



Progress Report 2 (May 2017)

July 1-4, 2017, with a preview night on June 30

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ

westercon70.org



General Information

Dates:

Saturday July 1 through Tuesday July 4, 2017 plus pre- and post-con events.

Location:

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel at 60 E 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281.

Web: missionpalms.com. Booking: (800) 547-8705. Contact: (480) 894-1400.

Sponsoring Organization:

Leprecon, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Web: leprecon.org/corp.

Contact Information:

Westercon 70 c/o Leprecon, Inc., PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285-6665.

Web: westercon70.org.

Guests of Honor:

Artist:	Julie Dillon	juliedillonart.com
Local Artist:	Tom Deadstuff	tomdeadstuff.com
Special Artist:	Larry Elmore	larryelmore.com
Author:	Connie Willis	sftv.org/cw
Local Author:	Gini Koch	ginikoch.com
Filk:	Tim Griffin	griffined.com
Science:	Henry Vanderbilt	space-access.org
Special Media:	Bjo & John Trimble	facebook.com/thetrimbles
Fen:	Val & Ron Ontell	ontell.org
Toastmaster:	Weston Ochse	westonochse.com

Guest of Honor Sponsors (thank you all!):

Larry Elmore	LepreCon 44	
Connie Willis	WesternSFA	westernsfa.org
Tim Griffin	Phoenix Filk Circle	
Bjo & John Trimble	United Federation of Phoenix	u-f-p.org

Event Charity:

Challenger Space Center	azchallenger.org
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Hotel Rates:

US \$109.00 per night (plus tax) for any size room. This includes resort fee.

Current Membership Rates (US\$, will increase on June 1):

Attending: \$75 (Adult), \$50 (Active Military or Teen 13-17), \$30 (Child 8-12).

Supporting: always \$25. Kid-in-Tow (0-7) always FREE.

‘Westercon’ is a registered service mark of the
Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.

Message from the Chair

We're only two months out from Westercon 70 and we're busy putting together the best experience we can for you.

This is our substantial Progress Report, which hopefully provides much of the information you're looking for. We've also included our older PRs, the 2019 ballot and a flyer for the Utah in 2019 bid, in case you want to pre-support them.

As always, information can age. Our website is westercon70.org.

I'm particularly proud to have been able to bring so many of our Arizona fandom groups into this Westercon as active participants, sponsors, staff members and party hosts. This is one community and it's great to see all the groups working together.

- Dee Astell, Chair of Westercon 70

Questionnaire

We have created a questionnaire for attending members to ensure that we can make your Westercon experience as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. It asks about special considerations for food and disabilities and emergency contact details, among others.

If you haven't already completed this, please do so at the url below:

<https://tinyurl.com/W70Members>

Hotel

Our hotel is the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, AZ. Tempe is close to Phoenix Sky Harbor airport and the hotel has a complimentary shuttle if you're staying at the hotel during the convention.

Room rates are locked at \$109 per night (plus taxes). This is \$99 per night plus a \$10 per night hospitality fee. This hospitality fee is discounted from the regular \$16.95.

The best way to book is through our website (westercon.org/hotel) but you can also call the hotel on (800) 547-8705 and mention Westercon 70.

Important Note:

When you book your room, you'll be quoted at \$99 + \$16.95 + taxes. However, on checkout, you'll be billed at \$99 + \$10 + taxes. We sincerely apologize for this odd inconvenience but we're stuck with the quirks of the hotel's reservation system.

Guests of Honor

Author GoH: Connie Willis

Connie is one of the most successful science fiction writers in history. She has won eleven Hugos (including three for Best Novel) and seven Nebulas, among many others. She was the SWFA's 28th Grand Master and is a member of the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. Many of her books fall into the *Time Travel* series, featuring history students at a future University of Oxford, including *Doomsday Book*, *To Say Nothing of the Dog* and *Blackout/All Clear*. Connie is kindly sponsored by the WesternSFA.

Artist GoH: Julie Dillon

Julie is a freelance sci-fi and fantasy artist whose work has earned her two Hugo Awards, four Chesley awards and a World Fantasy Award nomination. She has worked for a wide range of clients. Julie currently lives in Northern California, where she enjoys biking, hiking, gardening, and volunteering at a local equine rescue.

Local Author GoH: Gini Koch

Gini writes the fast, fresh and funny *Alien/Katherine 'Kitty' Katt* series for DAW Books, the *Necropolis Enforcement Files*, and the *Martian Alliance Chronicles* series. She also has a humor collection, *Random Musings from the Funny Girl*. As G. J. Koch, she writes the *Alexander Outland* series and she's made the most of multiple personality disorder by writing under a variety of other pen names.

Local Artist GoH: Tom Deadstuff

Tom makes stuff. Cool, creepy, horrific, mind-twisting, fantastical, wondrous stuff in paper mache.

Special Artist GoH: Larry Elmore

Larry has been creating fantasy and science fiction art for over forty years. Working at TSR Inc. on *Dungeons & Dragons*, he helped set the standards of gaming art in the RPG genre. He may be best known for his book covers for the *Dragonlance* series. He has worked as a freelance illustrator since 1987, creating covers for comics, computer games, magazines, fantasy and science fiction books and many other projects. Larry is kindly sponsored by LepreCon 44.

Toastmaster: Weston Ochse

Weston is a former intelligence officer and special ops soldier who has been labelled one of the Major Horror Authors of the 21st Century. He has won the Bram Stoker Award and been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. A writer of dozens of books in multiple genres, his *Seal Team 666* military supernatural series has been optioned to be a movie starring Dwayne Johnson.

Filk GoH: Tim Griffin

Tim is an award-winning teacher, musician and storyteller with four albums out. He runs the educational non-profit GriffinEd, using music to teach science, math, history and other subjects to grades K-8 for no charge. He's been twice chosen by the Annenberg Foundation (in 2013 and 2014) for leaders of non-profits showing exceptional promise and was a finalist in the Social Innovation Fast Pitch in 2016. He's also an artist in residence teaching songwriting to at-risk kids for several art and science organizations in Los Angeles county. Tim is kindly sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle.

Science GoH: Henry Vanderbilt

Henry founded Space Access Society in 1992 and ran the quietly influential annual Space Access Conferences in most of the years since. He is not a rocket scientist, but he can translate reasonably well between rocket scientist and English. (He did manage a bunch of rocket engineers once, but that's another story.) He first started working for radically cheaper space transportation via fast-turnaround fuel-and-go reusable rockets back in 1986, when that was all strictly SF. He's a lifelong Fan but he's nevertheless pleased as hell to see this plot device now doing a genre jump to current-day technothriller. He looks forward to it soon settling down as just another taken-for-granted background element in mainstream contemporary literature.

Fan GoHs: Val & Ron Ontell

Val's 43 years in fandom include chairing the 2011 World Fantasy Convention, the 1986 and 1989 Lunacons in New York and the 2010 Conjecture in San Diego. She's currently Guest Liaison for many San Diego cons. Ron has served as the President of the New York Science Fiction Society (the Lunarians) and Val was a board member in the 1980s. Both have held committee positions at a variety of local cons, Westercons and Worldcons and are Senior Assistants in the Autograph Area at San Diego Comic-Con. They've also run tours in connection with overseas Worldcons since 1987, including Britain (twice), Ireland, Japan, Australia (twice) and, of course, Helsinki in 2017.

Special Media GoHs: Bjo & John Trimble

John and Bjo met in science fiction fandom and married in 1960. They originated Art Shows at Worldcon and San Diego Comic-Con and Futuristic Fashion Shows at CostumeCon. They chaired Westercon in 1970 and John co-chaired in 1965. They worked together on the original *Save Star Trek* letter-writing campaign, which is generally credited with allowing a third season to happen. They're still active in the SCA and wider fandom. They enjoy unusual cheeses, home-brewed dark beer, intelligent conversation and travel anywhere at any time. Bjo & John are kindly sponsored in part by the United Federation of Phoenix.

Pre-Con Events (Friday Night)

Because so many attendees are flying in on Friday and will be staying at the hotel on Friday night, we've set up some programming before the con to warm everyone up. All times are subject to change.

- ✓ We're hosting a Happy Hour mixer at Rula Bula Irish Pub and Restaurant, starting around 6.00pm. This is next door to the hotel; fall out of the Gaming Hall and you'll fall into Rula Bula.
- ✓ Apocalypse Later (apocalypselaterfilm.com) is hosting another mini-film festival at 7.00pm. This is a curated 90 minute set of international award-winning sf/f short films, set for 7.00pm.
- ✓ We'll keep at least one room open after that for panels. There will not be many but there will be some.

Con Events

Westercon 70 is also LepreCon 43 and both Westercon and LepreCon have traditional events. We plan to provide all of these, though times are subject to change.

Saturday

- ✓ Westercon 70 officially opens at 12.00pm.
- ✓ Our Filk GoH, Tim Griffin, will perform live at 2.30pm.
- ✓ Opening Ceremonies will happen at 4.00pm.
- ✓ We'll shift to the ConSuite at 5.00pm for an Ice Cream Social, which is also our Meet the Guests. Ice Cream Socials may be a California tradition, but it should be an Arizona one too.
- ✓ At 7.00pm, we'll start our Regency Dance, with John Hertz and our Dance Co-ordinator, Alex Canto.
- ✓ Also at 7.00pm, talented local artist Mark Greenawalt will host Body Painting. This is an 18+ event.
- ✓ Our Local Author GoH, Gini Koch, will host her ever-popular Evening Erotica panel at 8.30pm. This is a 18+ event.

Sunday

- ✓ We will host an Art Reception in our Art Show at 5.00pm with courtesy snacks and a cash bar.
- ✓ Our Masquerade will start at 8.00pm with an earlier Rehearsal at 6.30pm.

Monday

- ✓ Our Charity Auction, held in aid of Challenger Space Center in Peoria, AZ, will be held at 1.30pm.
- ✓ Our second dance will be a Three Toed Sock Hop at 7.00pm. The theme is 'Elvis is not dead; he just went home!' This will include a cash bar.
- ✓ Kevin Standlee's Match Game is always popular at Westercon and he'll host a fresh edition at 8.00pm.

Tuesday

- ✓ We'll be hosting a Feedback session at 3.30pm so that you can tell us what we did right and what we did wrong. We learned a lot at this panel at Westercon 69.
- ✓ Closing Ceremonies will be at 5.00pm after everything else ends.
- ✓ After we hand over to Westercon 71, the Dead Dog party will kick in for anyone who wants to relax and chat. This will run however long it runs.
- ✓ Finally, the pool area is a perfect place from which to view the Tempe 4th of July firework display. This is one of the largest in Arizona and fireworks usually start around 9.00pm.

Dedicated Spots

Some events will have dedicated locations throughout Westercon 70:

- ✓ Our Art Show will be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm (Saturday), 10.00am to 7.00pm (Sunday) and 10.00am to 2.00pm (Monday) with a following Art Auction. It will be closed on Tuesday. There will be docent tours scheduled.
- ✓ Our Gaming Hall will be open from 9.00am to 11.00pm each day except Tuesday, when it will close at 1.00pm. We will have a full Artemis bridge simulator and VR demonstrations, as well as a GM pool running a variety of games.
- ✓ Our Film track will be hosting a Film Festival throughout the event in a dedicated room.
- ✓ Our dedicated Filk room will be buzzing throughout the event.
- ✓ We'll have an Autograph table in the Dealers' Room with a cycle of authors (and others) signing their books or other memorabilia.
- ✓ Flyers, freebies and free movie posters will be with Fan Tables.

Other Events

Our Programming team are building out other events. Some already booked are as follows:

- ✓ In keeping with long held fandom tradition, we'll be hosting a Blood Drive in collaboration with the Heinlein Society.
- ✓ We'll have kid friendly events throughout daytime hours.
- ✓ Local pirate group The Dread Fleet will be performing.
- ✓ Duellists will have their choice of weapons at Westercon 70. We will be Tea Duelling, with a grudge match promised between Madame Askew and the Dirty Weasel. We will be Compliment Duelling too, for those who prefer battling with wits.
- ✓ Prof. Theodoric Brandywine will teach the Victorian martial art of Bartitsu in a hands-on class.
- ✓ The Royal Manticoran Navy will be hosting NERF battles.
- ✓ Len Berger will be hosting his popular At the Movies event. For those from outside Phoenix, this involves a curated set of sci-fi movie trailers followed by a free raffle of memorabilia.
- ✓ Trivia buffs will enjoy pitting Tesla vs. Edison and identifying sci-fi quotes masked in language in Shakespeare Goes Sci-Fi.

Panel Programming

We'll be running multiple rooms of panel programming throughout the convention. Here's how we're structuring things:

- Daytime panel programming will run from 8.00am to 6.00pm.
- Panels will mostly run for one hour with a half hour break between every panel to allow for room reset.
- We'll stop at 6.00pm every day for an hour to give attendees an opportunity to eat and/or prepare for parties.
- Evening panels will be cut down to a much smaller room count, mostly restricted to 18+.

We're busy populating our panel schedule, but there are still open slots. Please contact us at programming@westercon70.org for details.

Our tracks include Art, Books and Authors, Diversity, Fandom, Film, Science and Steampunk, with a General track to catch everything else. With Bjo and John Trimble GoHs, we expect a bunch of *Star Trek* panels.

Classics of Science Fiction

We'll discuss three Classics of Science Fiction at Westercon 70, with one discussion each. Come to as many as you like. You'll be welcome to join in.

I'm still with "A classic is a work that survives its own time. After the currents which might have sustained it have changed, it remains, and is seen to be worthwhile for itself." If you have a better definition, bring it.

Each of our three choices may be more interesting now than when first published.

Have you read them? Have you re-read them?

Leigh Brackett

The Sword of Rhiannon (1949)

It's been called her best early work; concise, eloquent, fresh, poetic. Why a sword? is answered, also Is this science fiction? Perhaps unanswerable by human beings, but addressed, are questions of identity, motive, recognition and will, during an adventure in our great romantic tradition.

Fredric Brown

The Lights in the Sky are Stars (1953)

Some say this belonged on the Retrospective Hugo ballot at Noreascon IV (62nd World Science Fiction Convention) – and argue over which it should have replaced, *The Caves of Steel*, *Childhood's End*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Mission of Gravity*, or *More Than Human*. A straightforward s-f novel by Brown – and what a wallop!

H. G. Wells

The Time Machine (1895)

Far better known in the wide wide world than our other two – why? Never mind marketing; Hesse's *Glass Bead Game* won the Nobel Prize in Literature. In fact we see only two distant times: the more gripping is narrated in a way which, upon reflection, is quite suspect. And the Time Traveller never returns for lunch.

Post-Con Events

We've cut back on our plans for Post-Con Events, given that NASFiC is the weekend after us, but we're still planning to host a couple on the Wednesday, for anyone staying on for a day after con. Details to come.

Workshops and Make & Takes

Our Programming team aren't just working on putting panels together; they're also setting up a variety of interactive workshops, some of them free of charge, thanks to our sponsors. However, others will have cost associated, but this will be announced on the website.

- ✓ Rebecca Carter will host two parasol painting workshops, one freestyle and one Kaylee from *Firefly*.
- ✓ The Arizona Penny Dreadfuls are sponsoring a mask decorating workshop. Also, come color steampunks and aliens with the AZPD, whatever your age. Everyone's into coloring nowadays!
- ✓ Prof. Theodoric Brandywine will run a moustache wax, beard oil and beard balm workshop.
- ✓ Countess Chaos will be teaching a variety of workshops on how to steampunk NERF guns, picture frames, trinket boxes and steamy lapel pins.
- ✓ Fan fans will be spoiled for choice, with a fan make and take and a class on the etiquette of flirting with the fan.
- ✓ A number of writing workshops are scheduled with published authors.

Parties

Westercon is a great convention for parties and there will be many of them each night of the convention (perhaps even Tuesday) in the party suites, along with other room parties.

- ✓ Two local fandom groups will be hosting parties for the GoHs that they're sponsoring. The **WesternSFA** are hosting a party for Connie Willis and the **United Federation of Phoenix** are hosting one for Bjo and John Trimble (Star Trek themed).
- ✓ There will be two bid parties held by the **Utah in 2019** bid to host Westercon.
- ✓ **Westercon 71** (Denver in 2018) and **Worldcon 76** (San Jose in 2018) will both hold parties.
- ✓ **The Dark Ones** and **Western SFA** will also be hosting other parties.

For more details, or if you're planning to host a party of your own, please contact our Party Liaison at hotel@westercon70.org.

Participants

In addition to our GoHs, the following are currently on our participants list to present panels, workshops and/or events (though this list will always be subject to change). Of course, more will still be announced.

Brian Abernathy, Linda Addison, Anabel Amis, Madame Askew, Dee Astell, Hal C. F. Astell, Kim Bailey, Len Berger, Colette Black, Nathan Blackwell, Jeff Bohnhoff, Maya Bohnhoff, Kelly Ann Bonnell, Arthur Bozlee, Johnna Buttrick, Ashley Carlson, Richard Christ (Captain Ares), Rebecca Carter, Jenn Czep, Ryan Dalton, Michael D'Ambrosio, Bruce Davis, Emily Devenport, J. L. Doty, Jason Drotman, Dan Dubrick, Craig Dyer, Mark Ewbank, Janie Fanz, Tracey Feltes, C. C. Finlay, Crystel Flanders, Michael Flanders, Janie Franz, Diana Given, Sandra Greenberg, Mark Greenawalt, Vaughan Grey, Justin Hackert, Keith Henson, John Hertz, Ernest Hogan, Paul Honsinger, Jennifer Horning, Mark Horning, Steve Howe, Deena Johnson, Khurt Khave, Eric T. Knight, Suzanne Lazear, Tom Leveen, Erin Lewis, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Syd Logsdon, Jeff Mariotte, Cathy McManamon, Alfred Nash, Yvonne Navarro, Bob Nelson, Amy K. Nichols, Rick Novy, Alyssa Provan, Jamie Wyman Reddy, Michael Ritchie, Valerie Ritchie, Frankie Robertson, Marsheila Rockwell, Rebecca Rowan, Paul Schmidt, Sharon Skinner, Terry L. Smith, Gary Sollars, Katherine Stewart, David Lee Summers, Gary Swaty, Eric Tozzi, Gerry Tyra, Sandra Tyra, Jet Veridis, Cynthia Ward, Thomas Watson, Stephanie Weippert, Lee Whiteside, Dr. David Williams, Dania Wright, Natalie Wright.

Art Credits

The Westercon 70 logo on the front cover was created by Jason Drotman, who's handling all our graphic design.

The illustrations are courtesy of kellepics (front cover) and Brokoola (back cover). Both are in the public domain.

Arizona Fandom History

We're proud to be the sixth Westercon held in Arizona. Previous chairs were Randy Rau (Westercon 35), Terry Gish (Westercon 41), Bruce Farr (Westercon 45 - Westercolt), Craig Dyer (Westercon 57 - ConKopelli) and Mike Willmoth (Westercon 62 - FiestaCon).

For a history of all Arizona conventions, dating back to 1970, visit the Arizona Penny Dreadfuls site at azpennydreadfuls.org/azcons.

Westercon Business

We'll be hosting all the usual Westercon business events, including the annual Business Meeting, Fannish Inquisition and Site Selection.

Kevin Standlee has run the last bevy of Business Meetings and he's kindly agreed to run ours too.

Kevin will also be hosting the Fannish Inquisition, when bid teams for future Westercons make themselves available to answer your questions about their proposed events.

Another much experienced Westercon regular, Ben Yalow, has kindly agreed to handle our Site Selection.

Bids are made two years out, so Westercon 71 has already been awarded to Westminster, CO. See their website at westercon71.org.

Only one team has bid to host Westercon in 2019, which is the Utah for 2019 bid for Layton, UT. See their website at utahfor2019.com.

Program Book Ads

Our Program Book will be published as a trade paperback book, in the standard 8½" x 5½" format with color covers and a black and white interior. It will include all the traditional components, with a few extra for good luck.

We believe that this format will be easy to carry, easy to navigate and easy to read with plenty of content to keep you enthralled. The back cover will be a carefully labeled Map to the Tempe Mission Palms.

We're offering three different sizes of advert: full page, half page and quarter page.

Half page can be either horizontal or vertical. Quarter page can either be half width/half height or full width/quarter height. To allow for margins and headers/footers, the usable space on our page is 6¾" high and 4¼" wide. All standard image formats are acceptable.

Prices are:

- Full page - \$100
- Half page (any aspect) - \$50
- Quarter page (any aspect) - \$25

If you're interested in booking an ad, please contact our Publications director at info@westercon.org.

Westercon Bylaws

As of Close of Westercon 69, July 4, 2016

The following document is the current text of the Westercon Bylaws and Standing Rules, as of the close of Westercon 69 (Portland, Oregon, 2016). No new amendments to the Westercon Bylaws were ratified at Westercon 69. Linda Deneroff and Kevin Standlee prepared this document based on the results of the Westercon 69 Business Meeting. With one item of business passed on to Westercon 69, the Bylaws were amended as shown below.

1. General Provisions

1.1 Name and Date

It is traditional, but not obligatory, that the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon) shall take place over the July 4th weekend.

1.2 Guests of Honor

It is traditional, but not obligatory, that Westercon Guests of Honor and other notables be selected from among SF personalities residing within the Westercon geographical area.

1.3 Membership Classes

There shall be at least two classes of membership in Westercon: supporting and attending. The committee shall notify the members of their membership class in a timely fashion.

1.3.1 Supporting Members

Supporting members shall receive any progress reports or any other generally mailed publications published after the member joins the Westercon, including the Program Book, and may exercise any voting rights permitted by any other part of these bylaws, except attending the Business Meeting. All Westercons shall be required to offer supporting memberships until at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Westercon, and such supporting memberships shall not cost more than one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the voting fee charged when the site of the Westercon was selected. Any class of membership offered by a Westercon costing at least as much as a supporting membership shall include a supporting membership.

1.3.2 Attending Members

Attending members shall have all of the rights of supporting members, plus the right to attend the Westercon and the business meeting(s) held there, subject to the restrictions established by the other parts of these bylaws.

1.3.3 Restriction of Memberships

Each Westercon committee shall have the right to limit the activities of its attendees, either individually or in groups, insofar as such activities endanger, physically or legally, other persons or property. Such limitations may include, but are not limited to, closing down parties, ejecting persons from the Westercon, or turning offenders over to other authorities. No refund of membership need be given in such circumstances. Each member, in purchasing his/her membership, agrees to abide by these bylaws.

1.4 Name Badges and Membership Numbers

All committees shall issue name badges for all attending members. Name badges for pre-registered members shall display the member's name in no less than 24-point bold type. All committees shall assign a unique membership number upon processing of a membership. This number provided to each member with the site selection ballot and with each progress report, shall be printed on membership name badges, and shall be used for site-selection purposes. In the event a membership is transferred, the old membership number, if applicable, shall be noted, both on the badge and on registration information used for site-selection voting administration. Membership badges or other proof of membership remain the property of the Westercon committee for the duration of the conference and may be confiscated for cause; no refund of membership fees need be given in such circumstances.

1.5 Archive of Bylaws

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. (LASFS) shall act as an archive to the Westercon bylaws and the minutes of business meetings. Each committee shall reimburse LASFS for the costs of copying and forwarding copies of the Bylaws and Minutes to those who request them. A copy of the minutes, including the text of motions passed by the business meeting, shall be sent to LASFS within two (2) months of the close of each Westercon by the administering Westercon. LASFS shall maintain the Westercon bylaws and shall forward one copy of the current bylaws, including the text of any amendment to the bylaws awaiting secondary ratification, to the current Westercon committee within four (4) months of the close of the previous Westercon. The current Westercon shall provide copies of the Bylaws to the committees of all Westercon bids for the year which that Westercon is administering the site-selection.

1.6 Distribution of Bylaws to Members

The Westercon Bylaws, as well as the complete text of any amendment awaiting secondary ratification, shall be published in at least one (1) progress report and in the program book of the current Westercon each year. Failure to publish this information shall not affect the procedure to amend the bylaws as stated in Article 4.

1.7 Westercon Service Mark

All Westercons shall publish, in all publications such as promotional flyers, progress reports, and program book, the following notice: “‘Westercon’ is a registered service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.”

1.8 Responsibilities of Administering Westercon

It is a responsibility of each Westercon to enforce the provisions of these bylaws.

1.9 Committee Failure

Should a Westercon Committee declare itself unable to fulfill its duties, the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society shall determine alternate arrangements for that Westercon.

2 Westercon Business Meeting

2.1 Scheduling of Sessions

At least one (1) regular session of the Westercon business meeting must be scheduled at each Westercon. No regular session of the Westercon business meeting shall be scheduled to start prior to 11 AM, nor later than 2 PM, nor on the last day of the Westercon. A special session, at which site-selection business shall be the sole order of business, may be scheduled on the last day of the convention, provided that said special meeting is scheduled to begin no earlier than 11 AM or later than 2 PM. All sessions occurring during the same Westercon, be they regular, adjourned, or special, shall be considered, for procedural purposes, as the same parliamentary session.

2.2 Site-Selection Business

Site-selection business shall be in order at any session of the business meeting. Site-selection business shall include, but need not be limited to, the announcement of the results of the balloting and of a winner if one is produced by the balloting, or of a site-selection resolution, as hereafter defined, if one is necessary [see Section 3.16]. The winner of the site-selection may be announced prior to the site-selection business meeting, if one is held.

2.3 Quorum

For business other than site-selection business, a quorum of ten (10) attending members of the current Westercon shall be required. For site-selection business, the quorum shall be those attending members of the current Westercon who attend the meeting. All those persons voting at any meeting must be attending members of the current Westercon. Except as noted in these bylaws or in such rules of order as may be adopted, all business requires a simple majority to pass.

2.4 Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority of the Westercon business meeting except where it conflicts with these bylaws or with any special rules of order which may be adopted by the business meeting.

3 Westercon Site-Selection

3.1 Eligibility of Sites

Any site on the North American continent west of the 104th west meridian, or in the state of Hawaii, shall be eligible to be the site of a Westercon, except as restricted by the provisions of these bylaws. *Provided that, upon the annexation of Australia by the United States of America or the annexation of the United States of America by Australia, Section 3.1 shall be amended to read:*

“Any site in Australia, or on the North American continent west of the 104th west meridian, or in the state of Hawaii, shall be eligible to be the site of a Westercon, except as restricted by the provisions of these bylaws.”

[Note: On a parliamentary inquiry based on a question of when the annexation must take place for a site to be eligible, the 2002 Business Meeting decided that a bid for an Australian site is eligible, even if the annexation has not yet taken place, provided that the annexation has taken place by the filing deadline for the intervening Westercon (the April 15th following the Westercon at which the Australian Westercon is selected), and that if the Australian site has been selected, and the annexation has not taken place by that date, then this shall constitute committee failure, as covered by Section 1.9.]

3.2 Site Selection Zones

The following Site Selection Zones are defined within the area defined in section 3.1:

3.2.1: North: Sites in North America north of the 42nd north parallel.

3.2.2: Central: Sites in North America between the North and South zones.

3.2.3: South: Hawaii; California south of and including San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties; Nevada south of and including Clark County; Arizona; New Mexico; and all countries, states, provinces, territories, or other political subdivisions southward within North America.

3.2.4: Other: Any location otherwise eligible under section 3.1 not part of the above zones.

3.3 Regional Exclusion Zone

No site within the Site Selection Zone containing the site of the Westercon administering the site-selection election shall be eligible to bid, except as provided in this section. If no eligible bids are filed by the January 1st of the year of the site-selection balloting, then all sites defined in section 3.1 shall be eligible.

3.4 Filing Deadline for Ballot

Only those eligible bids whose filing paperwork required by section 3.5 is in the possession of the administering Westercon by the April 15th preceding the balloting shall be listed on the ballot.

[Note: On a parliamentary inquiry at the time of ratification of the text of the above section, it was ruled that “If the filing paperwork can be verified to be at the address of the administering convention, it is in the committee’s possession.”]

3.5 Filing Requirements

A Westercon bid committee must provide written evidence of the following: At least two (2) separate people declaring themselves Chairman and Treasurer; an organizing instrument such as bylaws, articles of incorporation or association, or a partnership agreement; and a letter of intent or option from a hotel or other facility declaring specific dates on which the Westercon shall be held; and, for a sponsoring organization from within the United States of America, evidence that the sponsoring organization is a non-profit association or corporation within the applicable state law of the sponsoring organization.

3.6 Eligibility of Voters

Site-selection voting shall be limited to those persons who are attending or supporting members of the administering Westercon and who have paid a voting fee toward their membership in the Westercon being selected. Other classes of membership may vote only upon the unanimous agreement of all qualified bidding committees. One person equals one membership equals one vote. Corporations, Associations, and other non-human entities may vote only for “No Preference.” “Guest of” memberships must be transferred to an individual before voting for anything other than “No Preference.”

3.7 Voting Fee

The voting fee shall be twenty US dollars (US\$20.00) or the local equivalent unless the committees listed on the ballot and the administering Westercon agree unanimously to charge a different amount.

3.8 Minimum Rights of Voters

The payment of the voting fee shall make the voter at least a full supporting member of the Westercon being selected, and may make the voter an attending member at the discretion of the winning bid.

3.9 Prototype Ballot

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. (LASFS) shall prepare a prototype site-selection ballot, including instructions for preparation of the ballot, and shall provide the prototype to each administering Westercon at the same time the bylaws are provided to the administering Westercon as provided for in section 1.5. Upon receipt of the prototype, the administering Westercon shall complete the ballot by filing in the information about the eligible bid committees, including the dates of the proposed Westercons, the voting fee, minimum membership requirements, including the cost of a supporting membership in the administering Westercon, and the address to which site-selection ballots should be sent. The administering Westercon shall be responsible for the publication and the distribution of the ballots to the membership of the administering Westercon. All eligible bids received in accordance with sections 3.4 and 3.5 shall be included on the ballot. The ballot shall also include entries for "No Preference" and "None of the Above," and shall provide space for at least one (1) write-in bid. The ballot shall be a secret ballot, specially marked for preferential voting with an explanation of the method of counting preferential votes.

3.10 Distribution of Ballot

The site-selection ballot and full rules for site-selection voting, including the deadlines for voting by mail, shall be mailed on or before the May 10th preceding the voting to all members of the administering Westercon as of one week before the mailing. The ballot and full rules for site-selection, including the hours during which site-selection will take place and the location of the site-selection, shall be given to all attending members upon registration at the Westercon, or such information shall be prominently displayed at the registration area throughout the Westercon.

3.11 Deadline for Voting by Mail

All ballots received by the administering Westercon prior to June 20 shall be counted.

3.12 Bid Presentations

Each eligible bid committee shall have at least fifteen (15) minutes of scheduled program time on the first full day of the administering Westercon for the purpose of making a bidding presentation.

3.13 At-Conference Voting

Site-selection shall be open for at least six (6) hours between the hours of 11 AM and Midnight on the day before the business meeting at which site-selection business is scheduled. All on-site balloting shall be from one central location, under the supervision of the administering Westercon. If no site-selection business meeting is scheduled, then site-selection shall be open for at least six (6) hours between the hours of 11 AM and Midnight on the next-to-last day of the administering Westercon.

3.14 Verification of Ballots

Properly completed ballots shall contain: the member's printed name; the member's membership number as assigned by the administering Westercon; the member's dated signature; the member's address of record with the current Westercon; the member's current address if different; and the member's vote(s) as defined elsewhere in this article. Verification of the ballots shall consist of matching the name and number of the member with the records of the administering Westercon. Ballots received by the committee prior to June 20, and any others received by mail which may be counted, shall be held by the administering Westercon until the opening of the Westercon, at which time they shall be verified by the administering Westercon and the bidders.

3.15 Counting of Ballots

The administering Westercon shall arrange for the counting of ballots, and each eligible bid committee shall be allowed to send at least two (2) observers to such ballot-counting. The count shall be by preferential ballot. The winner shall be that bid which gains a majority of those votes expressing preference for a bid. For the purpose of vote counting, "None of the Above" shall be treated as if it were a bid. "None of the Above" and votes for ineligible bids shall count toward the total number of votes cast. Blank ballots, illegal or illegible ballots, and votes for "No Preference" shall not count toward the total number of votes cast. All vote totals of final results and of all intermediate counts shall be made available at or before the closing ceremony.

3.16 Procedures When No Bid Wins or is Eligible

Should no eligible bid gain the needed majority, or should there be no qualified bidding committee, or should "None of the Above" win, a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the site-selection business meeting of the administering Westercon may award the Westercon to any bid, or a simple majority of the meeting may decide that they are unable to decide. If the business meeting does not choose a site, the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. shall choose a site within six (6) weeks of the close of the administering Westercon. If "None of the Above" wins, none of the bids which were on the ballot may be selected. A site chosen under the provisions of this section shall not be restricted by any portion of this article except this section and section 3.1.

3.17 Availability of Results

The results of the balloting shall be reported to the site-selection business meeting of the administering Westercon, if one is held. A record of the results of the balloting, including all intermediate counts and distinguishing between the by-mail and at-con ballots, shall be published in the first or second progress report of the winning Westercon.

3.18 Hand-Carried Ballots

The administering Westercon shall accept hand-carried ballots, which are otherwise valid ballots delivered to the administering Westercon by someone other than the member who prepared the ballot.

4 Procedure for Amendment of These Bylaws

4.1 Method of Adoption

Amendments to the Westercon Bylaws must be ratified by the majority vote of the business meetings in two consecutive years. Proposed amendments shall be read in full by the chairman of the business meeting immediately before being voted upon.

4.2 Primary and Secondary Ratification

The secretary of the business meeting at which an amendment receives primary (first year) ratification shall submit an exact copy of the amendment to the following year's Westercon business meeting. The question of secondary (second year) ratification is debatable and is amendable only to the extent that such amendments do not increase the scope of the original bylaw amendment.

4.3 Effective Date of Amendments

Unless otherwise provided, amendments shall take effect at the close of the Westercon where they receive final ratification. Operating rules for already-selected Westercons shall not be changed by amendments to the bylaws. Rules regarding eligibility and voting procedures for site-selection are not considered to be operating rules.

Standing Rules

1. Close Debate. Before proceeding to take a vote on a motion for the Previous Question, the presiding officer shall ask for a show of hands of how many people still wish to speak to the pending motion. This rule does not allow debate on the motion for the Previous Question.

Business Passed On and Draft Agenda for Westercon 70

1. Call to Order

2. Committee Reports

There are no active committees of the Business Meeting.

3. Pending Bylaw Amendments

No new Amendments were adopted at Westercon 69 therefore nothing needs to be ratified at Westercon 70.

4. New Business

Bylaws amendments passed by the Westercon 70 Business Meeting will be passed on to the following year's Westercon for ratification.

5. Announcements

6. Adjournment

The above copy of the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Business Passed On of the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference is hereby certified to be true, correct, and complete, effective as of the close of Westercon 69, July 4, 2016.

Kevin Standlee, Chairman

Linda Deneroff, Secretary

Westercon 69 Business Meeting

Westercon

What is Westercon? Westercon is the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference and has been held annually since 1948 in the western half of North America (including Hawaii). It is a general interest science fiction and fantasy convention covering literature, art, science, costuming, gaming, music, television, movies and any other topic of interest to sf/f fans. Please visit westercon.org for details.

When is Westercon held? Westercon is traditionally held over the 4th of July weekend, although this is not mandatory. It will be Saturday July 1 through Sunday July 4 in 2017.

Where is Westercon held? It has been held from Hawaii to Spokane, from El Paso to Seattle. Last year, it was in Portland, OR. This year, it will be in Tempe, AZ. Next year, it will be in Denver, CO.

Who runs Westercon? Different non-profit groups run Westercon every year since the event moves from city to city. In 2017, it will be run by volunteers from all around Arizona and beyond. It's sponsored by Leprecon, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Please visit leprecon.org/corp for details.

Why is Westercon held? Although it was started many years ago for those fans who couldn't afford to attend the World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon), it's become an event for fans from around North America to travel to different parts of the West, to communicate with different communities and experience the flavor of the region, not only regarding sf/f.

How does it work? A group expresses interest in hosting a Westercon, be they in Los Angeles or Portland or wherever. They bid for the event starting about 4 years out, or 2 years prior to the vote. If they win the bid, then they have 2 years to organize it. They have to have a site (usually a hotel) and a committee or team to run the event. They invite professionals and fans of note to speak and present and advertise to draw in the fandom community.

Staff List

Chair	Dee Astell	chair@westercon70.org
Vice Chair	Hal C. F. Astell	info@westercon70.org

Department Heads

Art Show	David Gish	artshow@westercon70.org
	Annette Sexton-Ruiz	
Ambience	Margaret Grady	
Dealers' Room	Mark Boniece	dealers@westercon70.org
Gaming	Earl C. Hedges	gaming@westercon70.org
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Hospitality	Wendy Trakes	
Hotel/Party Liaison	Mark Boniece	hotel@westercon70.org
Operations	Paul Tanton	
Programming	Michael Flanders	programming@westercon70.org
Publications	Hal C. F. Astell	info@westercon70.org
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Registration	Deena Johnson	registration@westercon70.org
Sponsorship	Kate Hatcher	support@westercon70.org
Treasurer	Kevin McAlonan	

Staff

Dealers' Room		
On Site-Liaison	Duncan Rittschof	
Hospitality	Kevin Hull, Marjorie Kosky and Alice Massoglia	
Operations		
Fan Tables	Marcus Johnston	fantables@westercon70.org
Logistics	Michael & Shawn Flanders and Jaziel Molina	
Operations Room	Mandy Parker	
Rangers	Victor Bugg	
Volunteers	Dawndreia Robinson	
Programming		
Books and Authors	Michael Senft	authors@westercon70.org
Dances	Alex Canto	
Diversity	Jen McAlonan	
Fandom	Hal C. F. Astell	
Filk	Valerie Richie and Gary Swaty	
Film	Jon Bonnell	
Masquerade	Elaine Mami	
Moderation	Edward Pulley	
Post-Con Events	Hal C. F. Astell	
Science	Kelly Ann Bonnell	
Steampunk	Dee Astell	
Publicity		
Social Media	Dee Astell	facebook.com/westercon70
Publications		
Marketing/Graphics	Jason Drotman	
Marketing/West Coast	Anastasia Hunter	
Website	Diane Shreve (created) and Hal C. F. Astell (running)	

