

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

Date: Monday, May 21, 2012

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

Meeting called to order by Mike Willmoth at 7:03 p.m.

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

Non-Voting Board Members present: Mark Boniece and Kevin McAlonan.  
(Donald Jacques and Paul Tanton absent.)

Members present: Benny Aguirre, Mark Boniece, Catherine Book, Ron Book, Bruce Farr, David Gish, Patti Hultstrand, Kevin McAlonan, Marguerite Murray, Gary Swaty, and Jason Youngdale.

Guests: None

Petitions for Membership: None

Proxies: Gerald Nordley, Jim Webbert, and Doreen Webbert to Mike Willmoth  
Michael Contos to Jeff George; Nadine Armstrong to Lee Whiteside

### **Reports**

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.

LepreCon 38 Committee Report: Mark Boniece and Mike Willmoth reported that the convention went pretty well, with attendance up about 8% (about 420 attendees), but a 20% decrease in room nights. Lots left to do. Comments were favorable, the media

guest was happy, and the attendees liked Steven Furst. Some complaints were received about not having a new book dealer. We had about seven tracks of programming. Benny Aguirre mentioned that there was a lot of confusion about times, locations, and subjects of events and programming; Mike Willmoth asked him for a list of concerns to be given to the Leprecon 39 co-chairs. Mark Boniece stated that we don't know the financial situation yet. We had two showings of Animal House, with 80 attending the first showing and 12 attending the second showing, and we probably broke even. Cathy Book made a donation to that helped. Mark Boniece and Mike Willmoth also mentioned the Toga Party, put on with the financial and staff support from the Dark Ones, which seemed to have done well. There was a discussion regarding scheduling and whether we lost attendees because the convention was held over Easter weekend. Mike Willmoth and Mark Boniece explained the difficulties with selecting the dates, considering the number of competing conventions such as CostumeCon and Phoenix ComicCon, and the high hotel costs for certain weekends between Easter and June. Also discussed was whether big name guests had much effect on attendance. Mike Willmoth asked that any suggestions be emailed to the Board so that they could be given to the co-chairs of the next convention.

Conflagration 2012: Mark Boniece reported that the convention was coming along, with about 25-30 pre-registered, but he expected an influx of registrations closer to the convention. Benny Aguirre asked whether people had heard about it, and Jason Youngdale said that fliers had been distributed to Game Depot, Bookman's, and other stores, and urged Benny Aguirre to take some fliers. Advertising and guests were discussed further, with Jason Youngdale observing that many media guests either want too much money or did not respond to invitations. Guests for Conflagration would be Ken St. Andre and Jon Wick.

NASFiC 2014 Bid: Mike Willmoth reported that we were up to about 50 pre-supports. He and Jean Goddin would be going to ConQuest in Kansas City, and had removed some food service stuff and decorations from the storage shed for bid promotion at that convention. We had representatives for Baycon, Wiscon, and other conventions; we have fliers going to Conduit, and we will be advertising all over North America. The previous NASFiC did not advertise much, and did not do so well. There is no official opposition yet, but we have to wait for London to win the WorldCon bid, then another year before the NASFiC voting. We have a hotel contract, with an opt-out clause, for a 4-day convention on the first weekend in August. Benny Aguirre offered to take some fliers to conventions.

LepreCon 39: Mike Willmoth and Patti Hultstrand reported that dates and a hotel have not been set yet, but we are hoping for Mother's Day weekend. We have about a dozen pre-registrations and some inquiries for dealer's tables. We need to tie down the contract before we can get guests of honor.

Bylaws Committee: Mike Willmoth reported that the committee met on May 25<sup>th</sup>, but no formal recommendations yet.

Database and Database Standards: Mike Willmoth is to update the information.

Tucson Book Festival: Lee Whiteside reported that they received some help at the booth and got the word out about Leprecon.

Social Networking: Mike Willmoth reported that we are getting the word out on Twitter, but we do not have a Twitter account for Conflagration yet. We need to go through Paul Tanton to set up Facebook accounts with the Con chairs as administrators.

Strategic Planning: No report.

Quartermaster: Mike Willmoth reported that two large coffee urns are missing after LepreCon 38. Mark Boniece is to follow up with Alice Massoglia and Sue Uttke on that.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Farr reported that we have a total of \$45,961.25 in all accounts as of April 30, 2012. Mike Willmoth added that we paid off the credit card slips for Space Access and some of Dark Con.

## **Reports**

Non-Profit Status: Bruce Farr reported that he is still finishing stuff, and it would be another 1½ weeks.

Corporate Details on Website: Mike Willmoth reported that we are missing some information, but we are working on it.

Preferred GoH List: Mike Willmoth reported that we received one recent submission. Please submit suggestions for author, artist, media, and other guests of honor, especially award winners, guests we have not had before, and older guests. Please bear in mind that the cost of airfare is a problem for East Coast guests.

Video Projector: Mike Willmoth reported that the video projector was replaced by Dark Con and delivered to LepreCon 38.

Faerie Nation: Mike Willmoth reported that they repaid the \$2,000 loan.

Space Access: Mike Willmoth reported that Space Access had about 180 attendees.

Discworld Funds: There still has been no formal request for funds and the status of the

Baltimore Discworld 2013 group is still unclear. Mark Boniece moved to table the matter until the Annual Meeting; motion passed 18-0-1.

LepreCon 40 Chair: Jeff George asked if LepreCon 40 would be a fan gathering if we won the NASFiC bid. Mike Willmoth recommended that we do a normal Leprecon because the two conventions would be 2½ to 3 months apart and the last fan gathering caused some folks to drop out. Jean Goddin added that it also hurt hotel negotiations. Mike Willmoth stated that the Board could make recommendations, but the con chair can do what he or she wants. The matter was tabled.

### **Online Business**

The LepreCon 37 pass thrus into LepreCon 38 were approves by two past chairs.

Ghost transactions in the Lep 38 and ConFlagrations checking accounts failed to clear after notification with Wells Fargo.

Approved \$200 to Lee Whiteside for accommodations for the Tucson Book Festival.

Mike Willmoth used the corporate debit card to pay the \$10 filing fee for the Arizona Corporation Commission.

Approved Kevin McAlonan as Secretary after Lee Whiteside's resignation as Secretary at the last Board meeting.

Approved loan to Space Access of a video projector along with previously approved equipment.

Lee Whiteside refunded \$125.22 to the NASFiC Bid checking account that was debited without approval in connection with Tucson Book Festival accommodations.

Approved purchase of projector screen for use at LepreCon 38 from Staples online for \$179 plus tax.

Approved paying insurance policy for LepreCon 38 out of corporate funds.

Leprecon 38 chair announced denials of pass thrus into LepreCon 39 as disciplinary action for two staff members involved with events at previous staff meeting.

Approved providing NADWCon 2009 banquet details to Discworld Baltimore 2013; Jeff George has not sent the information yet, due to computer problems.

Mike Willmoth transferred \$3,093.56 from the PayPal account to the corporate account,

leaving \$500 in the PayPal account.

Mike Willmoth updated the iPower account to add corporate information, at Lee Whiteside's request.

Mike Willmoth closed the WesterCon 62 checking account at Bank of America, transferring all funds to the corporate account.

Approved moving \$5,000 from corporate account to LepreCon 38 account to continue to pay bills (passed 5-0-0).

Approved paying \$52 for annual post office box fee (approved 5-0-0).

Approved moving \$1,200 from corporate account to LepreCon 38 account to continue to pay bills (passed 5-0-0).

### **New Business**

Public Storage Unit: In response to a question from Jeff George, Mike Willmoth stated that we have been paying a year in advance to avoid the effect of cost increases. It was \$1,765.56 last year, and will probably go up about 5%. Jason Youngdale asked if we had thought about moving. Mike Willmoth said that we can look, but there would be a problem with moving all the stuff. Right now we have a 10x10 unit. Kevin McAlonan moved and Jeff George seconded paying the bill when it comes in June; passed 20-0-0. If Jason Youngdale comes up with a new place, that can be discussed online.

NADWCon 2009 swag: Jeff George stated that we have lots of leftover Discworld water bottles, and asked if we should send them to the next Discworld convention. After some discussion, it was decided to accept Jean Goddin's suggestion to give some of them away at NASFiC bid parties to promote LepreCon.

### **Announcements**

Lee Whiteside stated that Phoenix Comic Con was this weekend.

Patti Hultstrand stated that she would be doing interviews at Phoenix Comic Con and could blurb LepreCon and NASFiC.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, August 12, 2012, at 3 p.m. at the Coco's Restaurant at Priest Drive & Elliott Road in Tempe, Arizona.

Jean Goddin moved and Jeff George seconded that the meeting be adjourned; passed Many-1-1. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.