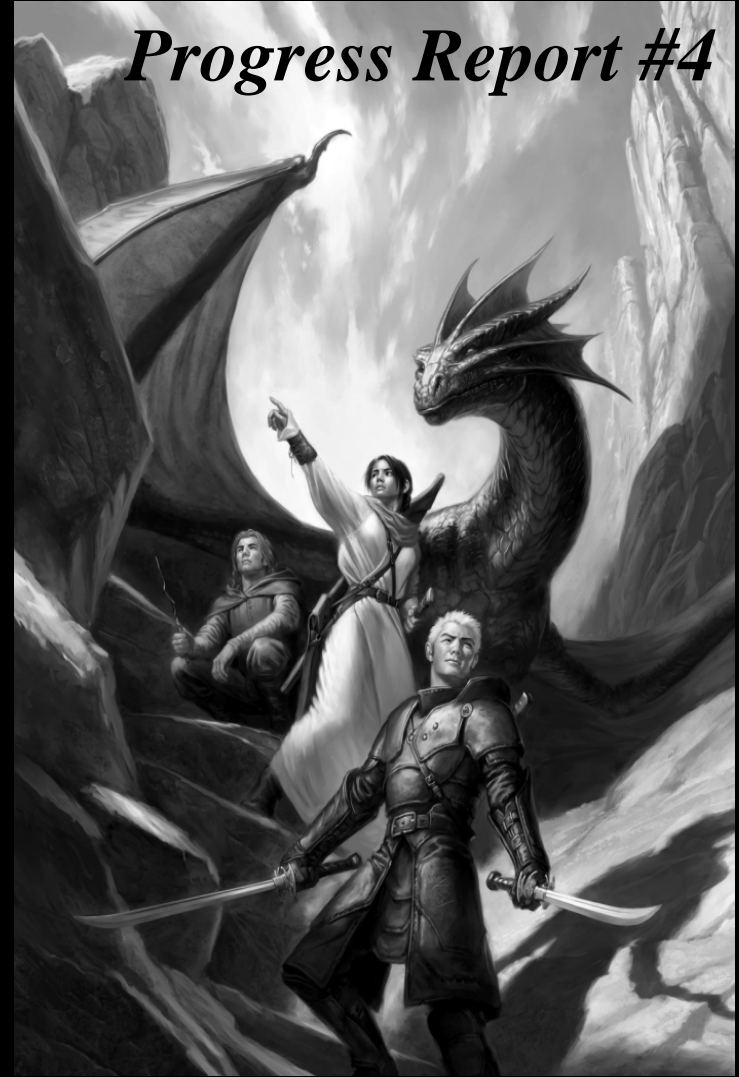


Westercon 62 (FiestaCon)
c/o Leprecon Inc
PO Box 26665
Tempe AZ 85285-6665 USA

Westercon 62
FiestaCon

Progress Report #4



www.fiestacon.org
July 2-5, 2009
Tempe, Arizona USA

General Information

Sponsoring Organization: Leprecon Inc, an Arizona non-profit volunteer corporation, www.leprecon.org on the Web.

Contact Information: Westercon 62 (FiestaCon), c/o Leprecon Inc, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285-6665 USA; www.fiestacon.org ; 480-945-6890; community.livejournal.com/westercon62 .

Guests-of-Honor: Artist – Todd Lockwood (www.toddlockwood.com); Author – Alan Dean Foster (www.alandeanfoster.com); Editor – Stanley Schmidt (www.sfw.org/members/stanleyschmidt/index.html); Fans - Jim & Doreen Webbert; Toastmasters – Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden (www.nielsenhayden.com).

Chairman: Mike Willmoth, PO Box 8068, Scottsdale, AZ 85252-8068 USA; mwillmoth@cox.net or chair@fiestacon.org ; 480-945-6890 (24hr home office); mwillmoth.livejournal.com .

Location: Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 60 E Fifth St, Tempe, AZ 85281 USA; www.missionpalms.com ; 800-547-8705 or 480-894-1400.

Dates: Thursday July 2 through Sunday July 5, 2009.

Rates: US\$119.00 per night (includes resort fee) plus tax, single / double / triple / quadruple; standard king, standard double, executive king, executive double, handicap accessible and suites.

Memberships: US\$80 for adults (thru 6/30/09); half rate for children ages 7-12, complimentary for children ages 0-6 (both as of the beginning of the convention), with an adult membership; Active Military US\$35.

Emails: Art Show – artshow@fiestacon.org; Chairman – chair@fiestacon.org; Dealers Room – dealers@fiestacon.org; Filk – filk@fiestacon.org; Hotel – hotel@fiestacon.org; Information – info@fiestacon.org; Program Director – program@fiestacon.org.

Art Credit: Phoenix Endangered © Todd Lockwood, used with permission.

* *Westercon* is a registered service mark of the *Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.* & used with permission.

Who runs Westercon? Different non-profit groups run Westercon every year since the event moves from city to city. In 2009 it will be run by volunteers from North America and sponsored by Leprecon Inc, an Arizona non-profit volunteer corporation. Please visit www.leprecon.org for more information on the sponsoring organization for Westercon 62.

What is Westercon? Westercon is the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference and is held annually since 1948 in the western half of North America including Hawaii. It is a general interest science fiction / fantasy convention covering literature, art, science, costuming, gaming, music, television, movies, and any other topic of interest to sf/f fans. *Westercon* is a registered service mark of the *Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.* and is used with permission. Please visit www.westercon.org for further details, bylaws, history, etc.

When is Westercon held? Westercon is traditionally held over American Independence Day Weekend, or one of the closest weekends, although this is not mandatory. It will be Thursday July 2 through Sunday July 5.

Where is Westercon held? It has been held from Hawaii to Spokane, from El Paso to Seattle. This year it will be in Tempe, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix, very close to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Why is Westercon held? Although it was started many years ago for those fans who could not afford to attend the World Science Fiction Convention, it has become an event for fans from around North America to travel to different parts of the West, to communicate with different communities and experience the flavor of the region, not only regarding sf/f, but also society at large.

How does it work? A group expresses interest in hosting a Westercon, be they in Los Angeles or Portland or wherever. They bid for the event starting about 4 years out, or 2 years prior to the vote. If they win the bid, then they have 2 years to organize it. They have to have a site, usually a hotel, a committee or team to run the event, they invite VIPs (professionals and fans) to draw in sf/f fans, they plan the program schedule, and advertise it. With help from the community it is successful.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We are putting the final touches on our schedule of events for a great Westercon experience. We have included some updated information in this report to add to that contained in Progress Report #3. If you have any questions, comments, ideas, complaints, etc., please feel free to contact us using the information provided above. As always check our website for regular updates. We look forward to seeing you in July and hope you have a great time!

— Mike Willmoth, Chair, FiestaCon

HOTEL

Our hotel will be the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in downtown Tempe, AZ, USA. The hotel has a complimentary shuttle from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport if you're staying at the hotel during the convention. For those of you with a wheelchair or scooter, their shuttle won't accommodate your equipment, but we've made arrangements to have us share the cost of Super Shuttle or equivalent transportation that can accommodate you with the hotel, so it is still complimentary to you. Contact Special Needs at info@fiestacon.org to coordinate this. The hotel rate is applicable over the convention dates, plus or minus two days — US\$119 per night plus tax for all room types, which includes such amenities as wireless internet, fitness center, etc. Rooms are Standard Doubles or Standard Kings with smoking or non-smoking rooms available. There are also Executive Doubles (party areas) and Executive Kings (quiet areas) which are slightly larger including additional furniture. All six suites have already been allocated. If you're interested in hosting a **party** in the party area, please contact us for details on how to make that happen.

You may make reservations by calling the hotel at 800-547-8705 or directly at 480-894-1400 or by fax at 480-968-7677. You may also use their website, www.missionpalms.com, and where appropriate use the online code 2T80CO (that's two-tee-eight-zero-see-oh). Once you book it you should receive a confirmation number. That should be used for any problems or updates to your reservation. If you have trouble using the online code for any reason, just give us a holler (hotel@fiestacon.org).

GUESTS OF HONOR BANQUET

The GoH Banquet will be held Thursday July 2 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Abbey Room. It will be a buffet for a total price per person of \$51.00, including tax and gratuity. We expect to have one GoH at each banquet table except for the Fan Guests and the Toastmasters as couples. The chef will do the menu choices for the buffet, but we can expect several meat dishes in addition to vegetarian choices. As we get closer we'll try to publish the exact dishes on our website. Tables will seat 8–10 persons depending on the number of tickets sold.

Payment for the GoH Banquet can be made using our website via PayPal, by sending us a check in advance to the convention mailing address, or by special arrangement. Checks should be postmarked no later than June 22 so we can receive them by June 29. Because we need to give the hotel a guaranteed minimum number 72 hours in advance, we expect to be able to increase the number by a few at-con only. Please check with our Information Desk if you have any questions or interest in getting tickets should they be available then.

FILK

Filk has been given the exclusive use of the Xavier Room on the inner courtyard. We have it 24 hours a day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday until at least 6:00 p.m. Filk will be in the middle of things with easy access to all function space. There will be *Filk Circle* on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 9 p.m. These circles will start with 90 minutes of themed circle followed by Open Bardic Filking.

There will be 15 or more individual day time concerts spread over the four day Con. Six are all ready scheduled. There will be a *Filk Jam* at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday lasting until exhaustion or the hotel throws us out whichever comes first.

In addition to panel discussions planned for Friday and Saturday, there will be audience participation and demonstration events. Panel discussions will include *Courting Our Muses*, *Filk Spawn*, and *Filk as a Pressure Valve*.

On Thursday evening, plan to join Reale Medieval Music for an overview of Bardic arts and storytelling at the *History of Bardic Music & Storytelling*. There will be demonstrations and a Q&A session if time allows. Enjoy the music and improv poetry in traditional bardic style. The melodic and comedic tones of Darren Reale will charm listeners with modern and historical content including love songs, story-filled ballads and delightful filk.

On Friday, you can attend a workshop, *Radio Script Writing*, on how to write a short (10-15 minute) Radio Drama based on an assigned theme or maybe a well-known filksong, then to perform and record the drama onto a digital recorder (as an uncompressed WAV file, 16bit/44.1KHz). Your production will be edited with sound effects and music. We might even keep your finished production on various filksites for downloads by the community. Friday is writing the script and we'll record it on Saturday.

On Friday evening, turn off your iPods and turn up your ears so you can hear the wonderful sounds of futuristic filk music and poetry. Darren Reale, folk guitarist and space poet, returns for *The Reale Future of Music*, a unique musical presentation of original and filk music of space plus filk music-composing workshop. His music will entertain and amuse you with comedy, wit, and anti-matter brain antics. A workshop on composing filk music in the folk music style will follow.

Remember doing mad-libs as a kid? Where you take a story or whatever, take out some of the words, and replace them with words suggested by people who don't know what they're replacing. Well, as Tom Smith proved, you can do them for filk songs, too. On Sunday afternoon, come join our panelists at *Fill In the Blank Filk*. They are bringing ready-to-mad-lib songs, or bring your own to throw into the fray.

These are just a sample of the filk choices available to you. Be sure to check our website for the latest information on programs and participants. See you there!

— Gary Swaty, *Music Liaison*

WRITERS WORKSHOPS

FiestaCon is proud to announce 2 Writers Workshops! Young Adult (YA) fantasy writer Janni Lee Simner will be conducting an intensive 4-hour workshop on YA writing. Space is limited to 15 participants. Also, Emmy Award-winning screenwriter Craig Miller will be leading a screenwriting workshop. These workshops are almost full. Email info@fiestacon.org as soon as possible if you want to participate.

FILM SCREENINGS

FiestaCon is proud to announce the following independent film screenings:

Killer Comet From Outer Space written and directed by Robert Peacock
A 15 minute original story. A planet killer size comet is on a collision course with Earth. Can anything save us? NASA? Maybe! Nukes? Worth a try! Bruce Willis and Robert Duvall? No, they are not in this movie! Or will our only hope turn out to be Earth's littlest superhero? Come see, as the end nears, and humanity breathlessly awaits its fate.

Finding the Future — A Science Fiction Conversation.
This is a screening of the movie *Finding the Future*. Shot against the backdrop of major conventions, *Finding the Future* examines the phenomenon of science fiction and the fans who love it. Through the thoughtful commentary of prominent authors and enthusiastic fans, we explore the culture of science fiction and the passion of its devotees. We also consider the effect of science fiction on society, and listen as these sci-fi fans muse upon what might lie ahead for our rapidly changing world. Featuring exclusive interviews with Forrest J. Ackerman, Catherine Asaro, Ben Bova, David Brin, Lois McMaster Bujold, Jack L. Chalker, Bob Eggleton, Nancy Kress, Mike Resnick, Fred Saberhagen, Robert Silverberg, and many others. (100 min movie)

Starwatch starring Carlos Gallardo (from "El Mariachi").
In the year 2075, the war between the omniscient World Unity Corporation, and the subservient Old Earth Loyalists, spanning the traverse between Earth and the asteroid belt ended. In order to keep the peace, "The

Guard,” comprised of warring factions from both sides, was created to settle political disputes and perform deep space rescues. For some, the war may have ended, but their allegiances have not. What was supposed to be a simple mission of asteroid diversion turns into a frightening turn of events of ethereal and scientific aberration. War time experiments have not been abandoned and previous foes must become allies to save the solar system. (100 min movie). Q&A after the screening with Carlos Gallardo and filmmaker, Kevin Birnbaum.

Edgar Allan Poe's The Pit and the Pendulum presented by Ray Harryhausen
Legendary animation and VFX pioneer Ray Harryhausen executive-produced the 7 minute stop-motion animated adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's classic short story. It was directed by Marc Lougee, with visual effects provided by Switch VFX (Saw 2-4, REPO, The Genetic Opera, Everest, The Nutcracker), sound created by Urban Post Productions (Eastern Promises), and Post Production by Magnetic North (Gingersnaps I & II).

If you have an independent film that you would like to submit for screening during this convention, please email program@fiestacon.org.

LITERATURE PROGRAMMING

FiestaCon will be hosting the 1632 Minicon for fans of Eric Flint's 1632 series. And, there will be eight – count'em, 8 – panels devoted to the 1632 Universe. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. We will also have panel discussions on *All Things Tolkien*, *Discworld — 25 Years and Counting*, *Did Shakespeare Really Do Shakespeare?*, *Dune Resurrected*, and *Lovecraftians Unite*.

We will be discussing three SF classics. Each of the three is famous, often reprinted, worth re-reading, certainly worth reading a first time right now. They are: *The End of Eternity* by Isaac Asimov; *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson; and *Or All the Seas with Oysters* by Avram Davidson. A free PDF file of the Davidson story is available at www.fiestacon.org by permission of the author's estate thru the end of the convention. Follow the link on the home page.

Are you voting for this year's Hugo Awards? Voting closes at midnight Eastern Time on July 3rd. You won't want to miss the panels devoted to reviewing the Hugo Nominations: *Best Novel/Related Book/Editor-Long*

Form; *Best Novella/Novellette/Short Story/Editor-Short Form*; *Best Dramatic Presentations/Graphic Story*; *Best Artists*; and *Best Semi-Pro Zine/Fan Writer/Fanzine*.

Are you interested in becoming a writer yourself? In addition to the Writers Workshops offered above, there are several panel discussions offered that may help you: *How to Write to Young Adults & Kids*, *Authors vs. Editors*, *Collaborative Writing*, *Creating Alien Languages*, *DIY Media Promotion for Authors*, *How to Do a Reading*, and (very important) *How to Interest an Editor*.

You will have an opportunity to meet Alan Dean Foster, the noted author of fantasy and science fiction and our Author Guest of Honor; Stanley Schmidt, editor of *Analog* magazine and our Editor Guest of Honor; Patrick & Teresa Neilsen Hayden, editors for Tor Books and Toastmasters for FiestaCon; and Diana Gabaldon, author of the *Outlander* series.

Be sure to check our website for the latest information on programs and participants.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

This year we are including a specific track of programming put together by a credentialed elementary school teacher and designed with children in mind. Potty-trained children ages 3–12 can participate throughout the weekend in a wide range of entertainments in their own room. In this room there will be activity areas for art, reading, and play. Children are encouraged to join in by coming dressed as a favorite book, film or television character. Parents are required to check in every 1–1½ hours. Check the posted schedule when you get to con.

ART PROGRAMMING

On Friday and Saturday, FiestaCon will be providing docent tours of the Art Show with John Hertz, Sarah Clemens, Ctein, and our Artist Guest of Honor, Todd Lockwood. However, there will be more to Art Programming at FiestaCon than the Art Show.

For those who appreciate and collect art, the panel discussions *Horror vs. Fantasy Art*, *How to View Art*, and *What Does Giclee Mean?* will expand your knowledge and appreciation.

For hands-on knowledge, *Bas Relief Yard Art* is a workshop to teach basic elements of sculpting and mold making for durable outdoor works of art. For younger fen, we will have a *Glow in the Dark* workshop on fabric painting; a *Pennants, Flags & Banners* workshop; and a *Kid-Art* workshop at which our on-site artists will guide you using various types of art supplies and ideas. For these workshops, we supply the materials — you supply the imagination. For the adults only (ID required), there will be an evening panel on *Body Painting* with Mark Greenawalt.

For aspiring artists, FiestaCon is pleased to present panel discussions on *Composition and Other Pitfalls of Illustration*, *Create/Review a Portfolio*, *The Current Market for Artists*, *Challenges of Displaying in Con Art Shows*, and *Photographic Vision*.

And for all fen, we will have that great audience-participation game, *Pictionary*, with our Guest Artist, Todd Lockwood, and others.

SCIENCE PROGRAMMING

If you're into Science, we've got a couple of Planetary Geologists from our nearby university who will inform and educate you on the Lunar Recon Orbiter, NASA's planetary missions; and dazzle you with fabulous images from NASA's Cassini Mission.

This year of 2009 is an anniversary year for a couple of notable events. Join us in celebrating the *40th Anniversary of Apollo XI: The First Moon Landing* and considering the implications of that momentous event. *400 Years of the Telescope* celebrates the anniversary of the first time Galileo Galilei pointed the new instrument at astronomical bodies and considers how that has changed our lives. Also consider the panel discussion on *Tesla: The Real Man, Not the God*. All you see in the electrical world, you would not have if it were not for Nikola Tesla. Yes, he did wireless transition of energy and it works. His death ray also did work but not as you

think. The bladeless turbine was way ahead of its time, and the work on the Moray generator changed the Soviet Union forever. When you speak his name in a room full of scientists, it is like that old EF Hutton TV commercial, everyone becomes silent and turns to look. For 60 years, the GRU and the KGB kept six full-time agents in the USA to look for information on him. One item was the Gasification and Purification of Metals that the Soviets bought for \$35,000 US. That gave them thin aluminum which later was sold to Alcoa Aluminum and so now we have thin and lightweight aluminum cans. He was that important.

Be sure to check our website for the latest information on programs and participants.

OTHER PROGRAMMING UPDATES

You can help your team win at SciFi Jeopardy or learn how to belly-dance. You'll be able to get a back massage or learn how to make your own armor. And there will be a really cool presentation of siege warfare through the ages from a bonafide expert. Gamers will have a unique opportunity to attend a 2-hour GameMaster Workshop with Dennis McKiernan. There will be more panels that you can shake a stick at — including one on the nature of horror, a midnight discussion of all things vampiric, steampunk literature and steampunk costuming.

We've got experts to talk about metaphysics including Making Your Own Magic, Past Lives and how to make your own Vision Board. You'll also have an opportunity to learn how to Dowse for Spirits. We'll have both a Regency Dance hosted by John Hertz, and a Modern Dance. Late at night, you'll have an opportunity to identify alien sex aids or stuff a pair of tights — if you're brave enough!

Visit our website and follow the links for the most up-to-date programming information. See you soon!

2011 Site Selection Ballot Rules

Members of Westercon 62 are eligible to vote on the site of Westercon 64, the 2011 West Coast Science Fantasy Conference. You can vote using this ballot either at the convention or by mail. You may authorize another person to delivery your ballot to the convention for you. To be eligible to vote, you must be a member of Westercon 62 *and* you must pay a voting fee of US\$25.00. You must pay this voting fee at the same time you vote. Make the check or money order for your voting fee payable to "Westercon 64." Credit cards are not accepted; cash accepted at Westercon 62 only. You must vote using a paper ballot; there is no web or e-mail voting. Do not send cash through the mail. Westercon will not be responsible for any ballots lost in the mail. We will not count your ballot if it arrives without a voting fee.

The voting fee entitles you to at least a supporting membership in whichever site is selected to host the 2011 West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon 64). The winning bid may require you to pay a conversion fee to convert your supporting membership into an attending membership. Determination of such a conversion fee is the prerogative of the winning bid.

Voting is by preferential ballot. Place a "1" next to the site you want to win. Place a "2" next to your second choice, a "3" by your third choice, and so forth. If you want to vote for a write-in bid, write the name of the bid in the space provided and write your preference next to your choice as with any other choice on the ballot.

The balloting period at Westercon 62 is scheduled to end at **7:00 PM MST/PDT Friday July 3, 2009.**

If no bid receives a majority of the first-place votes cast, the ballot cast for the candidate which received the least number of votes will be redistributed based on the next-highest preference listed on those ballots. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority. "None of the Above" counts as though it were a bid. Votes for "No Preference" do not count toward the total number of votes cast, and we will not count any of your choices ranked after "No Preference." (In other words, "No Preference" ballots are counted as if they were blank, so voting that way is a way of abstaining.) A single "X" or similar mark will be counted as a first place vote for that candidate with no other preferences. *Any other marks will invalidate your ballot!* The Site Selection Administrator must be able to clearly determine how you voted in order to count your ballot.

If you have more than one Westercon 62 membership in your name, you can vote only once for anything other than "No Preference." (That is, if you have multiple memberships, you can vote them all, but you must vote for "No Preference" on any ballot other than the first one.) Memberships held by corporations, associations, or "Guest of" memberships can vote only for "No Preference". The Site Selection Administrator is authorized to mark ballots to enforce these rules. Should "None of the Above" or an invalid bid win the election, the site for 2011 will be selected by the Westercon Business Meeting at Westercon 62 as provided for in the Westercon Bylaws. The results of the site selection will be announced at a session of the Westercon Business Meeting or by announcement in the convention newsletter or other means of general announcement. The time and place of this meeting (if one is required) will be announced in the Pocket Program, and will be available at the Site Selection table.

To vote by mail:

Fill out parts 1 and 3 of the ballot, enclose a check for US\$25.00 payable to "Westercon 64" and mail it to:

WESTERCON 62
c/o Leprecon Inc
Attn: Westercon Site Selection
PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 USA

Your ballot must **arrive** by June 20th, 2009 or else we may not count it (postmark date does not count). If you are not yet a member of Westercon 62, you must include a *separate payment*, payable to "Westercon 62", for the correct amount. Please do not include other convention correspondence in your ballot, because we may not open your ballot until after the convention starts. Your cancelled check will be your receipt.

2011 Site Selection Ballot – Westercon 64

Your mail-in ballot must arrive no later than June 20th, 2009 to ensure that it is counted. Send ballots to:

WESTERCON 62 c/o Leprecon Inc
Attn: Westercon Site Selection
PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 USA

You may cast your vote in person at Westercon 62. On-site voting ends on the evening of Friday July 3, 2009.

PART 1: 2011 SITE SELECTION VOTER INFORMATION – WESTERCON 64

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____

COUNTRY (If not USA) _____ ZIP/POST CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Voting Fee: () I enclose a check payable to “Westercon 64” for US \$25.00.

Check one: () I am a member of Westercon 62. (Membership number, if known _____)

() I am not a member of Westercon 62. I enclose a check for US \$30.00 for a supporting membership.

() I am not a member of Westercon 62. I enclose a check for US \$80.00 for an attending membership (until June 30, 2009; US \$85.00 after).

Ballot Side B

PART 2: 2011 SITE SELECTION VOTING FEE RECEIPT – WESTERCON 64

Voting Fee: US \$25.00 (payable to “Westercon 64”)

Received from: _____

Received by: _____ Date (Circle): Mail-in ♦ Jul 2 ♦ Jul 3

This voting fee entitles the voter to at least a full supporting membership in Westercon 64.

PART 3: 2011 SITE SELECTION BALLOT – WESTERCON 64

Number your choices in order of preference (1 for most preferred, 2 for next-most preferred, etc.):

_____ **San Jose in 2011 Proposed Dates:** July 1st – July 4th, 2011

Committee: Bid Chair: Glenn Glazer, Bid Treasurer: Lisa Deutsch Harrigan

Facilities: The Fairmont San Jose Hotel, 170 S Market St, San Jose, CA 95113 USA

Bid Website: <http://sfsfc.org/westercon64/>

_____ **Write-In Vote:** _____

Write-in bids must file acceptable bid papers by the close of the balloting in order to be eligible.

_____ **None of the Above:** As selected by the Westercon Business Meeting as provided for in the Westercon Bylaws.

_____ **No Preference:** This choice is the equivalent of an abstention or blank ballot. No Preference votes do not count toward the total number of ballots cast for the purposes of determining a majority. Choices ranked after this one will not be counted.