

Minutes of 02/19/2017 Leprecon, Inc., Quarterly Board Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 19, 2017

Location: Spoke & Wheel Tavern, Phoenix, Arizona

The meeting was called to order by Mike Willmoth at 3:01 p.m.

Voting Board Members present: Marg Grady (expires August 2017), Kevin McAlonan (Secretary, expires August 2019), Paul Tanton (Vice Chairman, Lep41 Chair, Database Administrator, Social Networking Coordinator, expires August 2017), Mike Willmoth (Chairman, expires August 2018).

Voting Board Members absent: Mandy Parker (Lep42 Chair, expires August 2018).

Non-Voting Board Members present: Dee Astell (Lep43/W70 Chair), Hal Astell (Quartermaster), and Mike Fett (Lep44 & Lep45).

Non-Voting Board Members absent: Bruce Farr (Treasurer), and Ron Oakes (Webmaster).

Members present: Mark Boniece, Mike Cassidy, Marguerite Murray, Gary Swaty, and Susan Uttke.

Guests: Len Berger.

Petitions for Membership: None

Proxies: Jim Strait to Mark Boniece (1)
Wayne Myers, Mandy Parker, and Kathy Richardson to Paul Tanton (3)
Sharan Hoyle and Gerald Nordley to Mike Willmoth (2)

Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the 11/06/2016 meeting were posted on-line and available at the meeting. An amendment was made to item (ee) on page 7. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was approved 11-3-4.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Willmoth handed out the treasurer's report, which was approved 11-0-7. As of 01/31/2017, we have a total of \$10,623.12 in all accounts.

LepreCon 42: Mike Willmoth handed out an income and expense report for Lep42, which was discussed and amendments were suggested. As amended and approved unanimously, it states: [next page]

Lep42 Summary

LepreCon 42 Summary

		Corporate plus Convention	Convention Only
INCOME	Cash/Checks	1919.41	1919.41
	Corporate Transfers	4232.25	0
	Donation (anonymous)	400.00	400.00
	Donation (UFP)	655.40	655.40
	Memberships at conventions	1690.90	1690.90
	Westercon 70 Transfers	1500.00	0
	Pre-Registration from LepreCon 41	375.00	375.00
	PayPal Funds not credited	2823.06	2823.06
		=====	=====
		13596.02	7863.77
EXPENSES	Art Show Sales	1532.06	1532.06
	Cash Withdrawals	600.00	600.00
	Consuite / Staff Lounge Advance	800.00	800.00
	Corporate Refund	25.00	25.00
	GoH Airfare	529.20	529.20
	GoH Dinner	256.71	256.71
	Hotel	5261.17	5261.17
	Logistics	424.97	424.97
	Publications	690.70	690.70
	Registration	192.64	192.64
		=====	=====
		10312.45	10312.45
	Net Profit/Loss		-2448.68

This includes two Westercon 70/Lep 43 memberships sold at PCC, but the funds were not transferred from Lep 42 to W70/Lep43.

Westercon 70/LepreCon 43: Hal Astell reported:

Presence at Cons

Dee, Hal and Kevin represented W70 at TusCon 43. We ran two parties and sold three memberships. We also recruited new staff there.

Kevin represented W70 with a fan table at LosCon 43. Our west coast marketing manager ran two parties with Kevin. Memberships were sold.

Dee and Hal will be at Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention 6 in early March and will be promoting there and meeting with some staff members.

Org Chart

We now have 40 staff positions (down 1). 34 are populated (up 5), along with many minions, tentatives and people willing to serve in an advisory capacity.

We've replaced our Programming department head due to illness. The new head of Programming is Michael Flanders. We've met with him and the Programming team to ensure that the ball continues to roll.

We've brought in a fantastic Hospitality team, led by Wendy Trakes. All four members of the team have run this department at other conventions.

We've brought in a Gaming department head, Earl C. Hedges, Jr., who runs the Gaming at TusCon, among others. He's already brought in a number of game companies and sponsors. We will have a Artemis setup at W70.

Our webmistress has resigned and Hal is handling changes ongoing, while we look for a new webmaster.

In addition to Hotel Liaison, Mark Boniece is also handling our Dealers department pre-con. We've brought in Anastasia Hunter as our west coast marketing manager. She's in San Diego, where she runs Gaslight Gathering and sits on the board of San Diego Comic-Con.

Contracts

We continue to work with our guests and sponsors to get contracts signed. All sponsorship agreements should be complete today.

Dealers

We've been working with our Treasurer and Hotel Liaison to lay out our dealers room and rules. This is now complete and we'll be making the application live on the website over the next few days.

Ad Swaps

We are actively seeking ad swaps with conventions across the region. In addition to the four announced in my last report, we've added:

Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention 6 in Tucson, held 3-5 March

Hal has also e-mailed BayCon 2017, which is in May.

Westercon Passalong Funds

We have continued to reach out to Westercon 68 but have still not received the check that they promised us.

Past GoHs

We now have Past GoH ribbons to send out to everyone who fits for whom we have an address (and is still living).

We have given Past GoH ribbons in person to Sue Thing (Fan GoH, Lep 15), Earl Billick (Local Artist GoH, Lep 17), Sarah Clemens (Local Artist GoH, Lep 31), John Vornholt (Author GoH, Lep 32), Jim & Doreen Webbert (Fan GoHs, W62), Larry Vela (Local Artist GoH, Lep 26) and Cristi Simila (Fan GoH, Lep 16). Here's one for Mike Willmoth (Fan GoH, W64) and Gary Swaty (Fan GoH)

We also chatted with 7 past Lep chairs at TusCon, whose years spread from Lep 4 to Lep 43.

Website

Pages are going up on the website frequently. Over the last couple of weeks, we've added Gaming, Masquerade, Fan Tables and Staff List, as well as many new items on the Charity Auction page.

Next up is Dealers and Membership List. Programming pages will come soon.

Prices have been updated to reflect the increase in membership price.

Art Flats Restoration

With our funds depleted by corporate, we will not be able to replace the art flats as we'd hoped.

We will therefore be meeting to fix up and paint the current art flats.

In addition, we have 348 room nights, 49 supporting memberships, and a little less than 200 attending memberships. At Mike Willmoth's suggestion, we will look into getting ribbons for past Westercon chairs (about 10). A hotel walk-thru is planned for April—date TBD. Monthly programming committee meetings are planned—TBD. No bids for Westercon 72 as yet.

LepreCon 44: Mike Fett reported that he is working on an Artist GoH and VIP memberships. He asked for feedback regarding William H. Nolan as Author GoH; he was last here at MythosCon (2011), and will require sponsorships because he will require three plane tickets and two hotel rooms. Steven Scarletta is a possible Media GoH. The current plan is for a two-day convention with a Friday night pre-party. Mike is talking to businesses as sponsors, looking at venues, and doing surveys. The surveys indicate that the at-the-door price point is \$30, that we are perceived as a “poor man’s Comicon,” and there is interest in workshops with artists.

LepreCon 45: Mike Fett reported that we do not know where corporate stands as far as support for Lep45., and he is waiting on the decision for Westercon 72. Mike reported that he has been contacted by members of other organizations about the direction of the convention—he is going to make it comic-book focused. Mike also noted that, on average, recent conventions have had a gross income of \$8,000, which means that we must budget expenses at \$6,000 if we want to make a profit.

Bylaws Committee: Mike Willmoth stated that we will have a vote on an amendment later in the meeting.

Database Committee: Mike Willmoth reported that Paul Tanton has been busy, so not much is new.

Financial Review Committee: Hal Astell reported that they are working, but not much to report yet.

Positions Committee: Mike Willmoth reported that we have started a list, but it’s a work in progress. Hal Astell noted that the W70/Lep43 website has brief descriptions for various positions.

Quartermaster: Hal Astell reported that he will be resigning after W70/Lep43. Paul Tanton brought in more street team materials. The status of the storage unit is up to Mike Fett as of July 2017.

Social Media: Paul Tanton reported that Dee Astell is doing a good job. Dee offered suggestions to Mike Fett on software to aid in posting announcements. Mike Willmoth suggested that there should be no more than three posts a day. Hal Astell reported on the situation with PCC and its effect on the visibility and notice of other conventions and nonprofit organizations.

Strategic Planning: Mike Willmoth talked about surveys; Marg Grady suggested moving forward rather than asking about past conventions at this point.

Social Club: Mike Willmoth reported that not much was done recently. Mike Fett did a test run of movies + pizza that drew five people; the problem was that it was done on First Friday. This might be better as a once-a-month event at a restaurant within walking distance of the theater.

Tablet Committee: Paul Tanton reported that he is waiting for Hal Astell to pull the old tablets from storage for Paul to sell. Dee Astell reported that she is hoping to get refurbished tablets for use at W70/Lep 43.

Website: Mike Willmoth reported that Ron Oakes has agreed to be Corporate Webmaster. Mike made a copy of the data and gave it to Kevin McAlonan.

Policy Committee: Hal Astell reported that we still need to address the Stephanie Bannon policy and who is on the lists of restricted and partially restricted persons. The current status was summarized by Mike Willmoth and Mark Boniece.

Old Business

Online Business:

- a) Michael Fett discussed a Dinner & Movie Social Meetup on December 2 at Grand Avenue Pizza Company;
- b) Mike Willmoth sent Marg Grady a spreadsheet summarizing all of the previous Social Club Meetup data so she could put it online;
- c) Michael Fett discussed our membership policy regarding the max amounts and possible VIP packages;
- d) Hal Astell followed up regarding the financials review status and Bruce Farr responded;
- e) Hal posted a notice about a rate change for our storage unit at Cubesmart recommending someone try to talk them down; Mike W suggested Hal do so since Hal opened the account;
- f) Michael F discussed the estimated annual expenses for corporate and how that affects Westercon;
- g) Marg G posted about a rumor that YahooGroups might be shut down after purchase by Verizon;
- h) Mike W wished everyone on the board Happy Holidays;
- i) Mike W posted about the annual filing with the Arizona Corporation Commission;
- j) Mike W posted about meeting for the various committees;
- k) Michael F posted about interviewing old time Phoenix fans about the original intent behind LepreCons;
- l) Michael F also posted about the status of a Guest-of-Honor;
- m) Hal Astell clarified which committees he is still on;
- n) We agreed to meet on Sunday January 29 at 8pm at Village Inn Restaurant, 4040 E Bell Rd, Phoenix, for the Committees Meeting;
- o) We agreed to meet on Sunday January 15 at 8pm at Village Inn Restaurant, 4040 E Bell Rd, Phoenix, for the Executive Session;
- p) Mike W asked for confirmation from Dee A that no one had filed a bid for Westercon 72 in 2019; she confirmed;
- q) Michael F requested either Bruce Farr or Mike W posted the terms of the Sasquan donation letter; we both responded that there were no terms;
- r) Kevin McAlonan sent out the final minutes from the August 2016 Annual Meeting and the draft minutes from the November 2016 Quarterly Meeting;
- s) Mike W sent out the Treasury Report created by Bruce F and tweaked a little for clarity by Mike W;
- t) Marg G asked for a revenue breakdown for the last few LepreCons; Mike W sent her the links to Lep41 and Lep42 online;
- u) Hal A warned the board about a minimum revenue requirement at the Spoke & Wheel Restaurant that he and Dee weren't aware of;
- v) Mike W posted the income from Lep42 for Michael F's benefit as requested at the Committees Meeting;
- w) Hal A reminded Mike W that the corporate website was not showing the date of the next quarterly board meeting; Mike W acknowledged;
- x) Mike W posted an update to the status of the state transaction privilege tax license;
- y) Mike W requested reports from the various committees for posting online;
- z) Kevin M sent out the bylaws document including the proposed changes to be discussed and voted on at the February Quarterly Board Meeting;
- aa) Kevin M asked Mike W if he were asking the board to approve anything; he answered no, just information;
- bb) Marg G posted a link to an article online regarding the current state of conventions; no one was

contacted at Leprecon Inc or Westercon; Hal followed up and the author of the article updated the online version;

- cc) Mike W sent a recommended correction to Kevin M for the draft minutes from the November 2016 meeting; Kevin sent out an updated version.

Definitions for Stephanie Bannon policy: The definitions approved at the executive committee meeting are:

“Apologizes” means that Stephanie Bannon attend an Annual or Quarterly Board Meeting and verbally and in person apologize for her transgressions against Leprecon Inc. from 2005 (disseminating private LepreCon 31 committee information and disparaging Leprecon both publically and privately). She may also submit a document with that apology, but they must match.

“Shows true remorse” means that Stephanie Bannon obtains a paid attending membership at three Leprecon Inc. conventions within three consecutive years LepreCons, and does not disparage Leprecon Inc either online or offline, in public or private, for those same three years.

Hal Astell pointed out that we need to have the policies and rules available to everyone, not just those on the board list.

New Business

Bylaws amendments: The amendment to § 2.1.1 was approved 18-0-0. The amendment to § 2.1.3 was approved 17-0-0. The amendment to § 4.1.7 was approved 17-0-1.

Donations: The basket was passed and collected \$65.

Mike Willmoth turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Paul Tanton and left to attend another meeting.

Stephanie Bannon policy: A question was raised as to informing Stephanie of the new definitions. Kevin McAlonan is to ask Mike Willmoth about that.

Executive sessions: Mike Fett proposed that all board members—not just voting board members—should be allowed to attend the executive sessions. Mike Fett and Hal Astell both expressed concern about decisions being made in executive session that affect upcoming conventions. Mike Fett’s motions were not seconded. A committee composed of Mike Fett, Hal Astell, and other interested persons was formed to draft an amendment to the bylaws regarding executive sessions.

Mailing list: Len Berger asked about the email notifications of the quarterly meetings and who can be added to that list.

Storage unit: Kevin McAlonan agreed to hold the Leprecon material from the storage unit in his garage for at least a few months after W70/Lep 43 until a more permanent place can be found.

Westercon 72 bid: Mike Fett expressed willingness to combine Lep 45 with a Westercon. It was moved and seconded to submit a bid for Westercon 72, provided no corporate funds are used and no other bids are received. Motion approved 11-0-3. Nominees for bid chair/bid treasurer were Mark Boniece/Gary Swaty and Mike Fett/Lyle Dillie. Election was held by secret ballot; Mark Boniece/Gary Swaty were elected.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.