

AGENDA

Business Meeting of Westercon 71

A. Call to Order

B. Committee Reports

C. New Business

C.1 Short Title: Membership Numbers

Moved, to amend Section 1.4 of the Westercon Bylaws by [inserting](#) wording to clarify that membership numbers are not considered confidential information and can be revealed by the convention committee.

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. [Membership numbers shall not be considered confidential information. Should a committee list the convention's members in their progress reports, program book, web site, or other public settings, the members' membership numbers should be included, space permitting.](#) 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.

Moved by: Billy Van Ark, Nikki Ebright

Commentary: Several people commented/complained that Westercon 71 did not put membership numbers on our website or other public place. The Westercon 71 Committee was operating under the belief that since the combination of name and membership number is the only thing needed to cast a site selection vote, and since the name is public, the membership number should be kept private until after mail-in site selection has closed. This proposal clarifies the status of members' membership numbers. If the Business Meeting wishes to declare that membership numbers should be considered confidential, the makers propose the following substitute in place of the proposed wording:

[Membership numbers shall be considered confidential information until the deadline for voting by mail in Site Selection. Should a committee list the convention's members in their progress reports, web site, or other public settings, the members' membership numbers should not be included.](#)

C.2 Short Title: Defining “First Full Day”

Moved, to amend Section 3.12 of the Westercon Bylaws by inserting wording to clarify what the “First Full Day” of Westercon is for Site Selection purposes.

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. The first full day of the convention is the latter of (a) the first day that the convention has scheduled programming starting before and after Noon or (b) the day on which the convention has an Opening Ceremonies or a reasonable equivalent, if there is such an event.

Moved by: Billy Van Ark, Nikki Ebright

Commentary: Westercon 71 was hosted on a year where July 4th is a Wednesday. The committee wanted to include Saturday and Sunday in the event, so the committee opted to host the convention the 5th through 8th, and do light “Day 0” programming on the 4th. There was some confusion/disagreement about which day was the “first full day” of the convention (Thursday or Friday). This definition should help set expectations.

C.3 Short Title: Bidders at Site Selection Table

Moved, to amend Section 3.13 of the Westercon Bylaws by inserting wording to clarify that bidders are expected to provide observers for the Site Selection table for at-convention voting.

Site-selection shall be open for at least six (6) hours between the hours of 11 a.m. 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. Each eligible bid committee shall provide at least one (1) observer for on-site balloting. 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 a.m. and Midnight on the next-to-last day of the administering Westercon.

Moved by: Billy Van Ark, Nikki Ebright

Commentary: It is traditional and expected that the site-selection table at a Westercon should have both the site selection administrator and a representative of each bidding committee present. That way they can watch over the voting process, but also watch over each other. However, the bylaws only suggest a bid committee representative be present at the Verification of Ballots (for mail-in ballots) and Counting of Ballots. This proposal codifies the existing practice of having bidders help staff the at-convention Site Selection table.

C.4 Short Title: Westercon for All North America

Moved, to amend various sections of the Westercon Bylaws by ~~striking out~~ and inserting wording to make any location in North America or Hawaii eligible to host a Westercon and to change the “exclusion” system from geographic zones to a defined distance from the site hosting the site selection election.

1. Modify Section 3.1 to redefine Westercon's scope so that it can be held anywhere in North America (as hereafter defined), and remove the contingent wording regarding Australia.

3.1 Eligibility of Sites

Any site ~~on the North American continent west of the 104th west meridian, or in the state of Hawaii,~~ in North America as defined in these bylaws 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."~~

2. Replace existing Section 3.2 to remove the geographic site selection zones, to define North America as including Hawaii as part of "North America" for site selection purposes even though is not part of the continent of North America, and to exclude U.S. territories such as Guam and American Samoa that are not part of the continent of North America. While U.S. territories in the Caribbean are included implicitly, they are also explicitly declared to reduce confusion. Other places that might be considered part of the continent of North America not listed here (such as Greenland, or parts of Iceland) are not considered part of "North America" for site selection purposes.

3.2 ~~Site Selection Zones~~ North America

~~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.~~

For the purposes of these bylaws, North America is defined as:

(a) Canada;

(b) The United States of America, including Hawaii, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, but not including any other U.S. territories not part of a state or territory listed in this section;

(c) Mexico;

(d) All countries in Central America;

(e) The islands of the Caribbean;

(f) St. Pierre et Miquelon;

(g) Bermuda;

(h) The Bahamas.

3. Modify Section 3.3 to replace the existing regional exclusion zone with an exclusion zone centered on the site of the convention hosting the site selection election and based on distance.

3.3 Regional Exclusion Zone

No site within ~~the Site Selection Zone containing~~ five hundred (500) miles or eight hundred (800) kilometers of 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.

Moved by: Nikki Ebright, Billy Van Ark, Pablo Vazquez

Commentary: When Worldcon and Westercon were first established, travel was much more costly and difficult. In today's world, it is not unlikely to find fans interested in traveling to not only Westercon but also Worldcon, and on years Worldcon is outside the U.S., to NASFiC as well. On those years, it means there are three conventions for people to choose among, often leaving people to choose between NASFiC and Westercon. NASFiC and Westercon also compete for guests, panelists, and members, diluting both conventions. We also recognize that the world is getting smaller and people from beyond the Western region of the U.S. come to Westercon.

We propose to widen the boundaries of eligible sites for Westercon and choose to reflect those similar to NASFiC. This would allow Westercon and NASFiC to be co-hosted more easily (and thus reduce the competition for guests and other members); it reflects the wider nature that Westercon is already drawing from (Westercon 71 has members from over 10 states east of our current line); and it allows Westercon to reach all of the western hemisphere, which is more in line with modern transportation and interests.

D. Site Selection Results

E. Adjournment