

2008 Westercon Business Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Business Meeting of the 60th West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon 61) was held in the Cataluna Room of the JW Marriott Resort Hotel, Las Vegas NV on Friday, July 4, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 11:34 AM, Ed Green presiding and Kevin Standlee recording. An attendance list was circulated and the list of persons attending the meeting is included as an appendix to the minutes. 19 people attended. The quorum for regular business is 15 members of the convention.

The Chair spoke on the death of Roberta "Bert" Carlson, who died in a traffic accident on her way to Westercon. Without objection, today's meeting will adjourn in her memory.

2. Committee Reports

There were no committees created or continued by Westercon 60.

3. Pending Bylaw Amendments

The following amendment was passed at Westercon 60 and will become part of the Bylaws if ratified at Westercon 61.

3.1. 75-Mile Rule

Moved, To amend the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ and inserting text as shown, for the purpose of providing for a 75-mile exclusion zone around the administering Westercon in all cases except when the selection is made by the Business Meeting or by LASFS:

1. Amend section 3.3 as follows:

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 ~~section 3.6~~ 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, ~~except sites within seventy five (75) miles of the site of the Westercon administering the site selection~~ subject to the provisions of section 3.x.

2. Add a new section after existing 3.3:

3.x Local Exclusion Zone

No site within 75 miles of the Westercon administering the site-selection election shall be eligible to bid, except as provided in section 3.17.

3. Strike out the second sentence of section 3.5, because its provisions are incorporated into the second sentence of section 3.3:

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. ~~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.~~

4. Strike out section 3.6, because its provisions are incorporated into the second sentence of section 3.3:

3.6 Provisions When No Eligible Bids Are Received

~~If no eligible bids are received by January 1st of the year of the site selection balloting, then all sites defined in section 3.1 shall be eligible and the other site location restrictions in this article shall be suspended.~~

[There is an analysis of the effect of this motion in the minutes of the Westercon 60 Business Meeting. This analysis was included with the agenda for this meeting.]

Mr. Yalow spoke in favor, explaining that this mainly cleans up redundant wording.

Mr. Daugherty spoke against, on the grounds that it cleans up language that shouldn't be cleaned up, for he is opposed to the existence of a 75-mile exclusion zone at all. He plans to move an amendment getting rid of the 75-miles zone entirely.

Mr. McGuire spoke against, asking why an exclusion zone is even necessary. He yielded to Mr. Yalow, who explained the interaction of the January 1 and April 15 deadlines. During the Jan 1-Apr 15 deadlines, there is less "panic" over sites and therefore the 75-mile rule should still apply.

[The Secretary observes that this proposal actually doesn't directly deal with the January 1 – April 15 period. What it does do is extend the 75-mile exclusion zone into the adjacent zone in those rare cases where the host site is near a region boundary. It was repeatedly observed that there are unlikely to be any pairs of sites that would ever mutually-exclude each other, due to the lack of likely host cities near region boundaries.]

Vote by counted show of hands' passes 8-4.

[The Secretary has moved the old section 3.4 (Filing Requirements) to follow section 3.5 (Filing Deadline for Ballot) and renumbered sections accordingly. This reordering was done to keep the sections dealing with filing deadlines and exclusion zones (3.3-3.5 inclusive) contiguous and presented in a logical order.]

4. New Business

Bylaws amendments passed by the Westercon 61 Business Meeting will be passed on to next year's Westercon for ratification.

Mr. Daugherty moved to strike out the new section 3.x and therefore eliminate the 75-mile exclusion zone and make other necessary housekeeping changes.

The Chair expressed concern over what he described as "parliamentary hand-waving" and would prefer a specifically-worded proposal, possibly at the Sunday meeting.

Mr. Yalow moved to refer the proposal to a committee to report back next year with specific wording.

Mr. Yalow spoke in favor of sending to committee. Working out wording on the floor is a bad idea. We could either send it to Sunday or next year via committee, or kill it entirely. Sending it to next year is possibly the most painless method, and there are no known bids near region boundaries that could be impacted by this. We should be fine waiting another year.

Mr. Daugherty, opposing referral to a committee to report next year, said he would prefer to deal with the issue this year and suggested that we reconsider the just-passed proposal instead.

Motion to refer to committee passed 7-4. The Chair appointed Mr. Standlee (Chair), Mr. Yalow, Mr. Daugherty, and Mr. McGuire to the committee.

5. Announcements

The Chair announced that unless there was a specific need to do so, there would be no Site Selection business meeting. (Under the Westercon Bylaws, the results of the site-selection election need not be formally reported to the Business Meeting and can be simply announced by other means unless a Site Selection business meeting is required.) Please refer to the Sunday morning newsletter for announcements.

Secretary's Note: A Site Selection business meeting proved not to be required. The results of the site-selection election were subsequently announced by the administrator, Mr. Green, as follows. (Pre-con and at-con votes were not reported separately.)

Pasadena: 92

Write-ins:

"Kevin Standlee's Pants": 9

IditiCon: 2

Tonopah NV: 2

Both: 1

Tahoe NV: 1

None of the Above: 1

Total With Preference: 109

No Preference: 4

Total Ballots: 113

Needed to Elect (majority of ballots with preference): 55

Pasadena was therefore elected and will hold Westercon 63 under the name "ConFirmation." (<http://www.westercon63.org/>) The results were sent to the convention's newsletter; however, due to a production error, the newsletter was not published at the con. No Site Selection business meeting was held.

The Site Selection administrator thanked Sharon Sbarsky and Sheri Benoun for their help.

Mr. Wilmoth announced a Westercon 62 party this evening.

Mr. Daugherty asked whether site selection will be open though Saturday (yes).

Mr. McGuire formally announced the bid for Pasadena in 2010.

Mr. Glazer formally announced the bid for San Jose in 2011.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM in memory of Roberta "Bert" Carlson.

Kevin Standlee
Secretary
Westercon 61 Business Meeting

Appendix: Attendance List

The following people signed the attendance list or were observed to be present at the meeting:

Bobbi Armbruster, Judith Bemis, Blars, Kent Bloom, Shari Curtis, James Daugherty, Steve Francis, Sue Francis, Glenn Glazer, Edward L. Green, Lisa Hayes, Carol Kern, Christian B. McGuire, Linda Ross-Mansfield, Sharon Sbarsky, Eric P. Scott, Kevin Standlee, Mike Willmoth, Ben Yalow.