

Business Meeting Minutes of Westercon 73

A. Call to Order

The Business Meeting of the 73rd West Coast Science Fantasy Conference (Westercon) was called to order at 11:31 a.m. on Saturday, November 27, 2021, in California Room 4 at the Marriott Hotel Los Angeles Airport. A quorum was present. The meeting officers were Kevin Standlee, Chairperson; Linda Deneroff, Secretary; and Lisa Hayes, Videographer.

Inasmuch as Westercon 73 was combined with Loscon 47, members of one or both conventions were voting members of Westercon for purposes of this meeting.

B. Site Selection Results

Linda Deneroff announced the results of the site selection election. There were no mail in ballots. Ms. Deneroff announced that 15 votes were cast.

Candidate	1st Round	2nd Round	
Anchorage, AK	1	0	
Los Vegas, NV	1	0	
Los Angeles LA Marriott Hotel	1	0	
Tonopah, NV	1	0	
None of the Above	2	2	WINNER
Total With Preference	6	2	
Needed to Elect (Majority)	4	2	
No preference	9	4	
Total votes cast	15	15	15

With 15 votes cast, Ms. Deneroff declared that None of the Above was the winner. A motion was made to thank the tellers and to instruct them to destroy the ballots, and the assembly agreed by acclamation. With no winning bid, site selection was thrown open to the Business Meeting.

The Westercon bylaws have specific rules for such a contingency. Section 3.16 states:

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 that 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 3.1.¹

¹ Westercon must be somewhere in North America west of 104°W or in Hawaii.

Effectively, the business meeting was not selecting a site; it was selecting a committee to determine a site by a three-fourths vote. The chair recommended going into a Committee of the Whole in order to more informally discuss this and either come up with a recommendation or move to rise and report, as a committee, back to the Business Meeting—after which the Business Meeting could, by a three-fourths vote, choose a site, or by a majority vote throw the decision to LASFS.

Without objection, a Committee of the Whole was convened, and Ben Yalow was appointed chair. The notes of that meeting are in a separate report.

With the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole, the meeting reconvened at 11:59 a.m. Ben Yalow reported that the Committee of the Whole recommended:

- 1) Accepting a bid made by Kevin Standlee and Lisa Hayes and others they may recruit to find a location in which to hold Westercon 75; and
- 2) Changing Section 3.16 to reduce the percentage of votes from three-fourths vote to two-thirds for selecting a site.

Even though Mr. Standlee was a party to these motions, there was no objection to him continuing to preside. There was no debate. With a more than three-fourths of the assembly in favor, the motion to create the Standlee-Hayes committee to find a site for Westercon 75 was adopted.

Mr. Standlee also announced that, while some monies were collected as required for the site selection vote, no further monies will be accepted, and the money will be held in trust until such time.

The other recommendation of the Committee of the Whole was to amend Section 3.16 of the bylaws by striking out “three-fourths (3/4)” and replacing it with “two-thirds (2/3)”.

Rick Kovalcik spoke in favor of the motion. While it was not a problem this year, when faced with a similar vote ten years ago, it was an issue, and Mr. Kovalcik felt a vote of two thirds of the Business Meeting attendees was sufficient. Without objection, the first reading of this amendment was adopted and will be passed on to Westercon 74 for ratification.

C. Adjournment

With no further business, the Westercon 73 Business Meeting adjourned *sine die* at 12:06 p.m.

Linda Deneroff
Business Meeting Secretary