

## **Minutes of Leprecon, Inc., Quarterly Board Meeting**

Date: Sunday, February 12, 2012

Location: Coco's Restaurant, Priest Drive & Elliott Road, Tempe, AZ

Kevin McAlonan acting as Secretary for Lee Whiteside.

Meeting called to order by Mike Willmoth at 3:03 p.m.

Voting Board Members present: Mike Willmoth, Jean Goddin, Michael Contos, Lee Whiteside, and Jeff George.

Non-Voting Board Members present: Mark Boniece, Donald Jacques, and Paul Tanton.

Guests: None

Petitions for Membership: None

Proxies: Gerald Nordley to Mike Willmoth

### **Reports**

Secretary's Report: Motion to waive reading of secretary's report made by Jim Webbert, seconded by Jean Goddin, passed 7-2-3.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- Bruce Farr reported, stating that he is looking to get information on account transactions from individual treasurers and hopes to have a profit & loss statement by the next quarterly meeting.
- In response to a question about whether the annual report had been filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission, Bruce stated that he did not know; Mike Willmoth to check the Corporation Commission website.
- In response to a question about the 501(c)(7) application, Bruce stated that he is updating the paperwork and it should be done by the next quarterly meeting.
- Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented made by Jim Webbert and seconded by Jean Goddin; passed 10-0-2.

LepreCon 36 Committee Report: Mike Willmoth reported that the preliminary figures show that the convention lost about \$1,823. Final numbers are pending review by Bruce Farr.

LepreCon 37 Committee Report: Mike Willmoth reported that the preliminary figures show that income was \$12,834, expenses were \$13,211, for a loss of about \$387. These numbers include the Corporate contribution for Darryl Sweet. Final numbers are pending review by Bruce Farr.

LepreCon 38 Committee Report:

- Mark Boniece reported that things are in good shape—guests lined up, zeroing in on programming.
- Mike Willmoth reported that airfare for Joe & Gay Haldeman have been booked; airfare for Franchesco has not yet been booked, but should be about \$500. Nadine Armstrong suggested using Allegiant Airlines, which might be less expensive. (Allegiant flies into Williams Gateway in Mesa.)
- Mike Willmoth also reported that he needs Stephen Furst's schedule to schedule his flights (Mark Boniece to provide).
- Mark Boniece reported that a UFP Jeopardy event with Stephen Furst is planned.
- Mark Boniece also reported that plans include a showing of *Animal House* at M.A.D.C.A.P. Theaters with Stephen Furst, probably on Friday night. This will be an extra fee event. Cost will probably be \$10, which should break even or might show a profit. This would be used to promote the convention on the ASU campus.
- Mark Boniece also reported that gaming is being set up, as well as a video room (run by Mike Fett) to be put near the traffic areas.
- Mike Willmoth also reported that he is still receiving memberships through PayPal and by mail.
- Mike Willmoth also reported that Fo'Paws will not be available to do merchandise, and he is looking at alternatives.

Westercon 62 (2009) Report: Mike Willmoth reported that program books still need to be sent out.

ConFlagration 2012: Mark Boniece reported:

- Imperial Outpost and Game Depot are sponsors;
- An auction for used and collectible games is planned;
- They are hoping for LAN gaming and looking for a sponsor;
- Vul-Con is later this month, and plans are to distribute fliers, possibly run some games for publicity, and make some industry contacts, but not sell memberships; and
- No memberships sold as yet, but that should change once the gaming schedule is posted on the website.

NASFiC 2014 Bid: Mike Willmoth reported:

- Things are moving forward;
- Bill Thomasson and Dina Krause have a fan table at CapriCon this weekend in

- Chicago to promote the bid;
- They did well at LosCon—having different levels for pre-support memberships (\$20, \$40, \$60, \$80, and \$100, with increasing benefits) paid off by bringing in over \$1300;
- They have some 40 pre-supports, even though the bid is not official yet (London has to get the Worldcon bid first for 2014, which seems likely at this point due to lack of competition);
- They are hoping to have a presence at other conventions, whether fliers, a fan table, or a party—please let Mike Willmoth know if you are willing to help;
- A contract has been signed with Tempe Mission Palms, with a date two weeks before the London Worldcon;
- Attendance will likely be small – Raleigh NASFiC 2010 had only 700 warm bodies – so they will try to budget for a break-even count of 600;
- They have 24 people on the bid team already, including a number of Raleigh people on board, and are hoping to add more;
- They are focusing on publicity until the bid becomes official; and
- They hope to hit every major convention with at least a fan table before the convention occurs in 2014.

Michael Contos also offered lights and tables for bid parties.

Bruce Farr asked about competition; Mike Willmoth responded that Cincinnati was mentioned online, but it seems unlikely based on what he has learned at Renovation (Worldcon 2011), FenCon, LosCon, etc.

Sue Uttke asked if having the con at the Tempe Mission Palms will be helpful in generating interest; Mike Willmoth responded that it might be based on past successful events held there, and that he is not worried about any negative reports about the hotel.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

Database Committee:

- Mike Willmoth reported that the committee held a meeting in January and discussed which fields in the database we should keep. While Donald Jacques has been adding all information as it comes in from the conventions, the committee feels that some fields and information should be removed and some fields should be renamed. A list of the proposed changes was available for review at the meeting.
- Michael Contos asked whether information about the dates of membership sales would be available to track sales over time (*i.e.*, how many memberships sold six months out, four months out, two months out, *etc.*) Mike Willmoth responded that the committee is working on that, and Donald Jacques added that it was the goal they are working toward.
- Michael Contos also asked whether hotel floor plan measurements would be in the database. Mike Willmoth responded that such information was outside the scope of the database committee meeting, but that he had some information due to his

- Hotel Liaison experience.
- Paul Tanton asked whether the fields could be modified by the individual convention. Mike Willmoth responded that it could be done, and offered examples of different types of information that different conventions would need to keep (such as voting rights for Worldcons). That type of information would not end up in the master database, however, because we do not need it over the long term.
  - Nadine Armstrong moved and Bruce Farr seconded accepting the recommendations of the committee regarding the removal and changes to the database fields; motion passed 14-0-2.
  - Donald Jacques reported that the status of the database is “where it was.”
  - Mike Willmoth stated that the next step is standardizing and correcting the information, as well as adding data integrity features.
  - Bruce Farr asked whether this was the old FanMaster database. Mike Willmoth responded that it is our own and not the same as the CASFS database since the split several years ago. We have a lot of information going back to Leprecon 27, but there are duplications and missing information. Our current database is sorted by event name, not by membership name.

Tucson Book Festival: Lee Whiteside reported:

- We have a booth between Mysterious Galaxy and Mystery Writers of America;
- The Book Fair will be held on March 10 & 11, 2012, on the University of Arizona campus and opens at 9:30 or 10 a.m.;
- We are looking for local authors because Mysterious Galaxy will have a smaller staff this year and will be focusing primarily on Penguin Putnam authors; and
- We need help staffing the booth—contact Lee Whiteside.

In response to a question from Donald Jacques, Mike Willmoth responded that the focus will be on our conventions and what our organization does.

Paul Tanton asked whether we would be sharing the booth with anyone. Lee Whiteside responded that we would be on our own, since TusCon will have their own corner booth nearby.

Bruce Farr asked what we could bring, and offered to help with printing. Lee Whiteside and Nadine Armstrong responded that we can have pretty much anything and have had fliers and back issues of magazines (ASIMOV’S and FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION).

Social Networking: Paul Tanton reported that we are on Facebook, Twitter, and WordPress, promoting our NASFiC bid, Leprecon, and Conflagration.

Strategic Planning: Mike Willmoth reported that the committee had not met since the last quarterly meeting.

Quartermaster: Donald Jacques reported:

- The last two shelves are up;
- The inventory is completed and we have a lot of paper products and serving utensils (over 1,000 items), so we should not need to order much for the next convention;
- The original video projector did not come back from DarkCon 2012 and one art flat was damaged at that convention; and
- DarkCon had paid for the damage that had occurred at the previous DarkCon.

Mark Boniece stated that DarkCon had acquired a replacement video projector, but it had come with a soft case and DarkCon was looking into obtaining a hard case for the projector. We should have the projector by the time we need it for Leprecon 38.

Spare bulbs for the projectors should be in the rolling AV cart.

In response to a question about additional shelving units, Donald Jacques stated that we have four shelving units now. While we might be able to fit in one more set of shelves, with the rolling AV cart and other items, it would not be practical. However, we could get rid of some items, such as a TV, a VCR, and the carousel slide projector.

Discussion was held regarding speakers and amplified systems – we need to see what works, what is broken, and what is inadequate for our needs, such as the unamplified speakers.

Donald Jacques also reported on his inventory of the reg box. We have about 1½ bags of clips (about 750) and a ¾ of a box of laminates (about 375), so we will need to order more laminates. We have three P-touch units—one with no power cord or adapter—and a spare black ribbon for each unit.

Paul Tanton moved and Michael Contos seconded ordering supplies for the two upcoming conventions (LepreCon 38 and ConFlagration); passed Many-0-1.

It was suggested creating a master inventory list so that items taken out of inventory for a convention could be checked off or initialed by the person taking the items.

Mark Boniece added that a new bag of pens was in the reg box.

In about one month, Glenna Lawrimore (Lep38 Registration Director) will need to be given the reg box so that she can go through it for LepreCon 38. She does not need the cardboard box with the additional reg materials.

### **Old Business**

Non-Profit Status: See Treasurer's report.

Corporate details on website: Nothing new to report.

Preferred GoH List: Give recommendations to Mike Willmoth.

Special GoH Program: Mike Willmoth reported that Vincent DiFate declined and he had received no response from Alan Lee or Brian Froud; he suggested that efforts for an artist

be dropped for now and continue with the media guest only. No objections voiced.

Registration laptop: Mike Willmoth reported that a new laptop for registration has been purchased (about \$329 plus tax, for a total of about \$360). He is currently waiting to receive MS Office software. Con Ops can use the old reg laptop.

Shelves for storage unit: See Quartermaster's report.

Laser printer cartridges: Mike Willmoth reported that two printer cartridges for both of the laser printers have been obtained and are in the storage unit. Mark Boniece suggested that the cartridges be put into the printer boxes.

DarkCon 2010 damages: See Quartermaster's report.

LepreCon 39 chair: Mike Willmoth reported that Patti Hultstrand and Donald Jacques have expressed an interest in being co-chairs.

During a discussion of duties and time commitment for the position, it was suggested that a mentor be designated to assist and guide them, and Mark Boniece volunteered for the mentor role. It was noted that Bruce Farr could help as well, and that the Board would be available to advise as well.

Possible hotels for the convention were discussed; Mike Willmoth will work on a contract with the Phoenix Marriott Mesa; if that does not work out, he will move on to the Convention Visitors Bureau process.

Mike Willmoth moved and Jean Goddin seconded that Patti Hultstrand and Donald Jacques be co-chairs for Leprecon 39; passed 15-0-0.

Space Access: Mike Willmoth moved and Jean Goddin seconded that registration and other materials be provided to Space Access; passed 13-0-0.

### **Online Business**

Mike Willmoth reported that the Board took the following actions since the last quarterly meeting:

NASFiC hotel contract: The contract was approved with an opt-out clause.

Registration laptop: Purchase approved; see Old Business (registration laptop).

Microsoft Office software: Purchase approved; see Old Business (registration laptop).

Transfer of funds: Approved \$3000 transfer from corporate to Leprecon 38 convention; Mike Willmoth only transferred \$1500 after booking the Haldemans' airfare using the corporate debit card.

Plastic boxes: Approved purchase of three plastic boxes (approximately \$15) to store convention records.

Transfer of funds: Approved \$1,000 transfer from corporate to ConFlagration.

DarkCon 2012: Approved use of reg box, art flats, one video projector, and the credit card machine by DarkCon.

Corporate debit card: Approved use by Mark Boniece to make fliers for LepreCon 38 and ConFlagration.

### **New Business**

Box for book donations at LepreCon 38: Jean Goddin moved, Mike Willmoth seconded, and Mark Boniece amended for LepreCon 38 to have a box for books that will be donated directly by LepreCon to Children's First Academy; passed 15-0-5.

[Amendment per 05/21/2012 meeting: "Secretary's Report: Minutes from the February 12, 2012, meeting were read. Benny Aguirre, Mark Boniece, Catherine Book, Jeff George, Jean Goddin, Patti Hultstrand, Gary Swaty, Lee Whiteside, Mike Willmoth, and Jason Youngdale engaged in an extended discussion of the vote at the February 12, 2012, meeting regarding the book donation box at Leprecon 38; the lack of a sponsorship agreement with WSFA for the book donation box; the history of problems and miscommunications regarding missing or inadequate sponsorship agreements at past Leprecons; the miscommunication with WSFA regarding the need for a sponsorship agreement for the book donation box at Leprecon 38; the March 4, 2012, Leprecon 38 staff meeting; and an upcoming executive board meeting regarding these matters. A motion to amend the February 12, 2012, meeting minutes to include discussion of the sponsorship issue was made by Jeff George, seconded by David Gish, and passed 12-0-7.]"

Discworld funds: The North American Discworld Convention Steering Committee has expressed a desire that Leprecon distribute the remainder of the 50% funds from our profit. After discussion of the funds that Leprecon has already disbursed (including \$1,720 to the recent Madison Discworld 2011 convention), the new standards for operators of U.S. Discworld conventions, the lack of a formal request from the Steering Committee pre-con (it didn't exist), the lack of a formal agreement (as opposed to an "understanding") regarding Leprecon's use of the Discworld proceeds, and the unknown legal status of the Baltimore Discworld 2013 group, and related subjects, Mark Boniece moved and Jim Webbert seconded tabling the matter until the May 2012 meeting to research the Baltimore sponsoring organization; passed 13-0-4.

Missing video projector: See Quartermaster's report.

Damage to art flats at DarkCon 2012: See Quartermaster's report.

Quartermaster inventory regarding missing make/model/serial data: See Quartermaster's report.

Conflag.org registration: Lee Whiteside reported that he paid the Conflag.org registration fee out of his personal funds and requested reimbursement. Approved without objection.

Publicity regarding donations: Michael Contos suggested that Leprecon publicize through the website the donations that the organization has made to charitable organizations over past several years.

Leprecon equipment: Mike Cassidy reported that he had Leprecon items to return, including a disk duplicator and lights. Donald Jacques to handle.

World Fantasy photos and videos: Jeff George asked whether the World Fantasy videos and photos could be posted on the Leprecon website. After discussion of the releases, which allowed use of the photos and videos for publicity purposes, the consensus was to post the photos and some of the videos.

Announcements: None.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 13, 2012, at 3 p.m. at the Coco's Restaurant at Priest Drive & Elliott Road in Tempe, Arizona.

Jim Webbert moved and Mike Willmoth seconded that the meeting be adjourned; passed Many-0-1. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.