

Minutes of 05/18/2014 Leprecon, Inc., Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: Sunday, May 18, 2014

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

Meeting called to order by Mike Willmoth at 3:01 p.m.

Voting Board Members present: Mark Boniece (L38, expires August 2014), Jean Goddin (expires August 2014), Patti Hultstrand (L39, expires August 2015) Kevin McAlonan (Secretary, expires August 2016) and Mike Willmoth (Chairman, expires August 2015).

Non-Voting Board Members present: Amanda Parker (L42) and Paul Tanton (Chair L41, Social Networking Coordinator).

Non-Voting Board Members absent: Bruce Farr (Treasurer) and Donald Jacques (Chair L40, Database Administrator).

Members present: Len Berger, Michael Fett, Penny Padegimas, Tony Padegimas, and Lee Whiteside.

Guests: Nadine Armstrong.

Petitions for Membership: None

Proxies: Emily Devenport, Ernest Hogan, Glenna Lawrimore, Gerald Nordley, and Denise Wallentinson to Mike Willmoth (6).

Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the February 16, 2014, meeting were read and approved 11-0-2.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Willmoth reported (for Bruce Farr, Treasurer) that the balance of all accounts as of January 31, 2014, was \$13,162.39 and the balance of all accounts as of April 30, 2014, was \$12,340.22. The report was approved 13-0-1.

LepreCon 40: Donald Jacques submitted a written report that was read by Patti Hultstrand:

LepreCon 2014 set out to make two major efforts this year; first to improve our outreach into the community, and second to assure that our staff was well supported during the convention.

Patti Hultstrand facilitated our publicity push by creating and manning several Pre-Con events to publicize LepreCon. Over all these events succeeded in beginning to open the eyes of the public to the fact that we are here, and second to let them know we are no longer tied to the old political issues.

On our second front, we reduced the Consuite, and improved our offerings in the Staff Lounge. Penny Padegimas succeeded in providing a variety of hot meals for the staff that appeared to be well received.

In addition, I felt the need to place more effort in revitalizing our Art Show, and emphasize it as a Gallery. In this, I believe Mandy succeeded grandly. We heard many glowing comments about the atmosphere, selection, and presentation of the artwork in the gallery.

Mike Fett was able to sell out our Dealers Room this year, and with reduced table pricing, attracted many new vendors. At one point, we even expanded the Dealers Room, to incorporate our waiting-list vendors.

Friday night, it appeared our numbers might have been up ... nearly 20%. However, by Saturday noon, it became clear that while we made progress against the challenges that lie before us, it will be a long road back to profitability for the LepreCon convention.

There are still long held expectations of older con-goers that can no longer be supported as they once were: such as Consuite, Masquerade, Filk to name a few. There are just not enough people to support these. On the other hand, as we embrace Staff Lounge we support our volunteers, and engender them to return next year. The “costuming” attendees of the past have become the CosPlay ones of today with different needs and desires. And Filk has slid into the mists, yet there are newer music stylings waiting in the wings to be embraced.

Our website, Facebook, and Twitter feeds have shown much activity, and continue to reflect increasing interest from the public, despite (Phoenix) Comic Con. As the future chairs continue with increased publicity, pre-con events, and reaching out to the community for new committee and volunteers, we may in the next few years be able to grow our membership back to support a thriving con.

Mike Willmoth reported that we had about 350 members. Thirty pre-registered for Lep41 (a record). Room nights were low—about 104 this year compared to 120 last year (but last year’s convention got some rooms for Sunday to allow us to obtain the next price break for

the hotel; without that, the room nights would have been about the same). As a result, we missed the 80% mark and had to pay \$1,000 for the Sedona Room and \$3,000 for other space. Mike said that he is working to reduce the bill in some areas. We do not know if we will break even or not. Mike also said that we had a few problems with Registration, but expressed confidence that Paul Tanton will be able to correct or prevent them next year. Mike mentioned that there were a few other problems with the hotel, most of which were resolved.

Penny Padegimas donated four woven placemats to Leprecon Inc.

LepreCon 41: Paul Tanton reported that we obtained a decent amount of pre-registrations and two dealers at Lep 40. The next big publicity push will be Phoenix Comic Con, where we will have a table and sell buttons and pre-registrations. Len Berger warned of possible sales tax issues with selling buttons at PCC, and that we might not break even after buying licenses. Paul also reported that he is fairly close to getting a hotel contract. Donald Jacques and Lyle Dille will be helping Paul with the website. Paul has about ten committee people; some gaps remain, including Reg, Hospitality, and Publications.

LepreCon 42: Amanda Parker reported that she is talking to a web person about what we want to do. She asked if there was any opposition to a multi-year contract—none were raised. Differences between the Mesa Hilton and the Embassy Suites on Greenway were discussed. A motion to allow a multi-year contract at the Embassy Suites North only was seconded and approved 16-0-1. A motion to allow a multi-year contract at any location was seconded and approved 15-1-0. It was mentioned that googledocs were used during Lep40, and a question was raised about whether use of a Google Doc violates our policy that prohibits putting contact information on the web or having contact information available online, which was created because of concerns with hacking and improper access. The memberships vote on the question was Yes-0, No-7, and Don't Know-10. Paul Tanton suggested distributing a summary of board policies to committees and staff members to avoid inadvertent violation of policies in the future.

Bylaws Committee: Mike Willmoth reported that the committee met and made recommendations, which would be voted on later.

Written minutes of a March 9, 2014, meeting of the Survey Committee, Bylaws Committee, Database Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee were read.

Survey: Paul Tanton reported on the survey taken at Lep40. The survey was several pages long, and several people declined to do the survey (many were very negative), but we received a couple dozen responses. Paul will do a post-convention survey through SurveyMonkey.

Strategic Planning: Mike Willmoth asked for volunteers interested in publicity. Mike will

chair a committee consisting of Patti Hultstrand, Paul Tanton, Penny Padegimas, and Mark Boniece. The possibility of acquiring a permanent location for meetings and equipment storage was discussed. Michael Fett mentioned that it could be used for gaming and other events as well. Jean Goddin advised that it would increase insurance costs. Len Berger asked how we are going to pay for it. A motion to determine whether we should move forward with exploring the issue was seconded and passed 4-3-11. Len asked for the creation of a committee to put together a budget. The Clubhouse Committee will consist of Mark Boniece, Paul Tanton, Michael Fett, Amanda Parker, and Mike Willmoth.

Social Networking: Paul Tanton reported that we have been really busy. Facebook changed its policies so that pages for businesses do not end up in News Feeds unless they are promoted. Google+ has received increased interest. We are maintaining LiveJournal, which reports to Twitter. The “#Lep2014” did not catch on. Michael Fett raised several questions regarding fan pages and preventing spamming. Paul responded that sending private messages to the offending individual might be better than blocking or deleting the person.

Quartermaster: This position is still open. The Quartermaster checks things in and out of the storage unit, keeps the storage unit organized, and oversees replacement or repair of lost or damaged items.

Old Business

Non-Profit Status: Bruce Farr is still working on it. We may need to implement anti-discrimination and conflict of interest policies.

Corporate Details on Website: We eliminated the Trojan and are working on adding links.

Preferred GoH List: Nothing new.

Online Business:

- a) Don Jacques sent in his final inventory for the storage unit as Quartermaster;
- b) Scheduled days/times for various committee meetings;
- c) Posted research on possible apartments as possible storage unit replacement /meeting space;
- d) Mike Willmoth posted financial transaction summary for various accounts;
- e) Mike Willmoth posted a query about repairing art show panels in storage unit; Paul Tanton needs to arrange for repair of flats;
- f) Don Jacques sent Mike Willmoth Lep Master Database update including Lep39 data; Mike forwarded it to Kevin McAlonan;
- g) Bruce Farr sent Mike Willmoth Federal / State Tax Returns for 2013; Mike forwarded them to Kevin McAlonan;
- h) Mike Willmoth posted Lep39 data for passthru determination by Mark Boniece and

Patti Hultstrand;

- i) Discussed Square transactions for WFB-ODD-Chk;
- j) Mike Willmoth posted update about removing trojan from website, making incremental updates to corporate site;
- k) Mike Willmoth posted a reference to an online blog post about NADWcon 2013 and Leprecon Inc;
- l) Kevin McAlonan posted most recent quarterly board minutes, committee meeting minutes, proposed bylaws amendment;
- m) Paul Tanton requested a new day/time for the May quarterly board meeting; board voted to move it to May 18;
- n) Mike Willmoth transferred \$939.78 from PayPal to BOA-LEP-Chk;
- o) Mike Willmoth requested corporate advance of \$1000 for Lep40; board approved funds transfer BOA-LEP-Chk to WFB-LEP-Chk;
- p) Mike Willmoth ordered badge clips and laminants for Lep40 using BOA-LEP-Chk debit card, clips cost \$34.28 and lams \$43.87;
- q) Mike Willmoth ordered video projector lamp bulbs for each projector in storage; 2 for Viewsonics, \$309.50; 1 for Optima, \$?;
- r) Mike Willmoth posted insurance quote for Lep40; board approved; notified dates were incomplete; board approved additional funds to cover entire weekend; \$253.00 + \$222.00 = \$475.00;
- s) Mike Willmoth transferred \$765.17 from PayPal to BOA-LEP-Chk;
- t) Mike Willmoth asked how the new tablet worked at Lep40 Art Show; it worked well, but the slider doesn't work.

New Business

Credit card machine: A motion to cancel the credit card machine and account was seconded and approved 17-0-0.

Old domain names: Mike Willmoth asked what we should do about old domain names, like FiestaCon, WorldHorror (by year), and WorldFantasy (by year). Len Berger moved to have the Board determine what to do based on hit counts. This motion was seconded and passed 7-2-9. Michael Fett moved to just let the names lapse. This motion was seconded and defeated 2-4-12.

Wi-Fi: Paul Tanton asked to have wi-fi at Phoenix Comic Con paid by corporate. The cost for five days is \$239.99 and for three days is \$159.99. A motion to have corporate pay for five days was seconded and approves 7-0-10.

Bylaws Amendments: A proposed amendment to the bylaws regarding petitions for memberships was proposed. The language was amended by a 13-11-3 vote at the meeting to read: "A petitioner who did not have an attending membership at the immediately previous convention must pay a membership fee equal to the lowest advertised attending full weekend

membership rate at that convention.” The bylaws amendment was approved 14-2-2.

Tablets: Amanda Parker asked about upgrading the tablets to support use of the Square slider. A motion to form a committee to look into upgrading the tablets was seconded and approved 9-1-7. The committee will consist of Mike Willmoth, Amanda Parker, Paul Tanton, and Jean Goddin.

Next meeting: The Mimi’s Café at 4901 East Ray Road in Phoenix, Arizona is closing. The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 1, 2014, at 7 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. by a vote of many-1-0.