

WESTERCON 57 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The business meeting of the 57th West Coast Science Fantasy Conference was held in the Aztec B Room of the Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ, on Saturday, July 3rd, 2004. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM, Ed Green presiding, Brett Achorn serving as Secretary, and Ben Yalow serving as Parliamentarian.

No attendance list was circulated. A simple count showed that a quorum was present.

2. Committee Reports

There were no committees created or continued by Westercon 56.

There was a presentation by the San Diego in 2006 Westercon Bid.

3. Pending Bylaws Amendments

3.1. Membership Number Usage

The pending bylaw amendment was up for ratification:

Moved, To amend section 1.4 of the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ and inserting text as shown, for the purpose of clarifying the intent of the membership number requirements.

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 a membership. This number shall ~~be printed on the label of all progress reports~~ 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....

Kevin Standlee spoke in favor of the amendment.

No one spoke against the amendment.

Amendment was ratified on a vote of 23-0, and will be added to the Bylaws at the end of Westercon 57.

3.2. North-South Rotation

The pending bylaw amendment was up for ratification:

Moved, To amend the Westercon Bylaws by adding a provision to Section 3.2 to clarify that the exclusion zone around the administering convention site still applies when no eligible bid from the current zone files by January 1 of the current year.

3.2 North-South Rotation

Only sites north of the 37th north parallel shall be eligible in odd-numbered years, and only sites south of that parallel shall be eligible in even-numbered years. 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, except as provided in section 3.3.

No one spoke for or against the amendment.

Amendment was ratified on a voted of many-0, and will be added to the Bylaws at the end of Westercon 57.

3.3. Site Selection, Filing Clarification

The pending bylaw amendment was up for ratification:

Moved, To amend the Westercon Bylaws by adding a word to clarify that the administrators need only consider filing paperwork from eligible bids, as follows.

3.5 Filing Deadline for Ballot

Only those eligible bids whose filing paperwork required by section 3.4 is in the possession of the administering Westercon by the April 15th preceding the balloting shall be listed on the ballot.

No one spoke for or against the amendment.

Amendment was ratified on a voted of many-0, and will be added to the Bylaws at the end of Westercon 57.

3.4. Westercon Eligibility. Australia

The pending bylaw amendment was up for ratification:

Moved, To amend the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ the provision in Section 3.1 regarding Australia and to implement the revised wording contemplated in the provision:

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.”

Mr. Lorentz spoke in favor of ratifying the amendment.

Mr. Siladi spoke against ratifying the amendment.

Ratification failed on a serpentine vote of 16-18.

4. New Business

4.1. Westercon Rotation

Mr. Standlee introduced the following Bylaw amendment:

4.1.1. Short Title: Anti-Zone

Moved, To amend portions of Article 3 of the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ and inserting text as shown, for the purpose of modifying the site rotation scheme to a system where, generally speaking, only sites not in the zone currently hosting the Westercon are eligible.

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. [...]

3.2 North-South Rotation

~~Only sites north of the 37th north parallel shall be eligible in odd-numbered years, and only sites south of that parallel shall be eligible in even-numbered years. 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, except as provided in section 3.3.~~

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 Exclusion Zone

No site within ~~seventy-five (75) miles of~~ the Site Selection Zone containing the site of the Westercon administering the site-selection shall be eligible to bid, except as provided in section 3.6

Submitted by: Kevin Standlee, James Briggs, Michael Siladi, James Stanley Daugherty, Christian McGuire, Bobbie DuFault.

Mr. Standlee spoke on the intent of the motion. The maker's argument attached to the proposal read as follows:

Comments: This amendment would replace the current north-south rotation of Westercons with a multi-zone system, with any site not in the same zone as the zone administering the site selection eligible. For example, if Westercon were in Phoenix, sites in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Pacific Northwest would be eligible. If Westercon were in San José, sites in Southern California and the Pacific Northwest would be eligible. If Westercon were in Portland, sites anywhere in California would be eligible. (This list of examples is not exhaustive, but illustrative.)

The Other zone would consist of Australia should the pending bylaw amendment making Westercon eligible to be held there receive ratification. Should the proposal not be ratified, then the Other zone would have no locations in it barring the occurrence of certain extremely unlikely events.

The current dividing line between the North and South rotation zones is 37 degrees north (the northern boundary of Arizona and New Mexico), which runs about 30 miles south of San José, California, near Gilroy. The cities of Fresno and Monterey are both in the existing South zone, although in Fresno's case it appears that the specific site within the city would be significant in determining the zone location. This proposal would modify the South zone by moving the dividing line within California south to the northern boundary of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino counties (approximately 35°30' north), and by including Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas) in the South zone. A new Central zone would be created out of the rest of California, the rest of Nevada, and those points east that were part of the previous North zone. The North zone would be the remainder of the previous North zone.

Substantially, this creates a new Central zone consisting of the Monterey, San Francisco-Oakland-San José, Fresno, and Sacramento areas, extending eastward to approximately Denver, while leaving the previous two zones otherwise mostly unchanged. It further provides that instead of sites being selected from the same zone in which the site selection occurs (the substantive impact of the current situation), the zone holding the Westercon would be ineligible, and only sites from the other three zones would be eligible. A zone could never "capture" the Westercon, because it would always have to select a successor from one of the other zones.

The current north-south zone rotation has effectively squeezed out Northern and Central California. Under the current system, Westercons in the North zone select the next North zone Westercon. Sites in California are generally perceived to be excessively far away from sites anywhere in the Pacific Northwest and give an undue advantage to all other Pacific Northwest sites. As Mike Glycer wrote in File 770, this means that Westercons are spending increasingly longer times away from their "historical roots" in the Bay Area and Los Angeles areas, and we partially attribute the generally shrinking membership of Westercon to this trend.

The makers of this motion acknowledge the complexity of defining locations by county boundaries and by "anti-zone" methods, but believe that this method increases fairness by giving sites in the central section of the Westercon territory a better opportunity to be selected. This proposal should also increase the number of Westercon bids, by increasing the area eligible to bid for a Westercon in any given year.

Mr. Standlee immediately moved to amend the "Anti-Zone" plan by substitution:

4.1.2. Short Title: California and Nevada South

The following is moved as an amendment by substitution to "Anti-Zone" proposal. The makers of the motion suggest that the Business Meeting choose between the two options, then vote on the version that survives that process.

Moved, To amend portions of Article 3 of the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ and inserting text as shown, for the purpose of modifying the site rotation scheme to make all of California and Nevada part of the Southern rotation zone.

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. [...]

3.2 North-South Rotation

Only sites north of the 37th north parallel and not in California or Nevada shall be eligible in odd-numbered years, and only sites south of that parallel or in California or Nevada shall be eligible in even-numbered years. 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, except as provided in section 3.3.

Submitted by: Kevin Standlee, James Briggs, Michael Siladi, James Stanley Daugherty, Christian McGuire, Bobbie DuFault.

Comments: The current version of Westercon site selection rotation dates from amendments passed at the 1987 Westercon in Oakland, where the previous scheme that involved Westercons not being held in the same major metropolitan area more often than once every three years was replaced with a north-south rotation. Somewhat ironically, no site in the Bay Area has won a Westercon since 1987, despite repeated attempts by several different groups. Some may say this just means the Bay Area is unpopular, but the makers of this motion believe there is a structural inequity that is hurting Westercon and that we must address.

This proposal attempts to address the same inequity discussed in the "Anti-Zone" proposal, but does so somewhat more simplistically, by adding all of California (as opposed to only those portions south of 37° north) to the existing South zone. Currently, sites in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento are part of the North zone, and compete against sites in the Pacific Northwest. The makers of the motion suggest that there is so much geographic bias built into the current rotation scheme that a bid from Northern California is at a decided disadvantage against any competition from the Pacific Northwest whenever the election is taking place anywhere north of California.

This proposal is considerably simpler than "Anti-Zone," but the makers do believe that Anti-Zone is more equitable. The Business Meeting needs to decide whether they prefer equity or simplicity in the Westercon site selection process.

On a Point of Inquiry the Parliamentarian ruled this was the proper form for introducing two incompatible proposals.

Mr. Kovalcik spoke in favor of the California & Nevada South amendment ("the substitute").

Mr. Standlee spoke against the substitute and in favor of the original motion, as it will increase the number of eligible sites.

Mr. Lorentz spoke in favor of the substitute, contending that geographic bias is not as prevalent as the amendment supposes.

A motion for previous question (which would have closed debate on the proposed substitute) failed.

Ms. Sbarsky spoke against the substitute as the original proposal allows more locations to be eligible.

Mr. Lorentz spoke in favor of the substitute as half the geography could be left out in a South-Central rotation permitted in the original motion.

Mr. Exline spoke against the substitute.

Mr. Molina spoke in favor of the substitute, as people would be voting for a more local convention, thereby increasing interest.

Ms. Hayes spoke against the substitute, as the original motion would encourage Westercon to travel.

Mr. McGuire spoke against the substitute, as he didn't see a change in participants likely to come from the amendment.

Ms. Childress spoke against the substitute to prevent Southern California committee burn-out by encouraging Westercon to travel more

Mr. Daugherty spoke against the substitute.

The amendment by substitution ("California & Nevada South") failed on a vote of 5-many.

Mr. Lorentz moved to amend by substitution as follows:

4.1.3. Short Title: No-Zone

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. [...]

~~3.2 North-South Rotation~~

~~Only sites north of the 37th north parallel shall be eligible in odd-numbered years, and only sites south of that parallel shall be eligible in even-numbered years. 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, except as provided in section 3.3.~~

~~3.3~~ 3.2 Exclusion Zone

No site within ~~seventy five (75)~~ two hundred (200) miles of the site of the Westercon administering the site-selection shall be eligible to bid, except as provided in section 3.6.

Mr. Lorentz spoke to the intent of the motion, stating it would effectively put Westercon on a no-zone rotation.

Mr. Siladi moved to strike out “200 miles” and insert “500 miles”.

Mr. Beckstead moved as a Question of Privilege that the Assembly obtain a map to measure distances. Motion failed.

The business meeting recessed at 12:17 PM and reconvened at 12:32PM.

Ms. Sbarsky moved to suspend the rules to permit an amendment of the Lorentz motion to replace 200 miles with a blank. Motion failed a serpentine vote of 18-16 (2/3 required).

Mr. Standlee moved the previous question on the immediate pending amendment (Mr. Siladi’s 500 mile amendment): the motion for the previous question passed many-1. The amendment to strike 200 and insert 500 failed on an uncounted show of hands.

Mr. Briggs moved the previous question on the immediate pending amendment (Mr. Lorentz’s “No-Zone” amendment): the motion for the previous question passed many-1.

The “No Zone” amendment failed on a serpentine vote of 9-18.

Mr. McGuire moved the previous question on the base proposal (Anti-Zone). The motion for the previous question passed, 32-2. The Anti-Zone bylaw amendment passed, 33-6 on a serpentine vote.

The Anti-Zone amendment is passed on to Westercon 58 for ratification and is restated here:

Short Title: Anti-Zone

Moved, To amend portions of Article 3 of the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ and inserting text as shown, for the purpose of modifying the site rotation scheme to a system where, generally speaking, only sites not in the zone currently hosting the Westercon are eligible.

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

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No site within ~~seventy-five (75) miles of~~ the Site Selection Zone containing the site of the Westercon administering the site-selection shall be eligible to bid, except as provided in section 3.6

5. Announcements

5.1 Parliamentarily Speaking

The Parliamentarian suggested that any proposed amendment to the “Anti-Zone” proposal at Westercon 58 be ruled out of order by the next year’s presiding officer.

5.2 Site Selection Business

Site selection business will be conducted at the Site Selection Business Meeting in the Kiva West room at the Wigwam Resort, 11:30 AM, July 4th, 2004.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM, scheduled to reconvene at the Site Selection Business meeting on the following day.

Brett Achorn
Secretary

WESTERCON 57 SITE SELECTION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Site Selection business meeting of the 57th West Coast Science Fantasy Conference was held in the Kiva West Room of the Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ, on Sunday, July 4th, 2004. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM, Ed Green presiding, Brett Achorn serving as Secretary, and Ben Yalow serving as Parliamentarian.

No attendance list was circulated. A simple count showed that a quorum was present.

2. Committee Reports

There were no committees to report.

3. Pending Bylaws Amendments

All pending amendments were disposed of in the previous session.

4. New Business

All new business was disposed of in the previous session.

5. Announcements

5.1 Site Selection Business

The Site Selection Administrator was not immediately present. A motion to lay Site Selection business on the table passed on a vote by show of hands.

Mr. Standlee inquired of Mr. Briggs if he had observed anything of interest during the Site Selection period.

Mr. Briggs averred that he had and wished it noted this was yet another bit of Site Selection business he was compelled to perform for Westercon 57.

Mr. Briggs reported his observation of approximately 165 votes cast. The subtotals were:

No Preference	3
San Diego	147
None of the Above	7
Write In	8 unique locations.

The write-in votes were reported by various people as “Coober Pedy”, “Gila Bend”, “San Jose”, “Roswell”, “Mystery Spot”, “My House”, “Ididacon”, and “Watsonville, TX”

Mr. Standlee rose to observe that the Westercon Site Selection Business Meeting is not required to certify the Site Selection results, and moved that San Diego in 2006 give the report that they would have given had

the Site Selection Administrator been present. The motion failed for lack of a second, as the Site Selection Administrator at last appeared.

A motion to take the Site Selection business from the table passed by unanimous consent.

The Site Selection Administrator, David Hungerford, III, reported that 167 individuals paid voting fees. Of those, 165 votes were cast. The vote tally was:

San Diego 2006	147
Chico	1
Crawford	1
Ididacon	1
Both	1
“My House”	1
San Jose	1
Roswell	1
Gila Bend	1
None of the Above	7
Total With Preference	162
Needed to Elect (Majority)	82
No Preference	3
Total Ballots	165

San Diego was named as the winner of the site selection.

A question was raised regarding record-keeping for the two individuals who paid to vote but may not have been credited, as they cast no ballot. Mr. Briggs reported that, per Ms. Pelz, the correct number of forms vs. payments were received (167), so everyone was accounted for.

A motion by Mr. Standlee to have the ballots destroyed passed without objection.

Mr. Briggs, on behalf of the San Diego in 2006 committee made the presentation for Westercon 59, “Conzilla.”

Summary

Dates: July 1-4, 2006
Chair: James M. Briggs
Treasurer: Gregg Q. Reynante
Guest of Honor: Walter Jon Williams
Artist Guest: Bob Eggleton
Fan Guest: Bobbi Armbruster
Toastmaster: Kevin J. Anderson

Membership Fees

presupporters who voted \$0 (attending)
presupporters who didn't vote \$20 (supporting)
presupporters who didn't vote \$35 (attending)

voters who didn't presupport	\$0 (supporting)
voters who didn't presupport	\$20 (attending)
new memberships	\$30 (supporting)
new memberships	\$45 (attending)
children	\$25

6. Adjournment

On a motion from Mr. Standlee, the meeting adjourned *sine die* at 11:51 AM.

Brett Achorn
Secretary