

## Bylaws of the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon)

- I. It is now traditional (but not obligatory) that the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon) shall take place over the July 4th holiday weekend.
- II. It is now traditional (but not obligatory) that Westercon Guests of Honor and other notables be selected from among SF personalities residing within the Westercon geographical area.
- III. The Westercon Committee shall have the right to limit activities of attendees, either individually or in groups, insofar as such activities endanger, physically or legally, other persons or their property. Such limitations may include, but are not limited to, closing down parties, ejecting persons from the conference, or turning offenders over to other authorities. No refund of membership money need be given in such circumstances.
- IV. All committees shall issue name badges with the names displayed in no less than 24 point bold type. Badges shall contain a unique membership number assigned by the current conference, which shall be used in Article VII.C.10.b.2. In case of transfer, the old membership number shall be noted.
- V. No regular session of the Westercon Business Meeting shall be scheduled to start at a time earlier than noon, nor later than 2 p.m., nor on the last day of the conference. In those cases where a site selection resolution, as defined in Sec. VII C.11. below, is necessary, a special Business Meeting may be called to determine the site selection question.
- VI. For business other than site selection voting, a quorum of 25 members of the current conference shall be required. All those voting at the Business Meeting must be members of the current conference. Except as noted herein, all business requires a simple majority to pass.
- VII. Westercon Site Selection Procedures
  - A. Eligibility of Bids: Any site on the North American Continent west of the 104th meridian or in Hawaii, shall be eligible to be the location of a Westercon, subject to the following restrictions.
    1. A Westercon may not be held in any district more than once in any three year period. "District" shall be defined by the first of the following restrictions which applies:
      - a. A special district.
        - (1.) Los Angeles district, including Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties in California.
        - (2.) Bay Area district, including San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Contra Costa and Alameda counties in California.
        - (3.) Canadian district, including all sites in Canada.
      - b. The Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area containing the site, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau on April 1 of the year preceding the site selection voting.
      - c. The county containing the site.
    2. To be eligible, a Westercon Bid must have:

- a. at least two (2) persons declaring themselves Chairman and Treasurer
  - b. a letter of intent or option from a hotel or other facility declaring specific dates for the conference
3. If no site selection bids are qualified for the mail ballot (see Section VII.B.), the provisions of Section VII. shall be suspended and all sites defined in Section VII.'s introductory paragraph shall be eligible.

#### B. Eligibility of Voters

1. Site Selection voting is limited to those who are Full Attending or Supporting members of the Westercon at which voting is taking place, and who have paid a voting fee toward their membership in the Conference being selected. One day members may vote at the unanimous agreement of all bidding committees.
2. The amount of the voting fee shall be established by the Conference conducting the voting, after consulting the desires of the known bidders for the Conference being voted upon.
3. The payment of a voting fee shall make the voter at least a full supporting member of the Conference being voted upon, and may make the voter a full attending member, depending upon the policy of the winner.

#### C. Voting Procedures

1. The ballot shall be drawn by the current Westercon committee. The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. shall prepare a prototype form for the Site Selection Ballot and provide it to the current committee for publication and distribution. This provision shall be made at the same time the Bylaws are provided to the current committee.
2. The Ballot and full rules for site selection, including times, the deadline for voting and the location of voting, shall be given to all Westercon attendees upon registration at the Conference, or shall be prominently posted at registration at all times.
3. The ballot shall include all eligible bids which have been filed in writing with the current committee by the April 15th preceding the vote. It shall also include entries for "No Preference" and "None of the Above", and have a space for a write-in bid.
4. "None of the Above" shall be treated as a bid, for purposes of vote counting.
5. The Ballot shall be a secret ballot, specifically marked for preferential voting with an explanation of the method of tallying.
6. All on-site ballot sales and balloting shall be from one central location, under the supervision of the current committee.
7. Site selection shall be open for at least four (4) hours between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight on the evening before the Site Selection meeting.

8. Mail ballots shall be mailed on or before the May 10th preceding the voting to all members of record on the date of mailing. All mail ballots received by the committee prior to June 20 shall be counted.

9. Each bid shall have 15 minutes of scheduled conference program time, on the first full day of Westercon, to make a bidding presentation.

#### 10. Vote Counting

a. One (1) individual equals one (1) membership equals one (1) vote. Corporations and Associations may purchase voting memberships but must cast them as no preference. A "guest of" membership must have been transferred to a specific person prior to casting the vote.

b. Properly completed ballots shall contain:

- (1). the member's printed name
- (2). the member's membership ID as assigned by the current conference
- (3). the member's dated signature
- (4). the member's address of record with the current conference
- (5). the member's new address if different from the address of record
- (6). the member's votes as defined in below.

c. Verification of Ballots shall consist of matching items 1,2 and 4 of b above with the current conference records.

d. All ballots received by the committee prior to the opening of the business meeting shall be held until the business meeting. The count shall be by preferential ballot. The successful bid shall be the one which gains a majority of those votes which express a preference for a bid. This includes all votes for a specific bid or for "None of the Above", and excludes "No Preference" and ballots which are blank or invalid. Only properly completed ballots shall be counted.

e. All vote totals of final results and of all intermediate counts shall be made available at or before the closing ceremony.

11. Should no bid gain the needed majority, or should there be no qualified bidding committee, or should "None of the Above" win, a 3/4 majority of the Conference Business Meeting may award the conference to any bid, and a simple majority may decide that they are unable to decide. Should the meeting not reach a decision, it shall be the responsibility of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. Board of Directors to arrange for the Westercon Site Selection. This selection shall be made within six (6) weeks of the Standing Business Meeting. A Westercon site selected by this procedure shall not be restricted by any of this section, save the main body of section A above and shall not affect the selection of any subsequent Westercon. However, if "None of the Above" is voted by the membership, then none of the bids which were on the ballot shall be chosen.

#### VIII. Procedure for Amendment of these Bylaws

A. Amendments must be ratified by the majority vote of the Westercon Business Meetings in two consecutive years, or by a 2/3 vote of one meeting.

1. The secretary of the meeting at which the proposed amendment receives primary (first year) ratification shall submit an exact copy of the amendment to the following year's Westercon Business Meeting .

B. Proposed amendments shall be read in full by the chair or his designate immediately before being voted upon.

C. The question of secondary ratification is debatable but not amendable.

D. Unless otherwise provided, amendments shall take effect on January 1st of the year after they receive final passage. Operating rules will not be changed for the upcoming Westercon by the interim Business Meeting.

IX. The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. will act as an archive to the Westercon Bylaws and Minutes. Westercon shall reimburse the LASFS for only the copying and forwarding costs of requests for copies of the Bylaws and/or Minutes. A copy of the minutes and motions passed by the Business Meeting shall be sent within 2 months to the LASFS. The LASFS shall keep the Bylaws up to date. The selected committee for each year shall be supplied by the LASFS with one (1) copy of the then current Bylaws within 2 months. The committee shall then provide duplicate copies of the Bylaws to all current bidding committees.

X. The Bylaws of the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference, as well as the complete text of any amendment awaiting secondary ratification, shall be published in at least one (1) Progress Report and in the Program Book of the current conference every year.

XI. Each member of the conference, by the use of his or her membership, agrees to abide by these Bylaws.

## STANDING RULES

1. Rules regarding Eligibility and Voting Procedures for Site Selection are not considered to be Operating Rules.