

AGENDA

Preliminary WSFS Business Meeting

At AUSSIECON 4

Friday, Sept. 3rd, 2010

1. Committee Reports

Committee reports may include motions. Motions made by committees consisting of more than one person need not be seconded.

1.1. Mark Protection Committee (Including Nominations for MPC)

The Mark Protection Committee will meet, normally sometime on Thursday evening of the convention. A formal report is unlikely to be available until the Saturday Business Meeting at the earliest.

Nominations for the WSFS Mark Protection Committee are in order at the Preliminary Business Meeting. Nominees must submit to the Secretary their written acceptance of their nomination and indicate their current residence zone within one hour of the end of the Preliminary Business Meeting.

The members whose terms of office expire at this Worldcon are: Ben Yalow (East), Kevin Standlee (West), Tim Illingworth (Previously elected from RotW; now living in Central). Due to zone residency restrictions, we can elect at most one person from the Western zone, two from the Central zone, one person from the Eastern zone, and three people from the Rest of the World, but not more than three people overall. Write-in votes are allowed, but write-in candidates must submit their consent to election by the close of balloting. (See the head table staff for a nomination acceptance form.)

Mark Protection Committee members are

Elected 2007, term ending in 2010: Ben Yalow (East), Kevin Standlee (West), Tim Illingworth (RotW);

Elected 2008, term ending in 2011: Stephen Boucher (RoTW), Mark Olson (East), Linda Deneroff (West).

Elected 2009, term ending in 2012: Scott Dennis (Central), Donald Eastlake III (East), Ruth Sachter (West);

Worldcon Representatives: Kent Bloom (Denvention 3), Adrienne Seal (Anticipation), Mark Linneman (Aussiecon 4), Dina Krause (ReConstruction), Ian Stockdale (Renovation).

The Hugo Awards Marketing Committee (HAMC) members are Kevin Standlee (Chair), Grant Kruger, Craig Miller, and Cheryl Morgan. As this is a sub-committee of the MPC their report is made to the MPC Committee.

1.2. Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee

Authority

Standing Rule 7.7: Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee. The Business Meeting shall appoint a Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee. The Committee shall:

- (1) Maintain the list of Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing Effect
- (2) Codify the Customs and Usages of WSFS and of the Business Meeting.

Members

The members of the NPFSC are Don Eastlake, Tim Illingworth, and Kevin Standlee. The committee is willing to serve for another year.

Actions

In accordance with object (1), the committee continues to maintain the list of Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing effect through the WSFS web pages at <http://www.wsfs.org> and will continue to do so to the extent the committee is able to do so. (The 2009 Rulings and Resolutions are attached to this report.) Updating the WSFS web site has proven to be challenging, and we hope that the work of the Worldcon Web Site Task Force comes to fruition this year in a way that makes it easier for us to keep the WSFS papers updated.

Pursuant to BM-2001-1 and subsequent related resolutions, the committee has, once every six months, reminded seated Worldcons of the requirement for legibility of badges, of the Business Meeting's request that Hugo Administrators publicize the list of works published by Best Editor nominees, and of the existence of standard lists of Worldcons and Hugo Awards.

Last year's WSFS Business Meeting instructed this committee "to review the governance and operation of all business meeting committees and include the results of this review in its next report." The Committee regrets to report that it has not completed this task.

Recommendations

The NPFSC recommends the following technical amendment to the WSFS Constitution:

Short Title: Run-Off References

Moved, to amend portions of the WSFS Constitution by inserting text to clarify the relationship of "No Award" and "None of the Above" to the "Run-Off Candidate" rule, as follows:

1. Amend Section 3.11.3:

3.11.3: "No Award" shall be the run-off candidate for the purposes of Section 6.4.

2. Amend Section 4.5.3:

4.5.3: "None of the Above" shall be treated as a bid for tallying, and shall be the run-off candidate for the purposes of Section 6.4.

Discussion: This year's Hugo Award Administrator, Vincent Docherty, approached the NPFSC questioning the way in which section 3.11 is worded, and we determined that previous constitutional revisions may have made it less than obvious that the wording at sections 3.11.3 and 4.5.3 refers to the "Run-Off Candidate" rule at section 6.4. We propose including an explicit cross-reference in both cases to make it more obvious that these sections are related to each other.

1.3. Worldcon Runners' Guide Editorial Committee

The Worldcon Runners' Guide Editorial Committee members are Bill Taylor (Chair), Sharon Sbarsky and any others appointed by the Chair of the committee.

1.4. Hugo Eligibility Rest of the World (HEROW) Committee

The HEROW Committee members are Tim Illingworth (chair), Todd Dashoff, Paul Haggerty, Colin Harris, Saul Jaffe, Perianne Lurie, Jim Mann, Cheryl Morgan, Mark Olson, Kevin Standlee, Gayle Surette, and Ben Yalow.

The HEROW Committee has no report, but submits the following resolutions:

Short Title: This Year's Model

Moved, To extend eligibility for all works that are allowed by a resolution under the following sections of the WSFS Constitution:

3.2.3: The Business Meeting may by a 3/4 vote provide that works originally published outside the United States of America and first published in the United States of America in the current year shall also be eligible for Hugo Awards given in the following year.

3.2.4: A work shall not be eligible if in a prior year it received sufficient nominations to appear on the final award ballot.

This motion extends eligibility for the Hugo Award; therefore, it requires a 3/4 vote.

Moved by: The HEROW Committee

Short Title: Another Year, Another HEROW

Moved, To continue the Hugo Eligibility for the Rest of the World (HEROW) Committee as previously charged, with a Chair and members appointed by the Chair of the Business Meeting, and with the Chair of the HEROW Committee authorized to add additional members to the committee.

Moved by: The HEROW Committee

1.5. Formalization of Long List Entries (FOLLE) Committee

The FOLLE Committee members are Mark Olson (chairman), Craig Miller, David G. Grubbs, Joe Siclari, Kent Bloom, Colin Harris, Richard Lynch, Kevin Standlee, Tim Illingworth, and Ben Yalow

The Long List Committee has continued to curate the Long List of Worldcons and Long List of Hugos. There have been no changes of substance this past year, though we have added some attendance numbers and corrected some others based on improved information.

We are working towards moving the Long List to the WSFS site once it is established. For now, the working site is at <http://www.smofinfo.com/LL/>.

The committee requests that the WSFS BM continue its endorsement of the committee for another year.

2. Worldcon Reports

2.1 Past Conventions

2.1.1. The Millennium Philcon (2001 Worldcon)

2.1.2. L.A. con IV (2006 Worldcon)

2.1.3. Nippon 2007 (2007 Worldcon)

Nippon 2007 reported a net loss to the 2009 WSFS Business Meeting and is therefore not required to submit further reports to WSFS; however, the Chairman of Nippon 2007 stated at the 2009 Business Meeting that Nippon 2007 may wish to present further reports to WSFS.

2.1.4. Denvention 3 (2008 Worldcon) – see attached Financial Report

2.1.5. Anticipation (2009 Worldcon)

2.2. Seated Conventions

2.2.1. ReConstruction (2010 NASFiC)

2.2.2. Aussiecon 4 (2010 Worldcon)

2.2.3. Renovation (2011 Worldcon) – see attached Financial Report

3. Business Passed On from Anticipation

No Constitutional Amendments were approved at Anticipation

4. New Business

4.1. Resolutions

Items under this heading may be voted upon and final action taken by the Preliminary Business Meeting.

4.2. Standing Rules Amendments

Items under this heading may be voted upon and final action taken by the Preliminary Business Meeting. Standing rules amendments take effect at the conclusion of the 2010 Business Meeting unless given earlier effect by specific provision and a two-thirds vote.

4.3. Constitutional Amendments

Items under this heading have not yet received first passage, and will become part of the constitution only if passed at Aussiecon 4 and ratified at Renovation. The Preliminary Business Meeting may amend items under this heading, set debate time limits, refer them to committee, and take other action as permitted under the Standing Rules.

4.3.1 Short Title: Deleting the membership rate limitations (20 minutes debate time)

Moved:

(a) To amend Section 1.5.5 by deleting the following words in the last sentence:

"must not exceed two (2) times the site-selection fee and"

(b) To delete Section 1.5.6

Discussion:

The current rules limit the rates that voters can be charged to convert their supporting memberships to attending memberships. This has several difficulties. It means that the voting fees, and therefore the supporting memberships, are forced higher than needed to keep the initial voter attending rate from being too low. And the initial voter attending membership rate is still sufficiently below the required average membership rate that it forces conventions to have later attending rates being too high, which discourages people, particularly people who are becoming interested in Worldcons, and who might want to join.

Committees need the flexibility to tailor membership rates to accomplish those goals without being constrained by the low initial voter attending membership limitations.

Moved: Dave McCarty

Seconded: Ben Yalow

4.3.2 Short Title: Electronic Voting (*five minutes debate time*)

Moved, to amend Article 6 of the WSFS Constitution for the purpose of clarifying the status of electronic voting on the Hugo Awards and Site Selection, by adding a new section after existing Section 6.2 as follows:

Section 6.x: Electronic Voting. Nothing in this constitution shall be interpreted to prohibit conducting Hugo Awards nominating and voting and Site Selection voting by electronic means. This section shall not be interpreted to require that such elections be conducted electronically, nor shall it be interpreted to allow remote participation or proxy voting at the Business Meeting. Paper ballots delivered by any means shall always be acceptable.

Commentary: The phrase "Voting shall be by written ballot cast either by mail or at the current Worldcon" in section 4.1.2 has been held to prohibit conducting any portion of Worldcon site selection electronically, such as through a web site in the same manner as most recent Hugo Award elections. The word "mail" and "written ballot" has been interpreted to only allow paper ballots delivered by postal mail, private delivery, fax machine, or personal delivery by the voter or an authorized representative. This proposal would broaden the existing interpretation to require that "mail" be interpreted to include "e-mail and other electronic means" such as voting through a web site. It does not specify a specific technology for e-voting. It says that the constitution should be interpreted to allow electronic voting for both the Hugo Awards and Site Selection, but it does not require that such elections be held electronically, and it specifically requires that such elections should always have a paper-ballot/by-mail (or other delivery method) option.

While Worldcons would be required to always include a paper-ballot option, the decision to implement e-voting on any given WSFS election would be in the hands of each individual Worldcon committee. Whether or not previous or future Worldcons implemented e-voting would not have a bearing on the decision. The makers of this motion assume that Worldcon committees would consult with those groups participating in site selection and cooperate with them to implement e-voting, but would leave the final decision as to whether to actually do so in the hands of the current Worldcon committee.

In addition, this proposal explicitly excludes electronic voting, proxy voting, or other forms of remote participation at the Business Meeting. Voting at the Business Meeting shall continue to be in person only, including any votes held there such as constitutional amendments and elections to the WSFS Mark Protection Committee.

Submitted by: Kevin Standlee, Johnny Carruthers, Steve Cooper, Linda Deneroff, John C. Fiala, Adrienne Foster, Glenn Glazer, Lisa Hayes, Jim Henry III, Lisa Hertel, Mary Kay Kare, Stacey Helton McConnell, Fred Moulton, Cheryl Morgan, Rita Medany, Cath Mullican, Kevin Roche, Jannie Shea, Stu Segal, Alison Scott, Randy Smith.

4.3.3. Allow Electronic Distribution of Rules *(five minutes debate time)*

Moved, to amend Section 2.4 of the WSFS Constitution by striking out and adding words as shown, with the intention of requiring Worldcon committees to publish copies of the WSFS rules without requiring that such publication be in the form of printed documents:

Section 2.4: Distribution of Rules. The current Worldcon Committee shall ~~print copies of~~ publish the WSFS Constitution and Standing Rules, together with an explanation of proposed changes approved but not yet ratified, ~~and copies of the Standing Rules~~. The Committee shall distribute these documents to all WSFS members at a point between nine and three months prior to the Worldcon, and shall also distribute them to all WSFS members in attendance at the Worldcon upon registration.

Moved by Rene Walling.
Seconded by Kate Kligman

4.3.4. Expand Hugo Nominations Eligibility *(ten minutes debate time)*

Moved to amend section 3.7.1 of the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.7.1: The Worldcon Committee shall conduct a poll to select the nominees for the final

Award voting. Each member of either the administering Worldcon, or the immediately preceding Worldcon, or the immediately following Worldcon as of January 31 of the current calendar year shall be allowed to make up to five (5) equally weighted nominations in every category.

Commentary. It is my belief that increasing the potential pool of people eligible to make Hugo Award nominations would be a good thing. It occurred to me that when Hugo nomination forms are distributed at the start of a calendar year, there is actually another standing Worldcon in existence -- the following Worldcon.

Moved by Michael Nelson
Seconded by Robert MacIntosh

5. Site Selection Business

These items are scheduled for the Site Selection meeting on Sunday.

5.1. Report of the 2012 Site Selection & presentation by winners

5.2. Question time for the Seated Future Worldcon

5.2.1. Renovation (2011)

5.3. Presentations by future Worldcon bids

5.3.1. Presentation by bidders for 2013

5.3.2. Presentation by bidders for years after 2013

6. Adjournment

6.1. Adjournment *Sine Die*