

Minutes of Westercon 77 Business Meeting

July 6, 2025

The Westercon 77 Business Meeting was called to order in the Ponderosa Room at 11:34 a.m. PDT on July 6, 2025, at the Marriott Hotel Santa Clara, California. With a quorum present, Martin Pyne presided, Linda Deneroff was secretary, and Kayla Allen was videographer. The camera equipment was provided by Lisa Hayes.

SITE SELECTION REPORT

The first order of business was site selection. With a total of 37 ballots cast, Santa Clara was declared the winner. The breakdown was as follows:

Candidate	Votes	
Santa Clara in 2027	20	Winner
Write Ins:		
Tokyo Disneyland	8	
Fruitvale	1	
Haines-in-2021	1	
Tonopah	1	
None of the Above	5	
Total With Preference	36	
Needed to Elect (Majority)	19	
No Preference	1	
Total Ballots Cast	37	

There were no over- or under-votes, though we took in \$40 more than ballots because two people became supporting members of the current Baycon/Westercon when they voted.

Without objection, the presiding officer thanked the site selection administrator and directed the ballots to be destroyed. Westercon 79 will again be in Santa Clara at Baycon. Robin Vasilakos will be the chair of next year's Westercon/Baycon and welcomed everyone to attend. However, the chair for 2027 had not yet been chosen.

OLD BUSINESS

The next item of business was ratification of the pending bylaw amendment passed at Westercon 76 to remove date restrictions.

C.1 Remove Date Restriction

Moved, to revise the originally deleted section 1.1 and divide it into two sentences because two different thoughts were being expressed in a single sentence.

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.~~

1.1.1 Name. The name of this convention is Westercon (the West Coast Science Fiction Fantasy Conference).

1.1.2 Date. It is suggested, but not obligatory, that Westercon take place during the months of May, June, and/or July.

Commentary: The Westercon 76 Business Meeting ratified the original amendment to delete Section 1.1 to remove the traditional July 4 date. However, this also removed the only place where the convention is formally named. After much debate, it was decided to suggest that Westercon be held in May, June or July, but this still left the problem of naming the convention as part of that sentence. It was suggested that the sentence be split in two because two different thoughts were being expressed, and that motion carried.

There was no discussion, and Cliff Dunn called the question. Without objection the question was called. Then with unanimous consent, the amendment passed.

NEW BUSINESS

The last order of business was to discuss retiring Westercon.

D.1 Retire Westercon

Moved, to repeal the Westercon Bylaws.

Provided, that any Westercon selected under the current Bylaws at the conclusion of the Westercon where this motion is ratified shall be held and such Westercons shall be bound by those portions of Article 1 applicable to the convention. Such Westercons shall not conduct a Business Meeting or a Site Selection.

Proposed by: Kayla Allen, Linda Deneroff

Commentary: If the consensus is that Westercon no longer has a purpose and should be retired, the most orderly way to do so would be for the members of Westercon to vote

to repeal its own bylaws. This would have the effect of “handing in the charter” to the owner of the Westercon service mark, LASFS. The LASFS could then decide what it wanted to do with Westercon, which could include abandoning the service mark so that anyone who wished to do so could hold their own convention under the name “Westercon.”

Amendments to the Bylaws take effect as of the end of the Westercon where they are ratified. A motion to Repeal the Bylaws is similar to an amendment; therefore, if this motion is passed by the Westercon 77 Business Meeting in 2025 and ratified by the Westercon 78 Business Meeting in 2026, the Bylaws are repealed as of the end of Westercon 78. However, this motion provides that should sites be selected for Westercon 79 and 80, those two conventions will still be held, but they will not conduct Site Selection nor host a Business Meeting. As of the conclusion of Westercon 80, there will be no future sites selected for Westercon. LASFS, as owner of the Westercon service mark, could decide what to do with the name. They could abandon it, sell it, form a new convention, apply it to an existing convention, or otherwise dispose of it as they wish.

Discussion:

Kayla Allen believed there is no one with more love for Westercon than she and her brother Kevin, but she felt the time has come and gone to retire it. It has been increasingly difficult to find a group to even bid. This was the first time in three years a group was on the ballot, and there were at least 2 Westercons that defaulted, with LASFS¹ making provisions to hold them in conjunction with Loscon.

Missing are people points to run a Westercon, not money or sites. No one is coming forward to bid. If no one bids, then the business meeting and LASFS have to try and pick up the pieces. This motion proposes, as a courtesy to its memory and almost 80-year history, to plan for an orderly shutdown of the convention. Should the motion pass, it would have to be ratified next year. Once ratified, there would still be at least two Westercons (nos. 79 and 80). Westercon 79 is now seated, and Westercon 80 would be the last Westercon. Personally Ms. Allen felt the thing to do would be to ask LASFS to host the final Westercon as a “retirement party” since the convention was founded by LASFS in 1948. She encouraged everyone to vote in favor of this motion “not because you dislike Westercon, but because you respect it.”

Lisa Deutsch Harrigan spoke against the motion. She was the chair of Westercon 40 and worked hard to support all Westercons and would hate to see it end.

¹ The owner of the Westercon service mark.

Linda Robinette spoke in favor. Baycon is a similar type of convention, with the same kinds of events as a regular Westercon: movies, panels, masquerade, art show, so if/when Westercon ends, there would still be a large general convention in this area. While she loves Westercon, she would reluctantly vote yes to retire it.

Cliff Dunn said that until the last six or seven months, he would have let Westercon go away. But with some of the stuff surrounding Worldcon and with the amount of [Worldcon] business meeting fandom here at Westercon, he would favor Westercon continuing, even as a smoffish first virtual business meeting party within another convention. It might require “playing chase the [Worldcon] business meeting” but that would be a decent purpose for a module to be built of this size.

Ben Yalow, who has been to more Westercons than anyone else over 50 years, spoke in favor of the motion. Westercon, he noted, has played an important role for decades. The 2000-person Westercons were a gathering of all West Coast fandom and were marvelous, but that isn’t where we are now. He noted that it was vital when it was formed because there weren’t a lot of West Coast conventions. In the Northwest, many conventions were founded after the successful 1977 Vancouver Westercon. But today, there are other alternatives that have grown and succeeded, and the need for Westercon has faded, replaced by regional conventions. Southern fandom has a strong regional identity, but the West Coast never developed a West Coast identity. That makes it hard to keep a con going when there are so many other alternatives. Westercon is no longer a gathering of people with a regional identity. So while he hated to see Westercon go and wished it were otherwise, he felt the time has come to end it.

Michael Siladi (he/him) also spoke in favor. He chaired Westercon 60 as well as numerous Baycons. Baycon was founded because the group loved working on Westercon. But with the explosion of dedicated conventions and regional conventions – Moscon, Baycon, Norwescon and others—the fact we cannot seem inspire people to bid independently for a Westercon says its time has passed, and he encouraged everyone to vote in favor.

Jim Manning has also attended a number of Westercons. He saw it as a way to encourage people to be aware of science fiction. Through its website it developed people awareness and provided information, but over the last ten years the outreach has been dwindling. This Baycon/Westercon didn’t get its [program on the] website up until this week. That’s a problem because it doesn’t provide the needed information when one is travelling over 2,000 miles to attend. If there isn’t enough outreach from the convention, even to its committee, one loses confidence that the convention will

happen. Therefore, he felt, regardless of whether Westercon continues, we need to encourage conventions to provide information at least a month in advance.

By a vote of many to 4 the motion carried.

Lisa Deutsch Harrigan, then moved to have the Westercon website continue for historical reasons, and was seconded by Cliff Dunn.

Resolved, it is the sense of the business meeting that the Westercon website be continued, despite the potential ending of the convention.

Linda Deneroff asked Kayla Allen if there was any reason the westercon.org website could not continue. Ms. Allen said the website is hosted and paid for by SFSFC.org, not LASFS, and therefore it was extremely likely for as long as SFSFC is in existence that westercon.org could be maintained.

Ms. Harrigan withdrew the motion before it could be seconded,² and she will bring it up again next year.

Cliff Dunn moved the creation of a committee to propose resolutions to next year's Westercon business meeting in conjunction with its potential wrap-up. There is at least one item that will be workshopped and there may be other things to be considered in conjunction with the closure. Mr. Dunn will chair the committee.

Ms. Harrigan thought this was a very smart idea.

With no objection, the committee was formed and will consist of Cliff Dunn, Kayla Allen, Lisa Deutsch Harrigan, with additional members to be named by Cliff. A signup sheet will be created for those wanting to join.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. PDT.

² The presiding officer incorrectly said that the motion could not have been seconded before it was stated by the him, and therefore it was in order for the maker of the motion to withdraw it without leave from the Business Meeting. In fact, the motion was properly seconded; however, it is still permissible for the maker of a motion to withdraw their motion at any time before it is stated by the presiding officer, as was the case here.