



WSFS Special

There's just too much WSFS news today for it to all fit in the regular newsletter, so here are the details for everyone to read.

What's a WSFS?

If you've ever been interested in how the rules for the Hugo Awards and Site Selection are made, you can find out more about you can be part of the process in the *Introduction to the WSFS Business Meeting* programme item at 3pm in Capital Suite 5.

The World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) is the unincorporated literary society whose annual meeting you're attending if you're at Worldcon. If you're a member of Loncon 3, you're automatically a member of WSFS; in fact, the only way to join WSFS is to be a member of Worldcon. WSFS exists to set the rules for the Hugo Awards and for selecting future Worldcons.

Unlike most large group that elect a Board of Directors or otherwise have a delegated group that makes the rules, WSFS rules are made by the members, acting through the WSFS Business Meeting (from 10am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings in Capital Suite 11 or 8+11). Every member of Worldcon can attend the meeting, make proposals, debate, and vote on changes to the Hugos and Site Selection.

Business Meetings require more formality than a few friends sitting around deciding where to

have dinner, and therefore WSFS uses formal meeting rules ("parliamentary procedure"). Formal procedure can be daunting to a newcomer. The *Introduction to the WSFS Business Meeting* will discuss some of the basics of meeting procedure and how you can make it work effectively for you. Bring your questions about how to change the rules and participate in the "sausage-making" process and the panel will do its best to show you how to do it.

WSFS Mark Protection Meeting

The Mark Protection Committee (MPC) will meet on Thursday at 6:30pm in South Gallery 33. This meeting is open to any member of the convention.

The MPC is the body that manages Worldcon's service marks on things like "Hugo Award" and "Worldcon." It consists of members appointed by Worldcon and NASFIC committees and elected by the Business Meeting.

This year, the MPC (with significant financial help from Loncon 3 and from CanSMOF and SCIFI, groups that ran past Worldcons) was involved with defending a serious challenge to the Hugo Awards. Full details are in the report being presented to Friday's WSFS Business Meeting. This evening's meeting will review the report and discuss the current state of WSFS's intellectual property rights.

Agenda For WSFS Meeting

This year's WSFS Business Meeting has a full agenda of items to discuss. The *Preliminary Business Meeting* (Friday 10:00am, Capital Suite 11) has the task of managing that agenda, setting time limits for the debates on Saturday, potentially killing new proposals without debate, receiving committee reports, and taking final action on items that don't change the WSFS Constitution such as resolutions or changes to the Standing Rules.

Although this description of the Preliminary Meeting makes it sound somewhat dry, over the past few years the Preliminary Meeting has actually seen the most energetic discussions, so if you're interested in what's happening with the WSFS rules then you shouldn't skip it

The full agenda is on the Loncon 3 web site at loncon3.org/wsfs-business.php. There are seven constitutional amendments passed on from last year's Worldcon that will become part of the constitution if they pass again this year:

- ♦ two related motions reducing the necessary majority for extending eligibility for the Hugo Awards from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$;
- ♦ adding additional requirements to Worldcon financial reports;
- ♦ modifying Best Fan Artist to specify that public display must be non-professional;
- ♦ removing the requirement that members must opt to receive

electronic versions of convention publications, so that e-publications can be the default;

- ♦ removing zone-residency requirements for members of the Mark Protection Committee, and removing the definitions of the zones (formerly used for site selection rotation) themselves;
- ♦ making permanent the extension of Hugo Award eligibility for works initially published outside of the USA (this is currently done year-by-year at the Business Meeting).

The Preliminary Meeting cannot kill these proposals, but will set debate time limits each item for Saturday's Main Meeting. The Preliminary Meeting can also modify any of these proposals in order to reduce their scope, but cannot increase the scope of the change beyond what last year's meeting adopted.

New constitutional amendments include proposals that:

- ♦ require constitutional changes to be ratified by a vote of all Worldcon members;
- ♦ allow members of NASFIC to nominate for the Hugo Awards;
- ♦ clarify the status of audiobooks relative to the existing "story" categories such as Best Novel;
- ♦ create a Hugo Award for "Best Fan Performer" to recognise filking, costuming, acting in fannish plays and other fan performances;
- ♦ explicitly call works and people appearing on the Hugo Awards short list "finalists" rather than "nominees";
- ♦ prohibit Worldcons from selling memberships that include any WSFS voting rights for less than the cost of a Supporting membership.

The Preliminary Meeting can kill any of these new proposals outright and may also modify them before they are considered on Saturday.

There are also two proposed meeting-rule changes dealing with the process of "Objection to Consideration" and "Postpone Indefinitely." The proposed changes would make it more difficult to kill a motion without debate upon its initial introduction, but would make it slightly easier to strike such new proposals from the Main Meeting agenda after a short debate on why the Main Meeting should consider the proposal.

Various WSFS and Business Meeting committees will submit reports on their activities:

- ♦ *WSFS Mark Protection Committee*: nominations will be taken for three open seats on the MPC, with the election to be held at Saturday's meeting. The MPC has also submitted a resolution seeking guidance from the Business Meeting on how to proceed with the protection of WSFS's intellectual property outside the USA;
- ♦ *Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee*: rules codifications and interpretation;
- ♦ *Worldcon Runners Guide Editorial Committee*: maintains archives of Worldcon best practice;
- ♦ *Hugo Eligibility Rest of the World Committee*: recommends whether to extend Hugo Award eligibility to works initially published outside the USA. (This committee will be dissolved if the pending constitutional amendment to make the extension permanent is ratified);

- ♦ *Formalization of Long List Entries Committee*: maintains the lists of Worldcons and NASFICs, and researches historical information about them including their attendance and membership figures;
- ♦ *YA Hugo Committee*: charged by last year's Business Meeting to study proposals for an award for Young Adult fiction and to prepare recommendations for this year's meeting;
- ♦ *WSFS Membership Types and Rates Committee*: conflicting proposals about WSFS membership types and costs were referred to this committee, which returned a proposal listed in the new business.

In addition, past Worldcons with reportable surplus funds and currently seated Worldcons will submit financial reports. There may be representatives of those Worldcons present to answer questions about their reports, although there is no requirement that there be, and few questions are likely to be entertained due to the long agenda.

The *Main Business Meeting*, where constitutional amendments that survive the Preliminary Meeting are debated and voted upon, will be at 10am on Saturday in Capital Suite 8+11. If the Saturday meeting is unable to get through all of the business on the agenda, business will continue on Sunday (also 10am in Capital Suite 8+11) after the announcement of the results of Site Selection. If the Sunday meeting does not manage to complete the agenda, there is an "Overflow" meeting scheduled for Monday, at 10am in Capital Suite 2.

This issue was produced by Flick with text by Kevin Standlee and help from Jan van't Ent and some other people. Masthead by Jeanne Gomoll. Every day is WSFS day. Except Monday if we get through the Agenda quickly enough. Did you read this and think "Oh, maybe I'll go along and see what it's all about?" Let us know, this is An Experiment!