

WisCon 22 Progress Report

May 22-25, 1998
Madison Wisconsin
Concourse Hotel

Urgent -Read Now

If you are like me, you read a line or two when you get things like this, and throw it in the low priority reading pile. Before you do this, please proceed to the Hotel information section and read the underlined stuff about getting your hotel registration early. In the long run, it will likely save you some grief. It is at the middle of the left hand side of the other side of this page. It is underlined.

Also note, there is a correction to the starting times for programs on the Friday that begins the convention. The second flyer reported that they started at 4 pm. They actually start at 2:30 pm.

And while I have your attention, I want to get in a quick plea for volunteering. You'll feel a lot better if you do. The main pitch follows in a paragraph or two.

Welcome

Wiscon promises to be a great time this year, and I would like to extend a heartfelt, form letter of thanks to you for signing up. This report will contain general information about what is being planned, what you can expect coming to Madison in May, and a few things we'd like you to think about, as a member of the WisCon community (in literary terms, this is known as foreshadowing, but then you are a literate enough audience that I don't have to say that, right?).

If there is anything that you have further questions about, Wiscon can be contacted in the following ways:

phone: 608-233-8550
email: wiscon.concom@lists.best.com
web: <http://www.sf3.org/wiscon/>
mail: WisCon
Box 1624
Madison, WI 53701

Note From the Coordinator

One thing I like about Wiscon, and conventions in general, is the variation in experience there is. The way I think of it, there are so many different things for each to do for, that nobody goes to the same convention, really. But I'd like to talk about the common thread, too. Everybody wants to connect in some way that they don't in their ordinary life. So beyond the pleadings for help in running the con (see next paragraph), I would also like to ask everyone to try and take care of the new people. Try and meet two or three new people during the convention, and talk to them. That's all I ask. As a relative newcomer myself, I am aware of what it is like when you are in a room where other people know each other well, and you don't really know what to talk to them about. So have a great time, get lost in the conversation, and enjoy the friends you have, because they're what makes life worthwhile. But I would like you to watch for the new people, and give them a helping hand once in a while.

Volunteering

Please volunteer. WisCon's continuing existence depends on volunteers like you. Cliché as it is, it is absolutely true. There are many possible places you can help out within WisCon. If you are new to conventions and don't know what you'd like to do, we always need help in the consuite, or in badging, or general gopher work. It's a little grueling, but it is a good way to start getting the flavor and experience of conventions.

There are things to do, from the simplest to the most involved. Just contact us.

Luminaries

List of attending luminaries as of 1/13/97:

Suzy McKee Charnas, Candas Jane Dorsey, Andy Duncan, Kelly Eskridge, Karen Joy Fowler, Jim Frenkel, Carolyn Ives Gilman, Nicola Griffith, Eileen Gunn, Nalo Hopkinson, Ellen Klages, Ellen Kushner, Jonathan Letham, Kelly Link, Kathleen Massie-Ferch, Helen Merrick, Pat Murphy, Mary Doria Russell, Delia Sherman, Liz Sourbut, Susanna Sturgis, Terri Sutton, Sheri Tepper, Joan Vinge, Elizabeth Vonarburg

Programming

Programming is scheduled to run from:

2:30 pm to 1 am Friday night (Opening Ceremonies at 8:30 pm)

10 am to 1 am Saturday & Sunday nights (We will present a writer's workshop Saturday morning, a variety show Saturday evening, and GoH events on Sunday evening)

10 am to 3 pm Monday (Brunch will be served at 10 am. The auction will happen between noon and 2 pm, and the final panel of the convention will be the wrap-up panel.)

We are looking for individuals with expertise in lighting for the Saturday night variety show as well as someone who might like to do a light show during the variety show. There will be a short play as part of the show, and volunteer actors are encouraged to sign up to perform.

The James Tiptree, Jr. Award will not be presented at WisCon 22. Instead, it will be presented at Readercon 10, in Westborough, MA, July 10-12, 1998. We do plan, though, to have a Tiptree auction (starring Ellen Klages), a bake sale and Tiptree-related programming.

Bake Sale

What better way to sponsor the Tiptrees? If you'd like to prepare some baked goods or other treats for the bake sale, please call the WisCon hotline (608-233-8850) to get information on where to bring goodies. And come to WisCon ready to munch!

Parties

WisCon will again be giving away FREE party suites on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Groups or individuals may apply for suites. We supply the room, you supply the treats, beverages and clean-up. Rooms are available at least by 7 pm till 3 am. All parties must be open to all members of WisCon 22. Contact Scott Custis via the channels listed above.

Tiptree Auction and Art Show

The WisCon 22 art show and Tiptree Award sale items will be displayed together, and you will be able to make written bids on everything that is for sale from Friday through Sunday. Most items will be sold by written bid, and will be available for "pick up and pay" on Sunday evening and Monday morning.

The most contested items, and some others specially selected by auctioneer Ellen Klages will be auctioned immediately after the brunch on Monday. We don't know whether this year's auction will involve naked bodies, high fashion, great books, or the surgical removal of any body parts, (all of which were part of WisCon 21) but you won't want to miss it.

The Tiptree Award will receive all proceeds from donated items, and a commission on Art Show items.

For Art Show information, please check the box on the registration form. Convention members will have the opportunity to vote on the art show awards again this year, with categories like 'Best of Show', 'Most Feminist', and 'Most Politically Incorrect'.

This year's WisCon art show will continue to focus on feminist art, art by women, and art by Midwestern artists. Jim Hudson is in charge of the art show this year.

Donations for the Tiptree auction can be mailed to: Scott Custis, 2825 Union St., Madison, WI 53704 to arrive at least one week before the convention. If you wish to bring the auction item to the convention with you, then please let Scott know what you are bringing as soon as possible. You can notify us via the WisCon phone number or email. We still need auction items, and are looking forward to hearing from you.

Unfortunately, we can't take credit cards, but we do take checks, traveler's checks, and cash.

Tiptree Brunch

There will be a brunch on Monday morning prior to the tiptree auction. The brunch will consist of:

Hot ham, egg, and cheese muffin
Vegetarian petite quiche lorraine

as well as

- o Assorted chilled juices
- o Fresh Seasonal fruit salad
- o Baked pastries and breakfast breads
- o Coffee, tea, milk

The tiptree Brunch cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children age 6 and under. Brunch goers will be seated at tables near the auction platform, and will have prime spots when the auctioneering begins!

Wisconsin DPI Clock Hours for Teachers

WisCon hopes to be authorized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to offer 30 clock hours for attendance at the convention and its programming. You'll need to attend an Orientation session at 5 pm on Friday of the convention and follow certain procedures as you attend WisCon. Space is limited, so please contact the committee.

Child Care

WisCon 21 will again have professional child care available for those children with child care memberships. But to use this service your child will need a child care membership. Those memberships must be purchased in advance so we can provide sufficient staff. We'll be mailing a separate information sheet to all child care members (and their parents) in early May, providing the hours and rules.

Important - Hotel and Dining Information

Please note that this year, WisCon occurs at the same time as the Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial. This may have an impact on how crowded the hotel is, so it is best that you get your room rentals in early. The Concourse, (1 W. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703; 1-800-356-8293 or 608-257-6000) is our convention hotel. The room rate is \$83 for up to four people. Check-in time is 3 pm, check-out is 12 noon. Please mention WisCon 22 and 1998 when you call.

The Concourse has a swimming pool, which will be open until 1:00 am Friday - Sunday, so bring your suit. There is also a whirlpool, steam room, massage/tanning room, games arcade, and fitness center.

The hotel has one bar and two restaurants, and there are lots of other places to eat within easy walking distance of the Concourse. We'll have a printed restaurant guide, or if you have web access you can look at <http://www.madison.com> for reviews, maps, and various other features.

Free underground parking is available to all registered hotel guests. You can unload in the hotel parking garage and take the elevators to the lobby or your room. Clearance in the ramp is low; minivans should be ok, but full-sized vans and larger vehicles may not fit. Additional parking is available in the public parking ramp a half block down Dayton St. at Carroll St.

Getting to Madison

By Air

This is easy, since Madison has only one airport. Commercial airlines serving Madison are American, Delta/ComAir, Midwest Express, Northwest, TWA, and United. Ask your travel agent whether Midwest Express has flights from your airport - it's a smaller company that provides excellent, comfortable service.

Flights into Milwaukee or Chicago are often much cheaper, but you'll need to take a bus to Madison.

The airport is manageable, with only about 10 gates and one baggage claim area. Outside the side door of the baggage claim area is the taxi rank. Cabs from the airport to the Concourse will cost \$7-\$10. The standard rental car companies are in the airport at baggage claim.

The Concourse runs a shuttle from 7 am to 11 pm for arriving guests, with a courtesy phone in the baggage claim area. Allow 15-20 minutes for it to arrive, and meet it directly outside the baggage claim doors.

By Train

The nearest Amtrak passenger train stop is in Portage, about 45 minutes car travel from the Concourse and with no public transportation into Madison. Unless you have a friend who's willing to drive out there, we recommend you use other methods to get to WisCon (but see "By Bus" for an alternative).

By Bus

Van Galder (800-747-0994) runs regular service from Chicago's O'Hare Airport and from the Chicago Amtrak Station to the Memorial Union in Madison, which is about 10 blocks from the Concourse. The bus also stops in Rockford, IL, and Beloit and Janesville WI. Tickets can be purchased from the driver. These are big, comfortable busses.

Badger Coaches (608-255-6771) has service from the Milwaukee Airport to Madison, dropping off at both the Memorial Union and the Badger Bus Depot.

Once at the Memorial Union, you may call the Concourse to catch a ride on the hotel's shuttle (257-6000); if it's not making an airport trip, walk about a mile up State Street, or take a cab from Union cab, 242-2000, or Badger Cab, 256-5566.

By Car

In Wisconsin, there are only two seasons: winter and road construction. Over Memorial Day weekend, we'll be in Road Construction.

From **Chicago**, go north on I-90 to Rte 30. If Rte 30 is open then take Rte 30 west, to Rte 151 South/Capitol/Campus (it's a tight right-hand exit). Otherwise, go North on I-90 an exit further and exit directly to Rte 151 South. Either way, this becomes East Washington Ave....

From **Minneapolis**, go south on I-90/I-94 to Rte 151 South, which becomes East Washington Ave....

From **Milwaukee**, go west on I-94 to Rte 30. If Rte 30 is open then take Rte 30 to Rte 151 South/Capitol/Campus (it's a tight right-hand exit). Otherwise, go North on I-94 an exit further and exit directly to Rte. 151 South. Either way, this becomes East Washington Ave....

From **Iowa**, go east on Rte. 151 to Rte 12/18 east (also called the Beltline). Take the John Nolan Drive exit north. Stay on John Nolan and pass underneath the new Frank Lloyd Wright Convention center. Continue through the first traffic light after the center, and turn left at the next light onto East Washington Ave....

.... head down East Washington Ave toward the Capitol building. Look at the downtown map. Two blocks before the Capitol turn right onto Webster St., after 2 blocks follow the traffic and turn left at the traffic light onto Dayton St. (90 degree angle, don't take Hamilton). The Concourse is on your left after two blocks. Park under the hotel.

And Getting Home Afterwards

If you're driving, the only trick is getting from the Concourse parking garage back to East Washington Ave. To do that, exit left from the garage (you have no choice of direction) and continue counterclockwise $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the Capitol on Dayton, Fairchild, Doty, and Webster streets to East Washington. Turn right on East Washington. Don't turn from Fairchild onto West Washington.