

LepreCon, Inc. | Minutes: Quarterly Meeting 02/25/2018

Call to Order

Date: Sunday, February 25, 2018

Location: Spoke & Wheel Tavern, Phoenix, Arizona

The meeting was called to order by Paul Tanton at 3:20 p.m.

Attendance

Voting Board Members Present: Dee Astell (expires August 2019), Hal C. F. Astell (*Vice Chair, Secretary, Webmaster* - expires August 2017), Gary Swaty (expires August 2018), Paul Tanton (*Chair* - expires August 2018).

Voting Board Members Absent: Kevin McAlonan (*Treasurer* - expires August 2019).

Other Officers Present: Woody Bernardi (*President*).

Other Officers Absent: None.

Members Present: Stephanie Bannon, Mark Boniece, Craig L. Dyer, Leslie Fish, Margaret Grady, John Grigg, Earl C. Hedges, Jr., Sharan Hoyle, Marguerite Murray, Andrea Rittschof, Duncan Rittschof, Susan Uttke, Lee Whiteside

Guests: None.

Petitions for Membership: None.

Proxies: Len Berger and Jim Strait to Mark Boniece, Mike Cassidy to Margaret Grady.

Donations

Paul Tanton passed around the Collection Cauldron. \$30.00 was collected.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report

Minutes for the three meetings in Q2 and the Secretary's Report by Hal Astell were posted online in advance of the meeting.

The minutes for the executive session on 10/22/2017 had been previously approved at the November meeting.

A motion to accept the quarterly meeting minutes for 11/19/2017 was passed 10-0-6.

A motion to accept the board/committee meeting minutes for 12/17/2017 was passed 6-0-11.

A motion for online business to be read was passed 11-2-4. Hal Astell did so and a motion to accept as read was passed 16-0-3.

Hal Astell read the list of those eligible to stand for office.

Hal Astell reported that he believed that everyone had signed conflict of interest statements during the December meeting, except for Margaret Grady and John Grigg, who were not there. Both signed during this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

This report by Kevin McAlonan was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 10-0-4.

LepreCon 42 Report

Gary Swaty reported that he has not yet seen the database for LepreCon 42; Paul Tanton will send this to Gary by e-mail and also on a thumbdrive via Craig Dyer.

A motion to accept passed 11-1-4.

LepreCon 43 Report

This report by Dee Astell was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 11-0-5.

LepreCon 44 Report

This report by Woody Bernardi was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to be read was made. Hal Astell read in Woody's absence. Woody then arrived at the meeting and answered questions.

Gary Swaty asked about the cancellation of LepreCon 44; Woody explained that he'd made the mistake of announcing before he had a contract and had to cancel when the contract did not meet his needs, but LepreCon 44 will still happen at a different venue. Sue Uttke asked about a new date and venue; Woody stated that he's found a venue for June but has not yet signed a contract. Dee Astell asked if this would be a fan gathering or a convention; Woody replied that it would be a full three day convention. Dee asked why a call for GMs had been made without a date; Woody replied that Earl's goal was to hit the ground running and Earl read what he had posted aloud. Dee suggested more activity on Facebook; Woody will do so. Hal Astell asked if there was a convention webmaster yet; Woody said no.

A motion to accept passed 16-0-2.

Co-ordinator Reports

Bylaws & Policies Committee

This report by Margaret Grady was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 12-1-4.

Database Committee

Michael Falinski was not present and did not provide a report. Hal Astell read his report from the December meeting minutes.

Margaret Grady asked if meeting attendance was included in the database; Hal Astell will send these to Michael. Earl Hedges asked about queries; Paul Tanton asked him to e-mail his needs to Michael.

A motion to accept passed 13-0-2.

Financial Review Committee

This report by Hal Astell was posted online in advance of the meeting.

Stephanie Bannon asked what this committee was for; Hal explained that it aimed to identify why our finances shrank from \$60,000 a decade ago to -\$3,000 last year when the average convention during that time made a profit of \$100. The next step is to sort the financial papers provided by Bruce Farr; Stephanie volunteered to join the committee and help with this. John Grigg asked if hiring an external forensic accountant would be appropriate; Hal replied that the goal was not to find evidence of malpractice but simply to identify decisions that cost us financially so that we could avoid repeating them in the future. Lee Whiteside suggested that a number of high profile bids cost a lot of money. Gary Swaty mentioned that some guests had cost a large sum too.

A motion to accept passed 14-0-5.

Fundraising Committee

This report by Earl C. Hedges, Jr. was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to read was passed 6-2-4. Earl did so and removed one line. Stephanie Bannon mentioned that most grants are aimed at individuals (authors, artists, etc.). Woody Bernardi raised an Arisia grant request in which he was involved in Las Vegas for a con; it was declined.

A motion to accept passed 13-0-3.

Google Docs Committee

This report by Margaret Grady was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 10-0-7.

Positions Committee

This report by Margaret Grady was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 12-0-4.

Quartermaster

This report by Hal Astell, handing over to Mark Boniece, was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 13-0-3.

Social Media Committee

This report by Earl C. Hedges, Jr. was posted online in advance of the meeting.

Hal Astell asked about numbers and Paul Tanton explained how he downloaded spreadsheets when he ran social media. Earl gave current numbers as 577 likes for the LepreCon, Inc. page and 466 members of the LepreCon convention group. Dee Astell said that Facebook recently made changes and it's still possible to download numbers, just with more data. Stephanie Bannon pointed out that Amazon Smile has a logo that can be used on the website; Hal Astell will handle this. Woody Bernardi asked what we have on Facebook; Paul Tanton explained that we have a corporate page and a convention group.

A motion to accept passed 15-0-2.

Strategic Planning Committee

John Grigg reported in person.

Annette Sexton-Ruiz has resigned from the committee because of time constraints. The current goal is to write up a formal plan.

A motion to accept passed 15-0-2.

Surveys Committee

This report by Margaret Grady was posted online in advance of the meeting.

Paul Tanton asked for the actual results to be added to the PDF of reports; Margie will see if she can provide this as a PDF but, if not, Hal will scan and add.

A motion to accept passed 13-0-4.

Webmaster

This report by Hal Astell was posted online in advance of the meeting.

A motion to accept passed 11-0-4.

Old Business

1. Paul Tanton reported on Google for Non Profits. He and Hal Astell logged into GSuite in January and together addressed prior concerns raised. Paul will send out fresh reminders to those who haven't yet signed up.
2. Paul Tanton reported on our shift to proper timing for quarterly reports. He commented on the lack of some to report by the deadline. He asked for all officers and coordinators to adhere to the April 30 deadline for Q3 reports. Hal Astell asked who reports should be sent to, given that he sent to himself as secretary; Paul replied that they should go to the boardlist.
3. Paul Tanton presented the proposal to remove the last line from bylaw 5.1. Hal Astell read that bylaw. Paul explained that the line restricts our con chairs from being coordinators, other officers or board members. We've been ignoring this and should either follow the rule as written or revoke it. Woody Bernardi spoke to the finite pool of possibilities. A motion to remove the line passed 16-0-4.
4. Hal Astell made a motion at the November meeting that we look into the possibility of transferring the PSFAFAE tradename to Michael Fett. He withdrew that motion at this meeting. Gary Swaty proposed it afresh. After other options were raised, Hal Astell made a motion to amend to cancel the tradename rather than transfer it. The amendment passed 14-5-1 and the amended motion to cancel passed 13-6-1. Stephanie Bannon will provide the process to the treasurer.
5. Hal Astell re-read the list of those eligible to stand for office. There were no mail-in ballots for Vice President and Paul Tanton called for nominations. Woody Bernardi, Dee Astell, Sharan Hoyle, Gary Swaty and Paul Tanton were nominated. Woody and Dee accepted their nominations; the rest declined. A motion to close nominations passed 18-0-1. Dee was duly elected to be Vice President and COO of LepreCon 45 by a silent ballot.
6. A motion to defer the election of the Assistant Vice President and COO of LepreCon 46 until the next quarterly meeting passed 17-3-0.

New Business

1. Paul Tanton read a letter from Michael Fett. Hal Astell read the board's response from the December executive session. No further action was taken.
2. Hal Astell explained that he had discovered 13 enabled ftp accounts for previous cons and webmasters, granting access to our webspace. He has already disabled them all but asked for approval to delete them outright. This passed 19-0-1. Paul Tanton asked for an ftp account to be set up for LepreCon 45. We do not have a web policy and it was suggested that we set one up. Margaret Grady will raise this in committee.
3. Sharan Hoyle raised the (over)use of proxies. Paul Tanton mentioned that the bylaws committee recently discussed this. Margaret Grady raised the source issue being that anyone who attends a LepreCon is automatically a voting member who can therefore send in a proxy. A discussion about implementing a requirement to attend one or meetings before being able to send a proxy followed; Paul gave an example of a member who moved to Nashville but wanted to stay involved and Hal Astell mentioned his granddaughter who he was glad wasn't at the prior meeting. Sharan Hoyle recommended we revisit this at the next meeting because of time constraints.
4. Leslie Fish, after being challenged to write a song about local politics, did so and sang it. It's called *Peck and Sniff*.
5. Earl Hedges said that he will be moving out of Arizona in March, so resigns as head of the Fundraising and Social Media committees. He's happy to remain on those committees and plans to return to run gaming at LepreCon 44. Paul Tanton and Dee Astell will jointly take on Social Media. Woody Bernardi will take on Fundraising.
6. Hal Astell reported that the hosting package at HostGator that we used for Westercon 70 will expire on March 1. He removed the associated credit card from the account so it won't auto-renew. He'll archive the website before then.
7. Woody Bernardi asked about rights on Facebook; Paul Tanton explained the history of why our Facebook group is still technically LepreCon 39. Dee Astell will look into the possibility of renaming it.

Announcements

1. Hal Astell listed all known Arizona conventions for the next quarter. 2-4 Mar - Kikori Con (Flagstaff). 2-4 Mar - Wild Wild West Steampunk Convention (Tucson), at which LepreCon 44 and CoKoCon will man a joint fan table. 10-11 Mar - Tucson Festival of Books (Tucson). 16-18 Mar - Grand Prix Phoenix (Phoenix). 23-24 Mar - Gila Valley Comic-Con (Thatcher). 24 Mar - Apache Junction Public Library LibraryCon (Apache Junction). 24 Mar - Verde Valley Comic Expo (Glendale). 7 Apr - Macro-Con (Glendale). 8 Apr - Sun Devil Fan Fair (Tempe). 14 Apr - TransContinental (Winslow). 20-22 Apr - Con-Nichiwa (Tucson). 21-22 Apr - ZapCon (Mesa).
2. Lee Whiteside mentioned that Kevin Hearne will be signing his final Iron Druid book at the Poisoned Pen on 3 Mar at 7pm; that he recommends the film *Annihilation*, based on the novel by Jeff VanderMeer; and that *The Expanse* will be back on Syfy on 11 Mar.
3. Earl Hedges mentioned that he'll be a guest GM at North Texas RPG Con in Fort Worth, TX from 7-10 Jun.
4. Andrea Rittschof recommends an indie sf feature called *Prodigy*, on all standard platforms.
5. Earl Hedges mentioned that Crit Hit! 3's Kickstarter will end in 5 days.
6. Craig Dyer raised the WesternSFA's open house on 17 Mar.

Meetings

The next quarterly meeting was set for 3.00 p.m. on May 20, 2018 at the Spoke & Wheel (8525 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020).

Adjournment

Paul Tanton adjourned the meeting at 6.30pm after a vote of 10-3-1 to adjourn.