If I were some of you, I would feel as though Peggy Rae Pavlat had
been dropped into my arena with little prior introduction. Perhaps
some introductions would be helpful.

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society was my "home club" while
I was growing up. "Growing up" is real literal here. My parents
were both fans and we had many parties at "Six Acres" which were
attended by many of the fans in the '40s and '50s. My first
convention was the 1956 Philcon, which I petitioned my parents to
attend.   (They were reluctant since they thought I might be
underfoot - little did they know!) Before long I was attending not
only Philcons, but also the bi-monthly PSFS meetings.

When Pittcon won the right to host the 1960 Worldcon I saved all
all all my nickels and dimes and dollars and then convinced my
mother to accompany me to Pittsburgh for Labor Day Weekend. I had
a wonderful time and was hooked for life.

During the first few years I went to Worldcons I helped with the
art show. The next few I helped with registration. And so on.
I have been an active fanzine fan (until Noreen and Larry Shaw
showed me the errors of my ways by letting me see the eleven inches
of mail they received IN ONE DAY - during the period they were
publishing AX), an avid listener to folksinging before there was
filking, one of the crew who stayed up late talking with the
wonderful people who could hold real conversations (not like the
mundanes who laughed when I said I thought we'd go to the moon
during my lifetime), and a book accumulator and sometimes collector
(I inherited my step-father's science fiction and fantasy
collection (Bill Evans of the Universes of E.E. Smith was my step-
father.))

For some years now, the part of fandom which has most intrigued me
is that of planning for and running conventions. Our Worldcons are
(I have been told) by far the largest convention exclusively run
by volunteers. The challenge of figuring out enough of the mosaic
so that all the planning and dreaming comes together in one week
of real time where you have no second chance is fascinating.

Since 1980, for Worldcons I've done headed up Press Relations
twice, coordinated Programming twice (once along with all of the
other "fluid functions" like the Hugos), co-headed the "Second
Floor" division at Noreascon Three and created and coordinated the
"History of ..." exhibits which were designed to be shown for the
period from the 50th anniversary of the first Worldcon to the 50th
Worldcon. (And seem to have acquired a life of their own!)

When Terry Biffel asked me to Vice-Chair ConFrancisco, I thought
about it, talked to Jeff Canfield about it and then talked to Terry
some more. Then I thought it would be fascinating. So I agreed.

Lots and lots of things still need to be figured out. While I've
been a division head from afar for other Worldcons, I've never been
a vice-chair and there haven't been vice-chairs for quite a while.
And certainly not two of them. So patience is advisable.

We will all need to figure out just what this means.

What I hope I can bring to ConFrancisco is some sense of concepts which may provide solutions, some notion of the possible pitfalls which await the unwary, some organizational skills and a fairly wide network of contacts with wonderful people in fandom within the US, Canada and a few European countries.

I have great hopes of developing a computer/software/modem questionnaire soon (if Kevin doesn't beat me to it) which should let us know who has what software and hardware. If we can arrange it so that, for example, copy for the Progress Reports can be typed ONCE by the creator, then given to Gail Sanders on a floppy disk or transferred to her system through email, that will save her spending time (or staff time) re-keying this material.

With some luck and some design, ConFrancisco seems to be standardizing on Word Perfect, Paradox and Quantro Pro. Last week my Paradox 3.5 arrived. It looks really interesting, and I hope we can design one integrated database for ConFrancisco. If we can pull that off, we'll save hundreds of very boring hours!

For now, let me share some thoughts about what people who care about the ConFrancisco Worldcon might be doing now, during this first year:

>If there is a way to get people to "think" about various aspects of ConFrancisco as a "group", and develop a consensus about what "should" happen, it would pay large dividends (such as knowing what they think matters, doing enough that they know they're a part of what's happening with ConFrancisco even though they haven't been "appointed", watching their ideas turn into reality. In addition, decision making is easier if people have already thought about what should be done, and since individuals don't yet have "their area", there is less likelihood of taking the angle of "What's best for the area", rather than "what's best for ConFrancisco", etc.)

>This "thinking" can be in writing or conversation. I tend to believe it works better in writing, for then people can participate without having to travel for two hours, or miss a "meeting" because there was a scheduling conflict, in addition, one or two strong voices don't dominate a written discussion with the same force which they dominate an oral conversation.

>restaurant guide (I know Jeff would like to do this, but I suspect it's a much better idea to have a group of people begin working on a restaurant guide now. It's a project which is fun and can build a bit of camaraderie at the same time.)

>List of inexpensive hotels and Bed and Breakfast places within about ten blocks of the hotels/the convention center or within half a dozen blocks of various BART exits. (The list should include location, phone number, current price and amenities, accessibility, etc. and should be entered on someone's computer system with a floppy of the file to Jeff and Gail.)

Circulate the hotel contracts among the committee members.

Directions to the hotels from the airport & major highways. Have SOMEONE ELSE test the directions. Be sure to test them on someone who **doesn't know the way!**

Develop a bibliography for Larry Niven and Alicia Austin (she has one already).

Decide if we want to publish a book by Larry Nevin and Alicia Austin (Disclave is currently publishing one with Lewis Shiner and Alicia Austin). If we want to publish a book, the decision should be made by March or April and work should start on such a book by June. It takes eight months to a year to get the thing together and during the last year and a half we can't afford to have anyone good enough to coordinate the book doing something expendable like coordinating the publication of a book.

Budget for each area (select several areas and develop a draft budget for that area); it should be clear that developing budgets for an area doesn't make it either more or less likely the person will be in that area.

Draft volunteer polic(y/ies); decide how any "bennies" should be awarded, such as T-shirts, etc. Recruit art work for the T-shirts. (And recruit art work for the Program Book and Progress Reports (with guidance from Gail Sanders)).

Decide what could be done which would be neat to honor Larry and/or Alicia. For example, could a role playing game based on Ring World (or whatever) be developed? ((I'm not a gamer, so for all I know one may already exist!))

Research the legal issues regarding (1) Babysitting, (2) Medical Assistance provided by ConFrancisco, (3) Good samaritan laws.

Make sure the 501(c)(3) is totally in order.

Try to develop a basic timeline by looking at the WSFS constitution and by reading the set of Mad Three Party from Noreascon Three as well as looking at the hotel/convention center contracts and projects which you know about. If this goes into a file that file can be sent to numerous folks for their own uses.

Write Bruce Farr and ask for a set (or numerous sets) of Cons and Shell Games. These publications detail tremendous amounts of information which is better to learn by reading than by making mistakes which have been made before.

One of the benefits of various projects like this is that some people will take off and do a terrific job and can be tapped for something else later on. Another is that as the convention moves closer, finite tasks which have already been tackled won't be looming on the horizon.