

DISCON III

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Dear Discon III Presupporter,

If you haven't already heard via our press release or the fannish grapevine, this is to inform you that at the April 9 meeting of the DISCON III Corporation our hotel liaison group reported to the membership that the Sheraton Washington Hotel had signed a contract with another group that significantly reduced our sleeping room and function space blocks in that hotel on Sunday and Monday of the 1992 Labor Day weekend. After a long discussion, the Corporation members reluctantly voted to withdraw our bid for hosting the 1992 WORLDCON.

As a presupporter, we feel we owe you a more detailed explanation of what happened, and the thinking that went into our decision. To better understand why we withdrew, you should know why we wanted to host the 1992 Worldcon. There is one memory that every fan shares, no matter how long they've been in fandom or what aspect of fandom they're interested in: their first Worldcon. When you listen to people talk about their experiences, one thing shines through all the stories - the sense of excitement and wonder they experienced at that convention. There wasn't enough time to see everything they wanted to see, there wasn't enough time to do everything they wanted to do. They had so much fun, they didn't want to leave the convention and didn't want it to end.

We think that every Worldcon should be like that for everyone. If it's done right, that sense of wonder, of not wanting to leave the convention for a minute while it's running is something that should be experienced by all fans, whether it's your first Worldcon or your fiftieth. The chance to do that, to create that kind of experience for everyone, is why we campaigned for the last two years for the privilege of running the 50th Worldcon.

With our original package we were confident that we had the facilities, talent and experience to make this Worldcon something special. After the Sheraton signed with the other group, we met with all three of our hotels to determine just what we had left in our facilities block. While there were still over 2400 sleeping rooms in our block and all the exhibit space in the hotels was still ours, the loss of our meeting room space in the Sheraton late Sunday afternoon and all day Monday left us with almost no space for programming the last day and a half of the convention. In addition, the Sheraton would not agree to hold what remained of our block off the market until the completion of the site selection vote at NOREASCON. This meant that if another group was willing to sign a contract with the hotel before Labor Day, we could lose even more of our block at that hotel. We decided that with what we had left we couldn't run the kind of Worldcon we wanted to run, the special kind of convention that fandom deserves for their 50th Worldcon.

We want you to know how much we appreciate your support of our bid. We couldn't have manned the tables, run the ads or thrown the bid parties at conventions around the country without your help. We will be hosting a thank you party on Saturday night at NOREASCON III after the HUGO Awards ceremony for our presupporters and friends. We hope you'll come by and say hello so we can thank you in person.

We also want remind you that even though we have withdrawn, there will still be a vote for site selection for 1992 held at NOREASCON. Before our withdrawal, there were predictions that a record number of people would vote in the site selection this year. Even though there is only one active bid remaining in the race, we hope that this will still be the case. There are a number of reasons why you should still vote. First, voting makes it your convention right from the start - your vote says "This is who I want to run my Worldcon." Second, your voting fee provides the start-up money needed for the con committee to begin putting together your convention. Finally, by voting you have the option of converting your automatic supporting membership to a full attending membership through December 31st of this year at the lowest rate available - less than half the average daily cost of a hotel room at many Worldcons. We all plan to cast our votes and hope you will too.

Again, thanks for your support. See you at NOREASCON.

The DC in 92 Committee