

Report of the WSFS Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee

2010 WSFS Business Meeting

Authority

Standing Rule 7.7: Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee. The Business Meeting shall appoint a Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee. The Committee shall:

- (1) Maintain the list of Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing Effect
- (2) Codify the Customs and Usages of WSFS and of the Business Meeting.

Members

The members of the NPFSC are Don Eastlake, Tim Illingworth, and Kevin Standlee. The committee is willing to serve for another year.

Actions

In accordance with object (1), the committee continues to maintain the list of Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing effect through the WSFS web pages at <http://www.wsfs.org> and will continue to do so to the extent the committee is able to do so. (The 2009 Rulings and Resolutions are attached to this report.) Updating the WSFS web site has proven to be challenging, and we hope that the work of the Worldcon Web Site Task Force comes to fruition this year in a way that makes it easier for us to keep the WSFS papers updated.

Pursuant to BM-2001-1 and subsequent related resolutions, the committee has, once every six months, reminded seated Worldcons of the requirement for legibility of badges, of the Business Meeting's request that Hugo Administrators publicize the list of works published by Best Editor nominees, and of the existence of standard lists of Worldcons and Hugo Awards.

Last year's WSFS Business Meeting instructed this committee "to review the governance and operation of all business meeting committees and include the results of this review in its next report." The Committee regrets to report that it has not completed this task.

Recommendations

The NPFSC recommends the following technical amendment to the WSFS Constitution:

Short Title: Run-Off References

Moved, to amend portions of the WSFS Constitution by inserting text to clarify the relationship of "No Award" and "None of the Above" to the "Run-Off Candidate" rule, as follows:

1. Amend Section 3.11.3:

3.11.3: "No Award" shall be the run-off candidate for the purposes of Section 6.4.

2. Amend Section 4.5.3:

4.5.3: "None of the Above" shall be treated as a bid for tallying, and shall be the run-off candidate for the purposes of Section 6.4.

Discussion: This year's Hugo Award Administrator, Vincent Docherty, approached the NPFSC questioning the way in which section 3.11 is worded, and we determined that previous constitutional revisions may have made it less than obvious that the wording at

sections 3.11.3 and 4.5.3 refers to the “Run-Off Candidate” rule at section 6.4. We propose including an explicit cross-reference in both cases to make it more obvious that these sections are related to each other.