



ConAlope 2017 Westercon 70

Progress Report #0

We would like to thank everyone who voted for us to hold Westercon 70 in Tempe, AZ in 2017. We are proud to announce that we won the bid and have already begun putting together a con worthy of the Westercon name.

Our main theme will be around aliens, to celebrate the 70th anniversary not only of Westercon but of the crash landing of a UFO (or a military surveillance balloon) at Roswell, NM on 8th July, 1947. We suggest that the aliens rode away on jackalopes to Arizona and may well make an appearance at Westercon!

Our website will go live shortly. Watch this space!

We have started the process to decide whether Westercon 70 will also be LepreCon 43, since we're sponsored by LepreCon, Inc (<http://www.leprecon.org/corp>).

The con dates are Saturday, 1st July, 2017 to Tuesday, 4th July, 2017.

The con hotel is the Tempe Mission Palms at 60 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281 and <http://www.missionpalms.com/>. Room rates have been locked at the same prices we had when we last hosted Westercon in 2009. Reservations will open up as soon as the hotel is ready to take them.

Tempe Mission Palms is located within walking distance of Mill Ave and the downtown Tempe district with over a hundred restaurants, bars and shops. The Mission Grille restaurant, Harry's Place lounge and Cabana Bar and Grill are in the hotel itself. Room rates include parking (self, valet and RV), airport shuttle to and from Sky Harbor and high speed wifi. Like Westercon 62, fireworks will be easily visible over Tempe Town Lake from the hotel.

We have appointed our first few staff positions. Dee Astell will chair Westercon 70. Kevin McAlonan will serve as Treasurer. Hal C F Astell will handle Publications and be the chair's all purpose minion.

We are also proud to confirm our first guest! **Gini Koch** (<http://www.ginikoch.com/>) will be our **Local Author Guest of Honor**. Gini is the author of the Katherine 'Kitty' Katt / Alien series for DAW. The newest book in the series is #11, *Alien Separation*, and book #15 is due in May 2017, just before Westercon 70. She also writes the Necropolis Enforcement Files and the Alexander Outland series, among others, under a variety of pseudonyms.

