

# LepreCon, Inc. | Minutes: Board/Committees 12/17/2017

## Call to Order

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2017

Location: Denny's, 3205 E Bell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85032

The meeting was called to order by Paul Tanton at 7.17 p.m.

## Attendance

Voting Board Members Present: Dee Astell (expires August 2019), Hal C. F. Astell (*Vice Chair, Secretary*) - expires August 2020), Kevin McAlonan (*Treasurer* - expires August 2019), Gary Swaty (expires August 2018), Paul Tanton (*Chair* - expires August 2018).

Voting Board Members Absent: None.

Other Officers Present: Woody Bernardi (*President*)

Other Officers Absent: None.

Committee Heads Present: Hal C. F. Astell (*Financial Review, Website Archiving*), Michael Falinski (*Database*), Margaret Grady (*Bylaws & Policies, Google Docs, Positions, Surveys*), Earl C. Hedges, Jr. (*Fundraising, Social Media*)

Committee Heads Absent: Mark Boniece (*Quartermaster*), John Grigg (*Strategic Planning*), Sharan Hoyle (*Socials*)

Members Present: Stephanie Bannon, Mike Cassidy, Craig Dyer, Michael Fett

Guests: none

## Collections

Paul Tanton passed around the Collection Cauldron; \$12.00 was collected.

## Board Reports to Committees

Paul Tanton asked Hal Astell to confirm who was currently eligible to stand for office; Hal did so from memory and will bring a current list to future meetings.

## Committee Reports to the Board

### LepreCon 42

Gary Swaty reported.

He has no further information at this time but will try to provide an update by the next meeting.

### LepreCon 43

Dee Astell reported.

Remaining tasks are to send certificates to masquerade winners and printed materials to supporting members. We've picked up card from storage for the certificates and had Duncan Rittschof price up the mailing costs for printed materials; this will be under \$3.00 per supporting member. She expects both tasks to be taken care of shortly.

## LepreCon 44

Woody Bernardi reported.

He's currently planning a fan gathering of either one or two days. Date is to be determined, but he's looking at the St. Patrick's Day weekend to cater to tradition. Venue is to be determined, but he did a walkthrough earlier in the day at the Phoenix Center for the Arts with Earl Hedges; this is close to hotels and halves the price for non-profits.

Discussion about what to announce and when. Earl read his cancellation notice for social media and asked Paul Tanton for fresh account details for Twitter. Woody will write a new announcement and get that to Earl for social media; Hal Astell asked for the same for the website.

Kevin McAlonan asked for permission to refund the membership/vendor/artist fees for Michael Fett's cancelled event; Woody agreed and both Woody and Kevin asked for data from Michael.

Hal Astell asked about cancellation of venue and guests; Woody asked Paul to cancel the venue contract by end of year and to seek copies of the guest contracts.

## Bylaws & Policies

Margaret Grady reported.

There has been some discussion on the Facebook group. She circulated an Oversight Policy, stating that it is a beginning only. This proposes that the board **may** review/approve event budgets; review/inquire about event goals and status on milestones; and review, question, approve/amend or cancel contracts including guest, venue and sponsorship. Much discussion. Michael Fett asked for a timeframe on response; many said that ten business days is standard. Craig Dyer asked what if that timeframe was not met; Margie suggested a default of yes. Kevin McAlonan suggested that the chair **must** submit these items; the board **may** review. This will be moved to the Facebook group for further discussion.

Michael Fett suggested a mandatory post-con audit by members who did not work the con. Much discussion. This will be moved to the Facebook group for further discussion.

Michael Falinski asked if we should have a database policy. It was suggested that he draft one.

Hal Astell raised a currently binding decision that @leprecon.org e-mail addresses be restricted to board members and convention committees, given that he's using webmaster@leprecon.org as an officer and paypal@leprecon.org isn't any of the above. He will rewrite and submit to the committee.

Michael Fett suggested a limit on proxies. This is an active discussion on the Facebook group.

## Database

Michael Falinski reported.

He thanked Craig Dyer for donating two USB thumbdrives and confirmed receipt. He should have a prototype database ready for the February meeting.

## Financial Review

Hal Astell reported.

Earlier in the day, he received from Kevin McAlonan a box of financial statements that had been sent by Bruce Farr, the former treasurer. He hopes for the committee to meet to look over these before the January meeting.

## **Fundraising**

Earl Hedges reported.

Woody Bernardi spoke about restaurants who will provide donations to non-profits from receipts, one of them at 50%, and suggests that we move our quarterly meetings to one of these, though he does not have a particular suggestion at this time. Kevin McAlonan suggested that the board check it out first. Earl provided soapboxie.com and groupraise.com as the source data.

Discussion about more social events, perhaps at restaurants, to fall under the above logic. Discussion about moving this to the Socials committee.

## **Google Docs**

Margaret Grady reported.

She's reworking some of these. The new master is LepreCon, Inc. Management. She asked who should get what access.

## **Positions**

Margaret Grady reported.

She circulated a new list of descriptions and asked for more. Stephanie Bannon will extract useful information from the ConRunners minutes.

## **Quartermaster**

Hal Astell reported in Mark Boniece's absence.

Hal completed a new inventory (excluding the registration box). He disposed of two damaged items (a plastic tray and a plastic plate). The only things obviously missing are the PayPal/Square/chip readers and some pool noodles. Dee Astell suggested that some of the latter were used in craft workshops at Westercon 70.

Michael Fett asked what we can dispose of. Hal raised some things, such as old blank badges, LepreCon 42 program books and pocket programs and cash registers. Gary Swaty will check to see what still needs to be sent to supporting members for LepreCon 42. Discussion about cash registers vs. cash boxes ended with the suggestion to keep all the above for now.

Dee asked about sponsored items provided to Westercon 70 (e.g. swag bags, Arizona maps and tourist guides, *Star Wars* samplers etc.), with a view to donating some of these to other events/organizations. Paul Tanton stated that she could chose to do so as the Westercon 70 chair.

Hal said that his next steps are to compare the new inventory with the old one and share with the board. Margaret Grady asked for a copy to convert to a Google doc.

## **Social Media**

Earl Hedges reported.

He asked Paul Tanton about Giving Tuesday; Paul replied that it's the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, when people are asked to donate to charity.

Earl mentioned that LepreCon's entry on Wikipedia is out of date. Discussion about who can update, given Wikipedia's Conflict of Interest policy.

## **Socials**

Michael Fett reported in Sharan Hoyle's absence. He has agreed to co-chair the committee now that Woody can no longer do so after his appointment as President.

Sharan now understands that she needs to give reports. They had discussed rules for socials, such as that they should be to have fun and promote the group rather than to be hijacked into being business meetings. Paul Tanton suggested that the responsibility to keep such a rule would be with whoever was running them.

Much discussion about the difference between an event and a social. No firm definitions were provided and this will be further discussed.

Michael suggested that the hosting of any social should go to the board for approval, as the LepreCon name would be attached to it. General agreement.

Michael also suggested that we could attend events hosted by other groups as a LepreCon social. Hal Astell asked if a list of such events could be provided.

## **Surveys**

Margaret Grady reported.

17 people completed the survey that she passed round at the previous meeting. She circulated the results. She asked Hal for the attendance count at that meeting; he promised to provide that to her.

## **Website**

Hal Astell reported.

His only changes since the previous meeting were basic ones (e.g. updating meeting times/dates) or the announcement of the cancellation of LepreCon 44 in its advertised form.

## **Other**

Dee Astell asked when Michael Fett will be removed from the boardlist. Paul Tanton said that he's now a co-ordinator so would continue to be there.

Discussion about the PSFAFAE website and domains, given that the former is still active (and taking payments) and the transfer of the latter is still not done. Paul rang Michael (who had left the meeting before this) to obtain the information needed to draft the contract Michael requires to transfer the domains to corporate control. Michael promised to send to Paul by noon the next day and stated that he did not require payment.

Discussion about whether we should keep the Socials committee, given the strong overlap with Fundraising, and about their function. Kevin McAlonan suggested that they exist to promote events (e.g. LepreCons); Margaret Grady raised the promotion of the organization as a whole; Paul Tanton referenced the bylaws that suggest that doing the latter does the former. A motion was made to disband the Socials committee, with the note that socials would become the responsibility of individual event COOs. This passed 2-0-3.

Much discussion about Michael Fett's continued involvement with the organization after his outburst and resignation at the previous meeting. Many stated that they were not comfortable with him on the boardlist or in any role that officially represents LepreCon, Inc. A motion was made that, as this is the first face to face meeting of the board since the events of the November quarterly meeting, based on Michael Fett's conduct at that meeting, we should revoke his membership as per various bylaws and prohibit him from holding any position at LepreCon, Inc. other than member for a period of five years. This was deemed to be a board decision. It passed 5-0-0.

## **Meetings**

The next Board/Committees meeting was set for March 19, 2017 at the same venue, starting at 7.00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

Paul Tanton adjourned the meeting at 11.50 p.m. after a vote of 9-0-0.