



ConAlope 2017

Westercon 70 | LepreCon 43

Progress Report #1

It's been a busy eight months since Westercon 68 attendees voted for us to hold Westercon 70 in Tempe, AZ in 2017. We still have a long way to go but we've made a great deal of progress.

Our sponsoring body is Leprecon Inc. and we've completed the process for Westercon 70 to also be LepreCon 43. This is an easy fit as LepreCon is a local sci-fi con that shares the same goals as Westercon. The only quirk is that LepreCons have a strong focus on art so we'll be listing the Artist Guests of Honor first.

We quickly built a temporary website at westercon70.org to impart all needed information. We've just brought on a very talented webmistress who is currently building a WordPress site. We'll repoint to it once complete.

We know that a convention can only be as good as the people who run it, so we've spent a considerable amount of our 2015 efforts to bring on board the very best staff. We have over half of our positions filled and are working on populating the rest. If you're interested in working Westercon 70, please contact our chair at deestell@gmail.com.

With our programming department completely filled, we'll be meeting over the next month to put plans together to map out our programming. If you're interested in participating in Westercon 70, whether by appearing on panels or joining our author signing roster, please contact our chair at deestell@gmail.com.

Progress Report #0 included our first guest announcement: **Gini Koch** (ginikoch.com) is our **Local Author GoH**. Since then, we've added four more Guests of Honor and a Toastmaster.

Our **Artist GoH** is **Julie Dillon** (juliedillonart.com), who has won two Hugo Awards for Best Professional Artist and four Chesley Awards. She lives in northern California and has worked for a wide range of clients including Simon & Schuster, Tor, Penguin, Wizards of the Coast, *Popular Science*, Subterranean Press, Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab, Paizo Publishing and Dark Horse Comics. Colorful and vibrant, her artwork combines the fantastic with the mundane in a way that stirs the imagination and encourages the viewer to create their own stories.

Our **Local Artist GoH** is **Tom Deadstuff** (tomdeadstuff.com), whose substantial work in papier maché is so unique that he describes himself by simply saying, 'I make stuff'. That stuff needs to be seen to be believed.

Our **Special Artist GoH** is **Larry Elmore** (larryelmore.com), who has been creating fantasy and sf art for over 40 years. He worked at TSR Inc. from 1981 to 1987, creating gaming book covers for *Dungeons & Dragons*, *AD&D* and *Star Frontiers*, and creating SnarfQuest Tales for *Dragon Magazine*. He's perhaps best known today for his work on *Dragonlance*, including many covers in that book series, but he has also worked for Baen, Bantam, Warner, Ace/Berkley, Doubleday and Del Rey, along with a wide selection of freelance work.

Our **Filk GoH** is **Tim Griffin** (griffined.org), an award-winning teacher, musician and storyteller from California with four albums out and a fifth coming in the summer of 2016. He runs the educational non-profit GriffinEd, using music to teach science, math, history and other subjects to grades K-8 for no charge. Laugh and learn with fun songs about bugs, boogers, and particle physics at GriffinEd.org.

Our **Toastmaster** is **Weston Ochse** (westonochse.com), a military veteran with 29 years of service who has also authored 20 books. His debut, *Scarecrow Gods* won him the Bram Stoker Award. A film adaptation of his novel, *Seal Team 666*, is slated to feature Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson as star and executive producer.