

Minutes of 08/18/2013 Leprecon, Inc., Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: Sunday, August 18, 2013

Location: Mimi's Café, 4901 East Ray Road, Phoenix, Arizona

Meeting called to order by Mike Willmoth at 3:10 p.m.

Voting Board Members present: Mark Boniece (L38, expires August 2014), Jeff George (expires August 2013), Jean Goddin (expires August 2014), Lee Whiteside (L37, expires August 2013), and Mike Willmoth (Chairman, expires August 2015).

Non-Voting Board Members present: Patti Hultstrand (co-chair L39), Donald Jacques (Database Administrator; co-chair L39), Kevin McAlonan (Secretary), and Paul Tanton (Social Networking Coordinator).

Non-Voting Board Members absent: Bruce Farr (Treasurer).

Members present: Len Berger, Catherine Book, Sean Dunitam, Michael Fett, Sharan Hoyle, Laura King, Myron Lieberman, Rachel Lieberman, Gary Swaty, Penny Padegimas, Tony Padegimas, Mandy Parker, Susan Uttke, Doreen Webbert, Jim Webbert, and Frank Williams

Guests: Lee Whiteside

Petitions for Membership: Lee Whiteside (presented during meeting).

Proxies: Jim Strait and Janet White to Mark Boniece (2).

Brian Duncan, and Jenny Duncan to Catherine Book (2).

Michael Contos and Theresa Contos to Kevin McAlonan (2).

Billy Wiersch to Paul Tanton (1).

Mike Cassidy, Jane Dennis, Scott Dennis, Emily Devenport, Maryeileen Flanagan, Barri Giardelli, Ernest Hogan, Gerald Nordley, Henry Vanderbilt, and Denise Wallentinson to Mike Willmoth (10).

Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the May 5, 2013, meeting were read and amended. Approved as amended 33-0-3.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Willmoth presented the treasurer's report. Closing balance of all bank accounts (as of 07/31/2013) is \$17,893.58. Treasurer's report accepted 32-0-3.

LepreCon 39: Patti Hultstrand reported that the convention was held, we did some new things, and it worked out well. Mike Willmoth reported that total membership was in the low 300s. The accounting at this point shows a \$6,440.85 loss. In response to a question regarding the number and variety of dealers in the dealers room, Mike explained that it was due to personal problems of dealers room coordinator, Marty Massoglia dropping out at the last minute, and tax issues raised by the City of Mesa. Next year's coordinator is aware of the issues and will be working on this. Mike also said that low numbers of room nights, too many rooms for the convention were among the problems faced by the convention.

LepreCon 40: Donald Jacques reported that they are 70-80% staffed and have gaming, programming, and dealers room staff lined up. Three pre-con events are planned. He hopes to coordinate publicity for gaming, the dealers room, and programming to create greater awareness. He also plans outreach to cosplay and costuming groups in Phoenix and Tucson. The focus will be to present the con as providing an intimate experience with the GoHs (in contrast to Phoenix Comic Con). Ability to interact with the GoHs is the linchpin of the experience—not too crowded or too hard to see the guests.

LepreCon 41: Paul Tanton reported that we will be at Phoenix Comic Con in the northeast corner of the exhibitor hall, in the small press area, and have obtained permission from PCC to sell memberships to LepreCon and NASFiC. We have created separate checking accounts for odd and even years. Paul also reported that he has a few more people for the committee—he is about 30-40% complete. He does not have a hotel yet.

NASFiC 2014 Bid: Mike Willmoth reported we have been to a lot of conventions, including LepreCon, ConQuest, World Horror, ApolloCon, LibertyCon, and Westercon, as well as some promotion at the AZSF table at San Diego Comic Con, and have traveled about 8,500 miles. We have about 228 pre-supports, but Detroit is not that far behind. We will be having parties on Thursday and Friday at Worldcon. It is going to be a close race. Please get a supporting membership and a sealed ballot to him by the time he leaves on August 26th. The voting fee is \$35 and voting ends August 31st. We have five GoHs lined up (artist, author, fan, special, and scientist) and are preparing Progress Report #0.

Bylaws Committee: Report will be presented later.

Database: No changes at this time; we are still waiting for updates from Lep39.

Database Standards: The committee met on August 12th. A written report was submitted to the Board.

Tucson Book Festival: Patti Hultstrand reported that we received one membership and publicized the convention at the last festival. Mike Willmoth asked whether we should do the Book Festival again in the future. Lee Whiteside reported that, when he ran it, he focused on raising awareness instead of selling memberships. One problem is that we do not know how many memberships we receive from Tucson, and it does not appear that we are getting memberships. Don Jacques suggested that we focus our efforts in Phoenix; since we are not even penetrating Phoenix, we should not be spending time on Tucson. We will talk more about this later.

Social Networking: Paul Tanton reported that he sent out a newsletter for Lep39 in May. The Twitter accounts are doing fine and he will look into Tumbler. Paul also noted that we are still on LiveJournal and asked whether we should retire it. Regarding Facebook, Don Jacques noted that one problem is that people are not migrating over from the previous groups. Changing the name of the group was discussed. A motion to change the name of the Lep39 group to “LepreCon Science Fiction Convention” was made, seconded, and approved 34-0-3. We will try to close out the old groups and add the existing members to the new group.

Strategic Planning: A written report was submitted to the Board.

Quartermaster: Don Jacques reported that he needs to go through the reg box. He disposed of the expired soda. The old TV will be thrown away. Mark Boniece and Mike Willmoth discussed how CASFS and LepreCon divided the inventory years ago; anything currently in the LepreCon storage that is labeled CASFS should be relabeled LepreCon. Don also said that we do not have any replacement bulbs for the projectors and that one projector has a burned out bulb. A motion to purchase four bulbs was made, seconded, and passed many-0-2. Don also said that he will be resigning as quartermaster.

Webmaster: Lee Whiteside reported that we have the amended bylaws and the antiharassment policy up.

Old Business

Non-Profit Status: Nothing new to report.

Corporate Details on Website: See Webmaster’s report.

Preferred GoH List: Nothing new to report.

Online Business:

- Paul Tanton initiated a discussion about updating the corporate website for errors, bylaws, anti-harassment policy.
- Mark Boniece supplied ConFlag 2012 report update and announced writing off bounced check.
- Board voted to approve the Lep40 hotel contract at the Mesa Marriott 5-0-0; the convention will be held on Mother's Day weekend.
- Board voted to renew account with ipower.com for website hosting, renew domains and create two new ones (nasfic2014.org and name-to-be-announced.org for NASFiC). 4-0-1.
- Board voted to renew Tempe mailbox, 4-0-1.
- Public Storage scheduled maintenance on our storage unit. Mike Willmoth let them in to replace the lock hasp.
- Board voted to respond to inquiry by Steering Committee Chair for North American Discworld regarding extra funds 4-0-1 and the email was submitted.
- Board voted to approve the anti-harassment policy 4-0-1.
- Board voted to transfer \$6000 from corporate to Lep39 checking.
- Mike Willmoth transferred \$5000 from PayPal account to corporate checking.
- Board discussed keeping or moving storage unit after announced increase to \$175.77 in monthly rate; no vote.
- Lee Whiteside reported that the MySQL database for Lep37 disappeared, requested a backup copy.
- Board voted to transfer NASFiC Bid PayPal transaction funds to NASFiC checking (\$1914.78) by a vote of 4-0-1.
- Board voted to use corporate funds to pay for an outreach table at Phoenix Comic Con 2014 for Lep41 and possibly NASFiC (\$229+tax) .
- Board voted to create an Odd-Year checking account for LepreCon 41+ to allow future cons earlier access to funds and fund it with \$1000 from corporate, approved 4-0-1.
- Board discussed AZ SF Cons fan table at San Diego Comic Con.
- Board discussed days/times to meet for Database Integrity .and Strategic Planning Committee Meetings.
- Board voted to host a Lep Inc. party at Worldcon on Sunday of Labor Day weekend if we lose the NASFiC bid, approved 5-0-0.

New Business

Convention budgets: Based on the \$6,400 loss for Lep39, Mike Willmoth suggested that the Board be required to pay closer attention to the convention budget. Jeff George asked if such a requirement would prevent any changes to the budget or require Board approval for any revisions to the budget, to which Mike responded that further Board approval would be required only if the projected income is decreased. Gary Swaty suggested that

the convention chair should have flexibility to re-allocate funds among the different accounts. Len Berger suggested that there should be periodic reviews to warn of potential problems, such as a low number of pre-registrations. It was moved and seconded that the annual planning budget should be submitted to the Board for its approval; motion passed 29-2-5.

Survey Committee: Mike Willmoth stated that, in the past, we have had a committee conduct surveys to find out why people did not come to the convention, did not get rooms, etc., and asked whether we should do this in the future. Penny Padeimas and Paul Tanton offered to help. This will be submitted to the Board for review.

Lee Whiteside membership petition: Lee Whiteside submitted a membership petition, which had sufficient signatures for approval.

Board election: Mandy Parker and Kevin McAlonan were nominated for a three-year position on the Board to replace Jeff George, whose term expired. A motion to close nominations passed 35-0-3 and each candidate gave a brief speech. After a review of attendance records, it was determined that Mandy was just short of the required attendance. Kevin was elected 32-0-6 to the Board.

LepreCon 42: Mandy Parker volunteered to chair Lep42. A motion to close nominations passed many-0-5. A motion to elect Mandy by acclamation was approved many-0-4.

Arizona Browncoats: Kevin McAlonan asked for a donation to the Arizona Browncoats' Can't Stop the Serenity annual fundraiser to support Equality Now and local charities. A motion to donate \$100 was approved 33-1-1.

Webmaster resignation: Lee Whiteside resigned from his position as LepreCon webmaster and from his position on the NASFiC Bid Committee. Jean Goddin will take over as webmaster.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2013, at 2 p.m. at the Mimi's Café at 4901 East Ray Road in Phoenix, Arizona.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m. by a vote of many-2-0.