2000 for the decorations. If

we buy it, there would be additional storage units. Straw poll taken to leave it as Lee's (Discworld Chair) decision - 12 not worried, 2 against, 5 abstained.

Will corporate chip in money for a Chill party at Discworld to promote Lep 35/36? Jeff George moved that corporate donate \$200 towards the chill party. It will be a dry party, no alcohol. Shahn Cornell will host. Yes - Many, Opposed - 0, 1 abstained.

Announcements

Discussion of upcoming promotion opportunities. LosCon to promote LepreCon 36. TusCon promotions - Best place to promote is actually at the Tucson book festival and not TusCon.

Next meeting - Nov 8th, 3 pm.

Board Elections

Some discussion of what is up for voting. Shahn's 2 year chair from Lep 33 would normally have expired except Leprecon 35 has not happened yet, so Ethan Moe cannot fill it yet. Move that Shahn Cornell will stay in the position until after LepreCon 35, then Ethan Moe would take over. For - Many, Against - 0, Abstained - 0

Three year position - Mike Willmoth is due. Mike Cassidy has 1 year left, Jean has 2 years, Lee has 2 years.

Mike Willmoth elected by acclamation to open three year term.

Chair of LepreCon 38

Kevin McAlonan declined, Mark Boniece accepted. Shahn Cornell moved they close.

Vote was: For - Many, Against - 0, Abstained - 0

Mark Boniece elected Chair of LepreCon 38

Leprecon Board Officers

Chair - Mike Willmoth by acclamation

Vice-Chair - Shahn Cornell and Lee Whiteside nominated. Shahn Cornell will do if non-voting

Secretary - No nominations

Treasurer - Jeff Richards does not want to continue. Jeff George declined. Board will appoint someone.

Next meeting - November 8th at 3 pm at Coco's.

Jim Webbert moved, Shahn Cornell seconded, Vote is Many, 0, 0 . Meeting closed.