



February 17, 1978

Dear Boskone Fan,

Independent surveys have shown that there exists a secret group of enthusiastic Boskone fans — people who enjoy Boskones and come back year after year. If you are a member of that group, this message is for you. (If this is your first Boskone, read this letter anyway. By the end of the convention you just may find yourself a member of that secret group.)

This message is from the Committee for Boston in 1980, a group of local fans who are trying to bring the 1980 World Science Fiction Convention to Boston. We'd like to tell you what a Worldcon is like, who we are, and how you can help us.

What is a WorldCon?

A Worldcon is a large science fiction convention that is held in a different location every year, usually during Labor Day weekend. It is much like a Boskone, but it generally has a larger attendance (2000-4000 people), is longer (running from Thursday evening to Monday evening), and has a few features that a Boskone does not. Most notably, the members of a Worldcon automatically become members of the World Science Fiction Society for that year, and thus have the right to vote on the Hugo Awards, the site of a future Worldcon, and various other matters that may come before the WSFS business meeting held at the convention.

The Worldcon traditionally has a large banquet during which the Hugos and other awards are presented, and a masquerade competition which attracts many beautiful and elaborate costumes. The other aspects of a Worldcon are similar to those of a Boskone, but on a larger scale — main program, film program, art show, hucksters, Meet the Authors party, etc. Of course, many more authors and other illustrious figures will be in attendance.

Who Are We?

The members of the Committee for Boston in 1980 are generally the same people who have been organizing Boskones over the years. You'll probably see some of us this weekend; we can be recognized by the large buttons that say "Boston 1980 Committee" and by the fact that we never seem to stop moving (except maybe at a party now and then).

What You Can Do To Help!

If you would like to see a Worldcon in Boston, we hope that you will give us your help. Basically, there are three things you can do.

Obviously, the main thing is to vote for us. This is a little bit complicated. First you must become a member of the 1978 Worldcon, Iguanacon, to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. (Iguanacon, PO Box 1072, Phoenix, AZ 85001) If you do not plan to attend, you can purchase a supporting membership for \$7.00. (Attending memberships are higher, currently \$20.) A supporting membership gets you all of the publications (usually four progress reports and a program book) and the right to vote on the Hugo Awards and the 1980 site selection. The site selection voting will be held at Iguanacon and also by mail during the summer of 1978, so you do not have to attend to vote. But when you do vote, you will have to pay an additional amount (yet to be decided, but probably \$5). This additional amount will be applied toward your membership in the 1980 Worldcon, whichever committee wins.

The second thing you can do, which thankfully is a bit simpler, is to contribute to our campaign fund. Carrying on a convention bid is an expensive proposition when a single page of advertising can cost as much as \$50. If you contribute \$1 or more, you will get a Pre-Supporting Membership in Boston in 1980. Everyone who contributes will get a \$1 discount from the attending membership fee if we should win the bid.

You can give us your contribution in three ways:

- 1) at the NESFA table in the hucksters room
- 2) by mail to PO Box 714, Boston, MA 02102
- 3) in person to a committee member, if you can find one sitting still. (We'd appreciate it if you choose a time when the committee member is not actively involved in working on the Boskone. That will help a lot.)

The third way you can help us is less well-defined. We'd like you to support our bid in any other way you can. This might mean talking to your friends about us, volunteering to hand out publicity at other conventions, writing to us with your comments and suggestions, and anything else that you can think of.

Oh yes, there is one other thing. We haven't been able to decide on a name for our convention. Worldcons have traditionally had short, snappy names relating to their location, such as Chicon (Chicago), Discon (Washington DC), Nycon (New York), and Suncon (Florida). But then there was MidAmericon, which ended up being referred to as "Big MAC" and Iguanacon, popularly known as "Iggy." To save us from a similar fate, the Committee for Boston in 1980 is conducting a "Name That Con" contest. Entries will be accepted up until April 1, 1978 and will be judged purely on whim. The winner will get a free membership if we win the bid. Enter early and often! (Save us from Beancon, CodClave, Lobstercon)

For more information about our bid, stop by the NESFA hucksters table and pick up one of our four-page, information-packed flyers.

Leslie Turek, Chairman

The Committee for Boston in 1980
(alias Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.)
PO Box 714, Boston, Massachusetts 02102

Jill Eastlake, Treasurer
George Flynn, Secretary

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