

Aussiecon Three

Agenda for Preliminary Business Meeting Friday 3 September 1999 at 9 am Room Bellarine 5

[Special Note: In the publication of the Constitution in PR3 and in the Souvenir Booklet, and on the website, omit one subsection of the document.

In paragraph 1.5, subsection 5, should read:

Section 1.5: Memberships.

1.5.5: Voters have the right to convert to attending membership in the selected Worldcon within ninety (90) days of its selection, for an additional fee set by its committee. This fee must not exceed two (2) times the site-selection fee and must not exceed the difference between the site-selection fee and the fee for new attending members.

The subsequent subsections need to be renumbered thus:

1.5.6: The Worldcon Committee shall make provision for persons to become supporting members for no more than one hundred and twenty-five percent (125%) of the site-selection fee, or such higher amount as has been approved by the Business Meeting, until a cutoff date no earlier than ninety (90) days before their Worldcon.

1.5.7: Other memberships and fees shall be at the discretion of the Worldcon Committee.]

AGENDA

1. Committee Reports

1.1. Mark Protection Committee (and Nominations for MPC)

See the World Science Fiction Society Constitution, Sections 1.7 and 1.8, and Standing Rules 11 and 12.

Officers: Randall Shepherd (Chairman), Scott Dennis (Treasurer), Gary Keith Feldbaum (Secretary).

Membership: elected until Aussiecon Three: Stephen Boucher, Gary Keith Feldbaum, Sue Francis; *elected until Chicon 2000:* Scott Dennis, Donald Eastlake, Ruth Sachter; *elected until the Millennium Philcon:* Tim Illingworth, Kevin Standlee, Ben Yalow. *Worldcon appointees:* Randall Shepherd (LoneStarCon 2), Covert Beach (Bucconeer), Dick Smith (Aussiecon Three), Zanne Labonville (Chicon 2000); *Todd Dashoff* (Millennium Philcon). *NASFIC appointee:* Robert Sacks (Conucopia).

Postal address: P.O. Box 426159, Kendall Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02142 USA.

E-mail: mpc@wsfs.org

The committee is to report and the positions currently occupied by Stephen Boucher, Gary Keith Feldbaum and Sue Francis are up for nomination. The election, if necessary, will be held at the Mian Business Meeting on 4 September.

1.2. Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee

The 1986 WSFS Business Meeting voted to create a special committee to research and codify all resolutions of the WSFS Business Meeting that are still in force. This committee has submitted reports to Business Meetings since 1987, and has each year been continued to report to the next Business Meeting.

Written report attached.

Membership: Donald E. Eastlake, III (Chairman), Tim Illingworth, Kevin Standlee.

Postal address: 318 Acton St., Carlisle, MA 01741, USA.

E-mail: dee3@torque.pothole.com

1.3. Worldcon Runners' Guide Editorial Committee

This committee was established by the 1989 WSFS Business Meeting, and has been continued ever since. A new edition of the Worldcon Runners' Guide was submitted at the 1996 Business Meeting.

Written report attached.

Membership: Saul Jaffe (Chair), Sharon Sbarsky, Ben Yalow

E-Mail: crg@sflowers.rutgers.edu

2. Worldcon Reports

- **2.1 Past Worldcons and NASFiCs**
 - 2.1.1 ConAdian (1994)
 - 2.1.2 L.A.con III (1996)
 - 2.1.3 LoneStarCon 2 (1997)
 - 2.1.4 Bucconeer (1998)
 - 2.1.5 Conucopia (1999 NASFiC)

- **2.2 Seated Worldcons**
 - 2.2.1 Aussiecon Three (1999)
 - 2.2.2 Chicon 2000 (2000)
 - 2.2.3 The Millennium Philcon (2001)

3. Business Passed On from Bucconeer

Items under this heading have been given first passage, and will become part of the Constitution if ratified at Aussiecon 3.

3.1 Tidying Site Selection

MOVED, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

In Section 4.1: replace "Voting shall be by mail or ballot cast at the current Worldcon with run-off ballot as described in Section 3.11" with "Voting shall be by written ballot cast either by mail or at the current Worldcon with tallying as described in Section 3.11".

In Section 4. 1: replace "administer the mail balloting" with "administer the voting".

Replace Section 4.3 with the following new Section:

Section 4.3: Non-natural Persons. Corporations, associations, and other non-human or artificial entities may cast ballots, but only for "No Preference". "Guest of" memberships may only cast "No Preference" ballots. Memberships transferred to individual natural persons may cast preferential ballots, provided that the transfer is accepted by the administering convention.

In Section 4.5.1, replace "with two (2) witnesses from each bidding committee allowed to observe." with ". Each bidding committee should provide at least two (2) tellers."

Delete Subsection 4.5.3, and insert the following new Subsections:

4.5.3: "None of the Above" shall be treated as a bid for tallying, and shall be the equivalent of "No Award" with respect to Section 2.9.

4.5.5: If "None of the Above" wins, the duty of site selection shall devolve on the Business Meeting of the current Worldcon. If the Business Meeting is unable to decide by the end of the Worldcon, the Committee for the following Worldcon shall make the selection without undue delay.

4.5.6: Where a site and Committee are chosen by a Business Meeting or Worldcon Committee, they are not restricted by region or other qualifications, and the choice of an out-of-rotation site shall not affect the regional rotation for subsequent years.

Moved by the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee

Discussion:

This tidies the wording of Article 4. It requires the current committee to administer the whole voting process rather than just the mail balloting, and directs the bidding committees to provide tellers rather than allowing them to provide observers. This changes the Constitution to reflect what actually happens, so there is no actual change in powers.

3.2 No-Zone Rotation

Moved: To amend Article IV by:

1. Deleting all of section 4.7 except the last sentence.
2. Replacing "sixty (60) miles" with "five hundred (500) miles or eight hundred (800) kilometres" in the last sentence of section 4.7
3. Replacing "the North American region eligible" with "North America" in the first sentence of Section 4.9
4. Deleting the first sentence of 4.9.2

Provided that any site which would have been eligible under the old rules will also be eligible in the first three races conducted under these eligibility rules.

Moved by Ben Yalow and Bruce Pelz

Discussion:

This replaces the current zone system for site eligibility in North America with an unzoned system, in which a bid from any of the rotation zones is allowed to bid in any year. While the rotation system used to be necessary in order to prevent the Worldcon from staying in one geographic area, the decrease through the years in the number of locations that can hold a Worldcon will accomplish most of these results.

This system will also mean that if a group wishes to bid in a year, and has facilities available for that year, they will generally be eligible. And, if a group has its facility taken away by another group, it doesn't need to wait three years to rebid, but may do so when it is next able.

The exclusion zone is expanded from 60 miles to 500 to ensure that having a large number of local voters won't give one site a large proximity advantage in any race.

Effect:

Section 4.7: Site Eligibility ~~A site outside North America is eligible for selection in any year. A Site within North America is eligible for selection if it is within the appropriate region as defined below. The North American regions shall rotate in the order Western, Central, Eastern region.~~ A site shall be ineligible if it is within sixty (60) five hundred (500) miles or eight hundred (800) kilometres of the site at which selection occurs.

Section 4.9: NASFiC

If the selected Worldcon site is not in North America, there shall be a NASFiC ~~in the North American region eligible~~ North America that year. Selection of the NASFiC shall be by the identical procedure to the Worldcon selection except as provided below or elsewhere in this Constitution:

4.9.1: Voting shall be by written ballot administered by the following year's Worldcon, if there is no NASFiC in that year, or by the following year's NASFiC, if there is one, with ballots cast at the administering convention or by mail, and with only members of the administering convention allowed to vote.

4.9.2: ~~Bids are restricted to sites in the appropriate region.~~ NASFiC Committees shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid conflicts with Worldcon dates.

4.9.3: The proposed NASFiC voting fee supporting membership rate can be set by unanimous agreement of the prospective candidates that file with the administering Committee the administering Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot deadline.

4.9.4: If "None of the Above" wins, or if no eligible bid files by the deadline, then no NASFiC shall be held and all voting fees any supporting membership payments collected for the NASFiC site selection shall be refunded by the administering convention without undue delay.

4. New Business

Items under this heading have not been given first passage, and will become part of the Constitution only if passed Aussiecon 3 and ratified at Chicon 2000.

4.1 The Long and Short of It

MOVED, To amend portions of Article III of the WSFS Constitution to have the effect of splitting the existing Best Dramatic Presentation category into two categories, Long Form and Short Form, to regulate the administration of such categories, and for other purposes, as follows.

1. Strike out existing Section 3.3.6, "Best Dramatic Presentation."

2. Insert the following section after existing Section 3.3.5:

3.3.x: BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM: Any production in any medium of dramatized science fiction, fantasy, or related subjects, which has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year, with a complete running time of more than 100 minutes.

3. Insert the following section before existing Section 3.3.7

3.3.x: BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM: Any production in any medium of dramatized science fiction, fantasy, or related subjects, which has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year, with a complete running time of 100 minutes or less.

4. Insert the following section after existing Section 3.2.5:

3.2.x: The Worldcon Committee shall not consider previews, promotional trailers, commercials, public service announcements, or other extraneous material when determining the length of a work.

5. Insert the following section after existing Section 3.2.6:

3.2.x: The Worldcon Committee may relocate a dramatic presentation work into a more appropriate category if it feels that it is necessary, provided that the length of the work is within the lesser of twenty (20) minutes or twenty percent (20%) of the new category limits.

Moved by Chris Barkley, Kevin Standlee and Lew Wolkoff

Discussion:

The amendment itself has a three fold purpose:

A) To split most television and motion picture presentations into two length categories, Long Form and Short Form.

B) To give fans a wider choice in their selections for Best Dramatic Presentations; for example, as a result of the category split, fans have the option of choosing radio dramas, books on tape/cd, music albums, musical performances, etc...

C) Attract more media minded or casual reading fans into the Hugo selection process and expand the voting base.

4.1A The Not So Long and Short of It

MOVED, to substitute for the entire text of the motion titled "The Long and Short of It," the following:

MOVED, To amend portions of Article III of the WSFS Constitution to have the effect of splitting the existing Best Dramatic Presentation category into two categories, Non-Episodic and Episodic, to regulate the administration of such categories, and for other purposes, as follows.

1. Strike out existing Section 3.3.6, "Best Dramatic Presentation."
2. Insert the following section after existing Section 3.3.5:
3.3.x BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, EPISODIC. Any production in any medium of dramatized Science Fiction, Fantasy, or related subjects, which formed a single episode from a regularly scheduled ongoing production.
3. Insert the following section before existing Section 3.3.7
3.3.x: BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, NON-EPISODIC. Any feature film, short subject, television mini-series, live theater production, or any other production in any medium of dramatized Science Fiction, Fantasy, or related subjects, not eligible for the Episodic Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo Award.
4. Insert the following sentence at the end of Section 3.2.4:
3.2.4: [...] A multi-part episodic or non-episodic dramatic production shall be eligible for the year in which the final part is first publicly performed.
5. Insert the following sentence at the end of Section 3.2.6:
3.2.6: [...] The Worldcon Committee may relocate a dramatic presentation work into a more appropriate category if it feels that it is necessary. Attached is a motion I'm submitting. It's an amendment to the motion to change the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo.

Moved by: Skip Morris, Robert Sacks and Judy Bemis

Discussion (SM):

As an individual who has run numerous convention film and video programs over several decades I feel qualified to comment on the main motion and my amendment. While I feel it is a worthwhile goal to expand the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo, splitting the award by length does not best represent the differences in movies vs television episodes. There are many films I've shown at SF cons whose length is close to an hour. (The shortest one I remember is "La Jette", the basis for the film "12 Monkeys" which ran about 30 minutes, or Hugo winner "The Capture" which was a slide show running about 20 minutes.) Many TV show episodes likewise are multi-parters running 2 or 3 hours. (Several Star Trek and Babylon 5 episodes come to mind.)

The biggest difference in the mediums are that TV episodes are produced under a deadline, typically have a smaller budget, a story has to be developed to fit a setting and cast of characters, and there is typically a "writers bible" which limits what a story creator is allowed to do.

Films, TV Mini Series, and other such productions are different. The story, setting & characters can be developed together. There is more freedom for the writer to make changes to the universe being developed. Deadlines are not as important; a movie production can easily slip a few weeks or months. TV episode schedules are much less flexible. I can draw a comparison to the effect of deadlines on creativity with the American Pulitzer Award, which has different awards for stories published both "under a deadline" and "not under a deadline". This to me reflects the most crucial difference in the medium.

Notes: Section three spells out things like "television mini-series" to make it clear that productions like "From the Earth to the Moon" and "I, Claudius" belong in the non-episodic category. Also, section two originally had the words "of no less than 8 episodes in a single production season" at the very end. In talking to people I've been convinced that it is better to leave such decisions as to what constitutes an "ongoing series" to the judgement Hugo Administrators. However, I would consider a request to add the phrase back in as a friendly amendment.

4.2 Return to two-year bidding.

MOVED: to amend the WSFS constitution as follows:

In Section 4.1: replace "WSFS shall choose the location and Committee of the Worldcon to be held three (3) years from the date of the current worldcon" with "WSFS shall choose the location and Committee of the Worldcon to be held two (2) years from the date of the current worldcon".

Moved by Vincent Docherty

Discussion: The move back to two-year bidding for Worldcon site-selection reflects the historic evidence that three-year bidding has not been effective as a means of ensuring the viability of bids in obtaining and keeping their site (contracts) against competition from professional convention organisers. In addition the extra year after winning the bid causes additional work and strain for the convention organisers with little benefit for the members.

If this amendment is adopted, the timing of its implementation must be agreed - which Worldcon will 'skip' hosting site selection?

4.3 Rest-of-the-World Hugo Eligibility.

MOVED: to amend the WSFS constitution as follows:

In Section 3.2.1: replace "appearing for the first time during the previous calendar year" with "appearing for the first time during the previous two calendar years".

or

replace "appearing for the first time during the previous calendar year" with "appearing for the first time in English OR in the USA during the previous calendar year".

In each case an additional section is required to ensure that a work once nominated cannot be renominated the following year.

In the event that these proposals are unacceptable, then it is proposed that a committee be empowered to research the problem and propose a solution at the next Business Meeting in Chicago.

Moved by Vincent Docherty and

Discussion:

The proposal reflects the concern that the publication schedules of non-North American books and fiction magazines makes it less likely that most of the voters will have read them in time to nominate them. Often this only occurs after these works have gone out of eligibility. The last Novel by a non-north-American to win the Hugo was The Fountains of Paradise by Arthuir C.Clarke in 1980.

The proposed amendment chosen will affect only the 4 fiction categories - Novel, Novella, Novellette and Short Story, the other categories being specified individually.

5. Site Selection Business

[to be conducted at the Site Selection meeting on 5 September 1999]

- 5.1 Report of the 2002 Site Selection & Presentation by Winners
- 5.2 Reports by seated Worldcons
- 5.3 Presentation by bidders for 2003

Attachments

Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee Report

The committee reports below the compilation of items from the 1994-98 Worldcons, together with the collected items from earlier Worldcons. The committee continues to use a definition of “likely to continue to have effect for more than a year” as “continuing”. Items appearing with a “BM” in them were motions passed by the Business Meeting while items with a “CH” in them are rulings or opinions of the Chair.

The committee intends to make this full cumulative report available through its web page.

At San Antonio, the committee was charged with codifying the “customs and usages of WSFS” in light of the recent constitutional amendment which refers to such matters.

As a first step in this research, Tim Illingworth & Pat McMurray have OCRed and corrected the WSFS Business Meeting minutes for 1974, 1979, 1980-1983, 1985-1987 and 1990. We have OCRed but not corrected 1984 and 1988. 1993-date are available elsewhere (through Saul Jaffe). Pat has 1975 and 1991 to scan, and George Flynn gave us a disk with 1992 minutes that we have currently mislaid. These minutes are currently held in Word 6 format, and should be available from Tim’s web site (www.smof.demon.co.uk) Real Soon Now.

The 1979 minutes are a report constructed from Ben Yalow's copy of the agenda of the Main Meeting with contemporaneous annotations. We have been unable to track down any copy of the 1989 minutes - which is surprising for an MCFI convention. If anyone has one, we’d like to hear from them.

The NP&FSC recommends that the Business Meeting adopt the following:

Short Title: Continue NP&FSC

Resolved: That the WSFS Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee is continued as previously constituted.

Short Title: Rules Should Follow Practice

Resolved: Amend the Standing Rules by inserting a new rule before existing Rule 26:

SR xx: Constitutional and Standing Rule Amendments. Motions to Amend the Constitution Amendment, and to Amend the Standing Rules shall be considered ordinary main motions, except as otherwise provided in the Standing Rules or Constitution.

Discussion: This removes a technical ambiguity in the current rules. Under the adopted parliamentary authority (*Robert’s Rules of order, Newly Revised, 9th Edition*), amendments to the constitution are explicitly defined as “incidental main motions”, a special sub-class of main motions to which special rules apply. (Examples: 1. An Objection to Consideration may not be lodged against an incidental main motion. 2. An affirmative vote on a constitutional amendment may not be Reconsidered.) WSFS has, in practice, ignored all of these special rules, and has treated constitutional amendments as ordinary main motions. This rule explicitly codifies long-standing practice

Report of the Worldcon Runners' Guide Editorial Committee

Chair: Saul Jaffe

Committee: Sharon Sbarsky, Ben Yalow

In keeping with previous tradition and in memory of the former editor, several trees were killed in the past year producing the 7th Edition of the Worldcon Runners' Guide. (A new tradition may have been started -- the number and kind of creative curses laid upon the heads of the makers of Word 98).

The 7th Edition is not very different from the 6th edition -- the committee started with an electronic version of the 5th, and a printed copy of the 6th editions and merged the two, cleaning up numbering problems, formatting problems and similar oddities. The committee has also identified some missing material, as well as several areas of the guide that need updating.

The committee has decided, with the membership's permission, that future versions of the guide will be made available on the World Wide Web as HTML documents. This will make access to the guide easier for most people, and reduce not only printing costs, but also the number of trees asked to lay down their lives each year since people will be able to print selected pages. The committee also plans to have the entire guide available online in one or more formats yet to be determined, ready for printing, and will continue to provide printed copies to the Business Meeting and interested persons without computer access (at cost).

For the next edition, the committee hopes to expand several areas of the guide so that it is not focused on particular individual Worldcons, but has a broader appeal, encompassing more of fannish conrunning tradition throughout the world. **In particular, the committee hopes to hear from Aussiecon 3 committee members, on their experiences planning and running this convention.**

In the next year, if continued, the committee will be looking for individuals to assist in following tasks: writing new material, updating existing material, proofreading, and conversion to HTML. If interested in working on the guide, please contact the Editorial Committee at crg@sflovers.rutgers.edu. Please let us know what your interests are when you write.

In conclusion, the committee moves that it be continued, with the same instructions, to report to the 2000 Business Meeting in Chicago.