

# BUCCONEER<sup>SM</sup>

The 56th World Science Fiction Convention<sup>SM</sup>  
Baltimore, Maryland, USA, August 5-9, 1998  
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Tel: 703-538-5239, Fax: 703-538-2532  
E-mail: [prog@bucconeer.worldcon.org](mailto:prog@bucconeer.worldcon.org)

John Pomeranz  
6601 33rd Street  
Falls Church, VA 22046

Dear Program Participant,

On behalf of all of the members of Bucconeer, thank you for helping to make the 56th World Science Fiction Convention a success!

This past August, lovers of science fiction gathered for our annual celebration of the field. As usual, the convention offered many wonderful special events and diversions — the Hugos, the masquerade, the art show, the dealers' room, exhibits, animé, films, parties, and the company of good friends. But throughout it all ran the program.

Trying to describe the importance of the program to the Worldcon strains the power of metaphor. Is it the foundation upon which we build the rest of the convention? A constant beat that marks the tempo for the Worldcon symphony? Or simply shadows by which we perceive the larger reality of fannish pursuits? (Perhaps I should stop straining and leave the prose to the pros.)

Clearly, however, if the program fails, the Worldcon fails, and the program's success has less to do with its planning than its implementation in the hands of the program participants. Bucconeer's volunteer staff did its best to build a schedule of interesting program items filled with appropriate participants. (And I, more than anyone else, appreciate the excellent work of Bucconeer's program staff.) But you took those raw materials and made something from them. Attendance at program items seemed unusually high at Bucconeer, and the vast majority of the comments I have received and heard about the program have been favorable. I credit this to your knowledge, wit, flexibility, and sheer force of personality. The program, in many ways, makes the Worldcon, and *you* made the program. For this I thank you.

Thank you also for your understanding and good humor as we tried to cope with the glitches, large and small, that inevitably plague a Worldcon. Thank you for helping us make the best of our many problems with hotel reservations. Thank you for persevering over our occasional lapses in judgment as we created the program. Thank you for pitching in to solve problems we had overlooked.

I am pleased to report that our thanks can take a more tangible form. Bucconeer has ended with a sufficient financial surplus that we are able to reimburse program participants fully for the costs of their membership. A check for that amount is enclosed. We appreciate your generosity in volunteering your time without promise of reimbursement, and we are delighted that we are able to cover at least this portion of the expenses you incurred to participate in the Worldcon. If there is any problem with this reimbursement check, please call me.

I hope you will be as generous to future conventions as you have been to Bucconeer. We have included contact information for the next three Worldcons in Melbourne, Chicago, and Philadelphia. If you plan to attend any of these conventions, please offer your services as a program participant. While no Worldcon can find a space in its program for every potential participant, every Worldcon appreciates having a talented pool of people from which it can draw.

I look forward to seeing you again at future Worldcons.

Best wishes,



John Pomeranz  
Programming Manager

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