

# Leprecon, Inc. Quarterly Meeting

## Minutes of 05/21/2017

### Attendance

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2017

Location: Spoke & Wheel Tavern, Phoenix, Arizona

The meeting was called to order by Paul Tanton at 3.05 p.m.

Voting Board Members Present: Margie Grady (expires August 2017), Mandy Parker (Lep42 Chair, expires August 2018), Paul Tanton (Vice Chair, Lep41 Chair, Database Administrator, Social Networking Coordinator, expires August 2017).

Voting Board Members Absent: Kevin McAlonan (Secretary, expires August 2019).

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Dee Astell (Lep43/W70 Chair), Hal Astell (Quartermaster), Michael Fett (Lep44/Lep45 Chair).

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

Members Present: Woody Bernardi, Mark Boniece, Sharan Hoyle, Marguerite Murray, Wayne Myers, Gary Swaty, J. B. Talbott, Willow Tanton, Susan Uttke, Lee Whiteside.

Guests: Len Berger and Leslie Fish.

Petitions for Membership: Leslie Fish. 13 members signed the petition, constituting a majority. Wayne Myers paid \$25 in cash. Dee Astell deposited it in the Westercon 70 account later in the day.

Proxies: Jim Strait to Mark Boniece (1), Gerald Nordley and Kevin McAlonan to Paul Tanton (2).

### Reports

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the 02/19/2017 meeting were available at the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as read was approved 12-0-4.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce did not submit a report, so Margie called him on the phone. He reported a total balance of \$14,972.76 as of 04/30/2017, with this breakdown:

Leprecon, Inc. Checking: \$25.76

Leprecon, Inc. Savings: \$50.01

Conflag Checking: \$75.00

Conflag Savings: \$25.01

Westercon 70 Checking: \$14,482.93

PayPal: \$314.05

LepreCon 42 Report: Paul Tanton reported that Mike Willmoth's resignation from the organization has left Lep42 without a treasurer to close out the books. There were no volunteers, so Mandy as Chair will have to complete this task.

Westercon 70/LepreCon 43 Report: Dee Astell read a report (as attached separately). Margie Grady asked about memberships. Dee replied that we have 350+ warm bodies. Mark Boniece added that we're at 450+ room nights.

LepreCon 44 Report: Michael Fett reported that:

1. Chris Foss has pulled out as Artist GoH for health reasons. The replacement has verbally agreed but has not signed a contract yet, so was not named. The first of two Local Artist GoHs has signed and been announced: it's tattoo artist Manuel Flowers. A VIP package will be offered for \$1,000 that will include 8 hours of work by Flowers at con. The second will be Carlos Rivas, 'System Nervous', a spraypainter.
2. The venue will be the Unexpected Art Gallery at 734 W Polk St. and the contract has been signed. Cost is a flat rate of \$2,300 with \$500 deposit already paid. Load in will be allowed on March 14-15, 2018 with the con live on March 16-18. This will be part of Art Detour, which runs the same three days. We will be listed on event maps. Attendance is expected to be 10,000 in foot traffic to the bottom floor. This means that we can charge more for dealers (\$150) and art flats (\$50 per panel, \$25 per pedestal). 50% goes to the venue.
3. Content will be upstairs. Access will be through a \$60 membership, limited to 100 members. Capacity is 70. This includes t-shirt, lanyard and badge, free parking, consuite and panels. The venue is old and not handicapped accessible. The only way upstairs is up a single set of stairs, though the venue is working on a second set.
4. While this will be LepreCon 44, the event will be marketed as the Phoenix Sci-Fi & Fantasy Art Expo. The website is expected to be up by Phoenix Comicon. Four domain names have been registered.
5. There will be no associated hotel. They're very expensive in March.

Margie Grady added that the upstairs has good possibilities for ambience. Paul Tanton observed that multiple people are asking about ADA requirements. Michael Fett mentioned that the venue contract is upgradeable.

LepreCon 45 Report: Michael Fett reported that he expects to do the same for 45 as for 44.

Westercon 72 Bid: Mark Boniece reported that he generated a bid with a hotel contract, as required, and filed it with the Westercon 70 Site Selection contact (Ben Yalow) before the deadline. Utah for 2019 filed the day after, so the Leprecon, Inc. bid was withdrawn.

Bylaws Committee: Paul Tanton reported on Bylaw 4.3, which includes a line, 'The time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be published in the convention program book.' Michael Fett proposed that this line be removed and Margie Grady seconded. A vote would be held during New Business. Paul Tanton highlighted that a program book does not need to be a physically printed object. Michael Fett withdrew his motion.

Hal Astell asked who was on the Bylaws Committee. Paul Tanton answered that it's the voting board and anyone else who shows up, with Margie Grady as committee chair. Wayne Myers and Sharan Hoyle asked to join this committee.

Database Committee: Paul Tanton reported:

1. The committee had previously been blocked from accessing the registration data of past conventions. Nobody present saw any reason why this wasn't made available, so Paul will ask again.
2. There are columns of unfathomable data, X's with unknown meanings. Paul asked if he could strip this data out. Nobody had any concerns.

Financial Review Committee: Hal Astell reported that Mike Willmoth and Bruce Farr had provided data but the committee had not met between quarterly meetings to examine it. We do not yet know if it's useful. The committee will attempt to meet before the AGM.

Policy Committee: Paul Tanton reported:

1. The new sponsorship policy was passed 4-1-0 at the April Executive Session. I don't have the text.
2. There is an active policy that reads: 'The Fan GoH position is retired, replaced with a secondary Artist GoH, traditionally a Local Artist GoH.' This was changed by a 4-0-0 vote to text I don't have, but speaks to the only required GoHs being Artist and Local Artist.

Hal Astell asked who was on the Policy Committee. Paul Tanton replied that it was the voting board. Hal asked to join the committee.

Policy Review Committee: Hal Astell reported that the only remaining task of this committee was with Mike Willmoth to trawl the boardlist for policies, decisions or interpretations. He has not done this and has resigned from the organization. Nobody with access to the boardlist is willing to take on this task. Hal asked that the Policy Review Committee therefore be dissolved, having done its job.

Positions Committee: Margie Grady reported that she has received some data and she is collating it.

Hal Astell noted that the Westercon 70 staff page lists some descriptions and that the WesternSFA and Worldcon sites have more.

Hal Astell asked who was on the Positions Committee. Margie was the only member. Woody Bernardi asked to join this committee.

Quartermaster's Report: Hal Astell reported:

1. We've emptied the storage unit at CubeSmart and moved everything to Kevin McAlonan's garage. The Logistics crew for Westercon 70 did most of the work as a dry run for con this year.
2. Our CubeSmart account is closed and we are fully paid up.
3. The padlocks are ours and they're in Kevin's garage with everything else. Hal still has the keys.

Hal Astell asked if anyone got Mike Willmoth's keys. Paul Tanton replied that they'd been given to Kevin McAlonan.

Hal Astell brought two banners for the failed Phoenix in 2014 NASFiC bid and asked if a) anyone knew if they could be altered, as per a prior suggestion by Mike Willmoth and b) if not, whether we had another use for them. Nobody saw a way in which they could be altered and suggested disposing of them. The membership voted 15-0-1 to give them to Woody Bernardi. Hal did so.

Social Media Committee: Dee Astell reported:

1. She did a couple of sponsored ads for Westercon 70. They increased our numbers.
2. She programs posts for Facebook and Twitter in advance using HootSuite.

Paul Tanton added that Leprecon, Inc. reposts everything Dee posts.

Michael Fett added that Patti Hultstrand is handling Marketing for LepreCon 44 and they will transition after Westercon 70.

Strategic Planning Committee: Paul Tanton reported that they had not met between quarterly meetings.

Hal Astell asked who was on this committee. Paul Tanton replied that it was voting board members and Michael Fett.

Surveys Committee: Margie Grady reported that she had nothing to report.

Michael Fett will work with Margie on a post-con survey after Westercon 70.

Social Club Committee: Michael Fett reported:

1. The next event is a screening of Aelita: Queen of Mars at FilmBar on June 3, 2017 at 8pm, with live accompaniment by the RPM Orchestra.
2. He is open to other suggestions and mentioned that Stephanie Bannon had suggested an art swap.

Hal Astell asked who was on the Social Club Committee. Michael Fett replied that it was him and Sharan Hoyle.

Tablets Committee: There was no report but some discussion. The membership determined that the old tablet related items in storage should be given to Westercon 70 for use in the event where kids take apart obsolete tech.

Website Committee: Ron Oakes did not submit a report.

Hal Astell reported that he'd updated the contact details for all our domains except worldfantasy2004.org because that needs approval from Lee Whiteside in an e-mail account he doesn't check. Hal added that this domain is set to manual renewal and is about to expire on June 16, 2017. The membership voted 16-0-1 to let it expire.

Michael Fett reported that he'd bought four domains: phxscifiandfantasyartexpo.com, .org, .info and .net. They're personally registered to him for now not to Leprecon, Inc.

Website Transition Committee: Hal Astell reported that our iPower account is about to automatically renew on May 29, 2017. The cost is \$179.40 for a 1 year period. This is very expensive, more so than any advertised plan at iPower. He gave background on the previously agreed upon host move to members and provided details of various plans. The membership voted 15-0-1 to have Hal move everything from iPower to the Word Press Business Plan at HostGator.

## **Old Business**

Preferred Guest of Honor List: The membership voted 12-0-6 for this list to be migrated into a Google doc by Margie Grady.

Paul Tanton passed around a collection cauldron. \$35.01 was collected. Dee Astell deposited \$35.00 into the Westercon 70 account and will give Kevin McAlonan the remaining cent to go into the cash box.

## **Online Business**

Paul Tanton reported and will provide a suitable summary to Kevin McAlonan. The membership ratified this 12-0-4.

## **New Business**

1. Len Berger raised a concern that leprecon.org showed LepreCon 42 as the live convention. Discussion ended with an understanding that we're about to move everything to a new host and we should make LepreCon 44 the live convention on the website at the end of Westercon 70. Membership voted 12-0-6 for Hal Astell to make this so.
2. Hal Astell had a takeaway from the February meeting to draft a fresh proposal about retroactive application of policies. He made this proposal. Paul Tanton amended it to read: 'As of this meeting, all votes take effect as of the time they're voted in, unless there is a legally binding federal, state, tribal, county or

municipal reason why we need to retroactively apply them to a past date.' As this had legal connotations, the board voted 4-0-0 to pass this as amended.

3. Michael Fett raised a concern at our current requirements for eligibility to stand for the board. He was redirected to the Bylaws Committee to make a proposal.
4. Michael Fett raised the membership restrictions on Leslie Fish. Leslie Fish spoke at length and said that she was not aware that she had been restricted by Leprecon, Inc. twenty years ago and was surprised when fans recently raised this to her. The membership voted 11-0-7 to rescind her restrictions.
5. Michael Fett asked for the maximum membership price to be changed or rescinded. As we don't have one, this was deemed moot.
6. Hal Astell rescinded his resignation as quartermaster and took on the role of corporate webmaster.
7. Hal Astell asked if Bruce Farr will take on all the responsibilities of corporate treasurer, as defined in the bylaws, now that Mike Willmoth has resigned, as Mike had previously done most of these. Paul Tanton replied that Bruce had confirmed that he would.

## Elections

1. Mike Willmoth's resignation left an empty board position. Paul Tanton was nominated, seconded and accepted the nomination. The membership voted him in 20-0-0.
2. Paul Tanton's election to Mike Willmoth's former position on the board left an empty board position. One candidate (Lee Whiteside) was nominated but declined the nomination. Three candidates were nominated, seconded and accepted their nominations: Hal Astell, Wayne Myers and Sharan Hoyle. Hal Astell was elected in a silent ballot.
3. Mike Willmoth's resignation also left the chairman's position empty. Paul Tanton was nominated, seconded and accepted the nomination. The board voted him in 5-0-0.
4. Paul Tanton's election as chairman left the vice chairman's position empty. Hal Astell was nominated, seconded and accepted the nomination. The board voted him in 4-0-1.

## Announcements

1. Leslie Fish mentioned that Gerry Tyra, the sound engineer on her last three albums, has moved to Scottsdale. She recommends him highly. Hal Astell added that he's already on board to handle sound for the filk room and ballroom at Westercon 70.
2. Leslie Fish mentioned that Chris Madsen, former regular LepreCon attendee, has published his first sci-fi novel, *The Eyes of the Setting Sun*. She recommends it highly.
3. Leslie Fish also mentioned that her own novel, *Of Elven Blood*, has been reissued in paperback.
4. Len Berger mentioned that the new *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie is very good.
5. Hal Astell mentioned that the Poisoned Pen will be hosting another Elevegeddon event with most of the guest authors at Phoenix Comicon signing at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort on May 24, 2017.
6. Michael Fett mentioned that his GoH, Manuel Flowers, will be at Phoenix Comicon. Len Berger added that he would be there too.

## **Dates**

The date of the next Executive Session was scheduled for July 23, 2017.

The date of the AGM was scheduled for 27 August, 2017 at 3pm at the Spoke & Wheel.

The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 8-3-0 at 7.22p.m.