

WESTERCON77 BAYCON 2025 A CONVENIENT PARALLEL DIMENSION

Progress Report 1 (May 2025)

Event Information

- **Date:** July 4-7, 2025
 - **Location:** Santa Clara Marriott. 2700 Mission College Blvd, Santa Clara, CA
 - **Theme:** Embracing the Paranormal & Speculative Fiction
 - **Website:** baycon.org
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1. Chair's Welcome

Hello All, I am super excited about Baycon 2025's theme: A Convenient Parallel Dimension. We are also partnering with Westercon 77 which will bridge new Fans and lifelong Fans. We are honored to keep this tradition alive. Westercon has been a regional event that floats up and down the West Coast of the United States and events Speculative Fiction for all Fans.

With our theme some people may catch the inspiration from cult classic films like Ghostbusters (1984), our theme celebrates the spookier side of speculative fiction—a dimension where paranormal, supernatural, and horror narratives converge with our own reality.

With that in mind we will be elevating those parts of speculative fiction and bringing out our Spookier Sides this year.

We are continuing our focus on STEM as well as shining a light on AfroFuturism that is a strong part of our expansive community. There will be an AfroFuturism Lounge hosted by our STEM Keynote Speaker, Dr. LaWana Richmond. We will have a variety of activities in the lounge sharing authors, artists and poets from around California and beyond. This is the first year of many more we will be hosting in this space and look forward to hearing from you about ways to expand this offering.

We are excited to announce that Poetry will also be taking center stage this year with Poet In Residence Audrey T. Williams. She will be hosting Poetry panels throughout the weekend. We are discussing an Open Mic Poetry Slam event. Plan to bring your work as we want to hear from you.

We are working with our Society Member and Host of the San Jose Short Film Festival to have our own BayCon Film Festival. We are going to have each day of Convention focus on a separate genre of Speculative Fiction. This year it will be Horror, Science Fiction, and Fantasy and will offer Q&A

sessions with our Guests of Honor Sasha Graham and Catherine Mary Stewart. We are working hard to get this going to bring in some great short and long form movies. We want this to become an annual event at BayCon.

With all this going on we are thrilled that our Artist Guest of Honor, J.K. Woodward, is bringing his A Games with his amazing art and sharing it with all of us. He is well known for his Star Trek Art as well as his takes on horror tropes. I can't wait for you to see all the work he is sharing with our Fans.

Our Writer Guests of Honor, M. A. Carrick, have been regulars for many years at BayCon and their books series, The Rose and Rook, embraces our theme with its intrigue and mayhem in the courts of Nadežra, The City of Dreams. We have a Divination lounge where one can get a reading with the Pattern Deck that they created for a peek into your fate along with tea and tarot readings throughout the weekend.

If your fancy is Hauntings, then our Community Guests are the folks to talk to on the subject. Stacy Meyn and Tracy Newby are hosts on the USS Hornet and help facilitate Ghost Hunting tours as well as share in their love of Star Wars and The Royal Manticoran Navy. I can wait to have them share their techniques on finding Ghosts and how to dress for success in our favorite fandoms.

There is so much to do and enjoy this year that I can't wait for you to join us.

2. Guests of Honor

- **Dr. LaWana Richmond, Ed.D**



Dr. Richmond holds a Bachelors in Business Administration from San Diego State University, a Masters in Information Systems from National University, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership from UC San Diego/CSU San Marcos. She is dedicated to ensuring our young people have every opportunity for equitable learning, opportunity to learn of our communal past and opportunity to embrace who they are as individuals. Her passion for futurism, in general and Afrofuturism in particular, is driven by the times we live in; Times when the adversity and the opportunities it presents beckon us to rise above ourselves.

Website: <https://www.drlawana.com>

- **J. K. Woodward**



J.K. Woodward is a life-long comic book fan who started a professional comics career in 2003. His work includes IDW's Star Trek comics, Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, BOOM! and Image Comics, as well as other companies and individuals for specialized commissions.

Blog: <http://jkwoodwardart.blogspot.com/>

- **Catherine Mary Stewart**



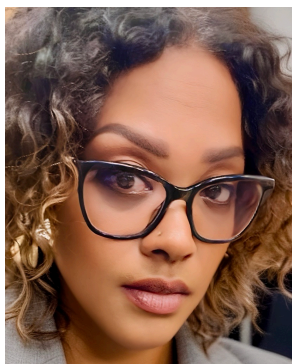
With over 40 years as an actor, Catherine Mary Stewart began her performing career in Canada focusing on dance while also training in acting and singing. After attending the London Studio Centre in England, she landed the lead female role of “Bibi” in the feature film “The Apple,” shot in Berlin, and soon moved to Los Angeles. She originated the beloved character Kayla Brady on “Days of Our Lives” before starring in cult classics such as “The Last Starfighter,” “Night of the Comet” (a quirky blend of comedy, horror, and apocalyptic adventure), “Mischiefs,” and the hilarious “Weekend at Bernie’s.” Her range extended from an Uzi-slinging survivor in “Night of the Comet” to a rock and roll singer in “Scenes from the Goldmine” and a gun-slinging free spirit in the punk rock western “Dudes.” She was also in demand on television, appearing in lavish mini-series like “Hollywood Wives,” “Sins,” and the award-winning “Passion and Paradise,” working alongside illustrious actors including Anthony Hopkins, Joan Collins, and Gene Kelly. Other proud credits include “The Sea Wolf” opposite Charles Bronson and Christopher Reeve, as well as numerous Hallmark and Lifetime movies. Recent guest roles on “New Amsterdam,” “Limitless,” “White Collar,” and “Law and Order” reflect her ongoing success. Not only does Ms. Stewart continue to work in front of the camera, but she also writes, produces, and directs, developing feature films, television, and theater.

- **M. A. Carrick**



M.A. Carrick is the joint pen name of Marie Brennan (author of the Memoirs of Lady Trent) and Alyc Helms (author of the Adventures of Mr. Mystic). The two met in 2000 on an archaeological dig in Wales and Ireland — including a stint in the town of Carrickmacross — and have built their friendship through two decades of anthropology, writing, and gaming. Previously they collaborated on the Rook and Rose trilogy, beginning with The Mask of Mirrors. They live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

- **Audrey T. Williams**



BayCon’s Poet-in-Residence, Audrey T. Williams, MFA is a poet, writer, and curator based in the San Francisco East Bay. She is a Black American with Indo-Burmese heritage whose work explores the intersection of creative literary arts, ancestral archetypes, nature/climate, and self-care during challenging times. As Founder of Ancestral Futures and Co-chair for the [2026 World Fantasy Convention](#) in Oakland, she champions the preservation of culture through narrative. A Reiki Master Teacher with facilitator training from The Institute for Poetic Medicine, Audrey regularly holds workshops centering poetry as a transformative healing art and a portal to radical resilience. Her published writing spans poetry, speculative fiction, and creative nonfiction, appearing in Lightspeed Magazine, Space & Time Magazine, and Conjuring Worlds: An Afrofuturist Textbook, among others.

Audrey holds an MFA in Creative Writing from California College of the Arts (2018) and is currently completing a certificate in Narrative Medicine at Columbia University. Her current projects include a memoir on multi-racial identity formation, a speculative flash fiction collection, and a poetry chapbook

on caregiving. She is a member of the [San Francisco Writers' Grotto](#), the [Black Speculative Arts Movement](#), the Afrosurreal Writers Workshop of Oakland, and the [Transformative Language Arts Network](#). Learn more at [AncestralFutures.org](#).

- **Stacy Meyn & Tracy Newby “The Aceys”**



In past moods, Stacy Meyn cleaned the bookmobile, clerked for the library system, and was an A/V tech, music store manager/buyer, and DJ/producer. She webmavened during the dot com 1.0 boom (and bust) and has operated freelance writing services (Space Ltd. <O>) since 1994, covering pop culture, music, media, film, and fandom. After a lengthy stint in the gubmint and armed with a master's degree in education, Stacy is a senior instructional designer and technical writer. She is involved with (and can be blamed for a few) fan groups, including the 501st Legion, the Golden Gate Garrison, Browncoats, Bay Area Actual, The Royal Manticoran Navy, STARFLEET International (USS Northern Lights), STEAM Federation, Hi-Impact Props and Costumes, and the Society for Creative Anachronism (Baroness of the Westernmark). For additional fun, she serves as a disaster service worker (CERT executive committee) and is mightily into the EDC (Every Day Carry) community. As part of Bay Area

Ghost Hunters and Alameda Paranormal Researchers, Stacy has obsessions with the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Museum and numerous spoops n' creps.

3. Programming Highlights

- **Afrofuturism Lounge**

Experience the future of cultural expression at the AfroFuturism Lounge (located within the California Ballroom's Salon 1), hosted by our esteemed Guest of Honor, Dr. LaWana Richmond. This immersive space is dedicated to celebrating the transformative spirit of AfroFuturism and offers a relaxed environment for engaging conversations, inspiring multimedia displays, and networking with fellow fans. Stay tuned for more details on special screenings, interactive sessions, and other unique experiences that will make the AfroFuturism Lounge a standout feature of BayCon.

- **Film Festival**

Join us at the First Annual BayCon Film Festival (FilmFest One)—a dynamic celebration of speculative fiction on the big screen. Under the expert direction of Sinohui Hinojosa, renowned for his work with Cinequest and the San Jose Short Film Festival, this year's festival promises a captivating lineup of films that push the boundaries of imagination.

The festival will run throughout the convention, screening feature-length and short form content on both the Main and Chaos Stages during intermissions and in between events. We are currently calling for submissions from filmmakers and creators who are passionate about speculative fiction. Whether you're showcasing a groundbreaking narrative, innovative visuals, or a bold reinterpretation of genre conventions, we want to see your work. For more information or inquiries about submissions, please email us at events@baycon.org.

- **Masquerade**

Join us for the BayCon Masquerade, our annual cosplay extravaganza that transforms Sunday night into a dazzling celebration of creativity and fandom! This year, under the direction of Lady Phoenix, the

Masquerade will adhere to the ICG Fairness Guidelines, ensuring an inclusive and equitable environment for every participant.

Scheduled for Sunday, 6 July 2025 at the main stage, this event invites cosplayers—from seasoned veterans to first-timers—to showcase their unique costumes and performance talents in a vibrant, fan-driven atmosphere. Please note that the application form for both the Variety Show and the Masquerade will open soon, with the final submission deadline set for June 30, 2025.

- And more!
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4. [Registration](#)

Registration for BayCon2025/Westercon 77 is currently open! Ticket prices are currently \$130 + fees for the full weekend, and will be available through June 30. At the door, the full weekend will be \$150 + fees. If you are a supporting Westercon member, you get \$20 off. You can register on the website at <https://baycon.org/register>.

VIP offering

Step into a realm of exclusive access and elevated experience with a BayCon VIP Badge. Enjoy full weekend entry to every panel, workshop, and spectacular event while unlocking premium perks designed exclusively for our VIP badgeholders:

Full Weekend Access: Attend every event all weekend long.

Exclusive VIP Lounge: Relax in our private lounge, complete with complimentary beverages and snacks.

Priority Seating: Enjoy reserved seating at all stage events, including the Masquerade and the Variety Show.

Breakfast with Guests of Honor: Savor a private breakfast in the hotel restaurant's exclusive dining room (limited to one per badgeholder).

Exclusive VIP Items: Receive a specially designed VIP badge, VIP lanyard, and VIP tote bag.

Unique Swag Gifts: Benefit from one-of-a-kind swag—last year's edition featured autographed copies of Ryka Aoki's Hugo-nominated novel, "Light from Uncommon Stars."

VIP badge sales close on 31 May – secure your spot now!

5. [Hotel information](#)

Our hotel and convention center is the Santa Clara Marriott, 2700 Mission College Blvd, Santa Clara, CA, just across the street from Great America.

[Claim your mystical retreat at an exclusive BayCon rate](#)—just \$169 per night for a King bed, or \$179 for two Queens—available until the portal closes on 6 June 2025. Reserve early to ensure your supernatural stay is secured, and step into the realm of wonder without breaking the spell!

Parking cost is \$10/day for attendees; there are no in-and-out privileges unless you are a guest at the hotel. Don't forget to sign up for Bonvoy membership, as it comes with perks like free internet! NOTE: All room bookings will require a credit card. There will also be a per-night incidental charge or hold

placed on your card at check-in. Please budget accordingly! For more questions, please contact our Hotel Team at hotel@baycon.org.

6. [Join our staff](#)

We are still looking for additional people to join us to help run our convention. We have various positions available.

The Perks of the Beyond:

- **Ethereal Access:** A Complimentary Staff Badge will be your pass to a parallel world filled with arcane knowledge, supernatural exploration, and ghostly wonders.
- **Spirit's Respite:** Take refuge in our Exclusive Staff Lounge, a quiet place for our caretakers to rest and revive between hauntings.
- **A Haunted Resting Place:** Secure a discounted rate at the hotel, ensuring you rest easy before the next day's spectral activities.
- **Flexible Realms:** We know the unpredictable nature of crossing dimensions, so we offer Flexible Hours to make your journey seamless.

A Pact with the Unknown:

- **A Vow of Dedication:** Your commitment keeps this portal open. All staff are expected to attend meetings and work with their departments. The final pre-con meeting is a vital gathering of our coven—your presence is crucial!
- **A Gathering of Spirits:** From those well-versed in the mystical arts to fresh-faced apprentices, BayCon welcomes all who dare. Experience is valued, but curiosity is key.
- **Embracing the Unseen:** We value every voice, every unique perspective that enriches our spectral chorus. BayCon's leadership is dedicated to creating a realm where inclusivity and collaboration allow all to thrive, creating a convention that's diverse, mysterious, and wholly unforgettable.

You can apply at on our website at <https://baycon.org/get-involved>

Want something a little more casual? Join our volunteer Gopher team at the convention. 16 hours of volunteer time result in a rollover badge for the next year.

7. Westercon Bylaws & Draft agenda

Westercon Bylaws

As of close of Westercon 76, July 7, 2024

The following document is the current text of the Westercon Bylaws and Standing Rules, as of the close of Westercon 76 (Salt Lake City, 2024). Linda Deneroff and Kevin Standlee prepared this document based on the results of the Westercon 76 Business Meeting and shows the Bylaws as amended below.

1 General Provisions

1.1 Name and Date¹

1.1.1 Name

The name of this convention is Westercon (the West Coast Science 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.

1.2 Guests of Honor

It is traditional, but not obligatory, that Westercon Guests of Honor and other notables be selected from among SF personalities residing within the Westercon geographical area.

1.3 Membership Classes

There shall be at least two classes of membership in Westercon: supporting and attending. The committee shall notify the members of their membership class in a timely fashion.

1.3.1 Supporting Members

Supporting members shall receive any progress reports or any other generally mailed publications published after the member joins the Westercon, including the Program Book, and may exercise any voting rights permitted by any other part of these bylaws, except attending the Business Meeting. All Westercons shall be required to offer supporting memberships until at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Westercon, and such supporting memberships shall not cost more than one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the voting fee charged when the site of the Westercon was selected. Any class of membership offered by a Westercon costing at least as much as a supporting membership shall include a supporting membership.

1.3.2 Attending Members

Attending members shall have all of the rights of supporting members, plus the right to attend the Westercon and the business meeting(s) held there, subject to the restrictions established by the other parts of these bylaws.

¹ Old Section 1.1 was deleted per ratification of an amendment at the 2024 Business Meeting (Westercon 76). However, this left the bylaws without naming the convention except implicitly through the title of the document and the other references to Westercon throughout the document, and the new Sections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 were given first passage at Westercon 76. They will need to be ratified at Westercon 77 but are listed here for reference.

1.3.3 Restriction of Memberships

Each Westercon committee shall have the right to limit the activities of its attendees, either individually or in groups, insofar as such activities endanger, physically or legally, other persons or property. Such limitations may include, but are not limited to, closing down parties, ejecting persons from the Westercon, or turning offenders over to other authorities. No refund of membership need be given in such circumstances. Each member, in purchasing his/her membership, agrees to abide by these bylaws.

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. 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.

1.5 Archive of Bylaws

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. (LASFS) shall act as an archive to the Westercon bylaws and the minutes of business meetings. Each committee shall reimburse LASFS for the costs of copying and forwarding copies of the Bylaws and Minutes to those who request them. A copy of the minutes, including the text of motions passed by the business meeting, shall be sent to LASFS within two (2) months of the close of each Westercon by the administering Westercon. LASFS shall maintain the Westercon bylaws and shall forward one copy of the current bylaws, including the text of any amendment to the bylaws awaiting secondary ratification, to the current Westercon committee within four (4) months of the close of the previous Westercon. The current Westercon shall provide copies of the Bylaws to the committees of all Westercon bids for the year which that Westercon is administering the site-selection.

1.6 Distribution of Bylaws to Members

The Westercon Bylaws, as well as the complete text of any amendment awaiting secondary ratification, shall be published in at least one (1) progress report and in the program book of the current Westercon each year. Failure to publish this information shall not affect the procedure to amend the bylaws as stated in Article 4.

1.7 Westercon Service Mark

All Westercons shall publish, in all publications such as promotional flyers, progress reports, and program book, the following notice: “‘Westercon’ is a registered service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.”

1.8 Responsibilities of Administering Westercon

It is a responsibility of each Westercon to enforce the provisions of these bylaws.

1.9 Committee Failure

Should a Westercon Committee declare itself unable to fulfill its duties, the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society shall determine alternate arrangements for that Westercon.

2 Westercon Business Meeting

2.1 Scheduling of Sessions

At least one (1) regular session of the Westercon business meeting must be scheduled at each Westercon. No regular session of the Westercon business meeting shall be scheduled to start prior to 11 a.m., nor later than 2 p.m., nor on the last day of the Westercon. A special session, at which site-selection business shall be the sole order of business, may be scheduled on the last day of the convention, provided that said special meeting is scheduled to begin no earlier than 11 a.m. or later than 2 p.m. All sessions occurring during the same Westercon, be they regular, adjourned, or special, shall be considered, for procedural purposes, as the same parliamentary session.

2.2 Site-Selection Business

Site-selection business shall be in order at any session of the business meeting. Site-selection business shall include, but need not be limited to, the announcement of the results of the balloting and of a winner if one is produced by the balloting, or of a site-selection resolution, as hereafter defined, if one is necessary [see Section 3.15]. The winner of the site-selection may be announced prior to the site-selection business meeting, if one is held.

2.3 Quorum

For business other than site-selection business, a quorum of ten (10) attending members of the current Westercon shall be required. For site-selection business, the quorum shall be those attending members of the current Westercon who attend the meeting. All those persons voting at any meeting must be attending members of the current Westercon. Except as noted in these bylaws or in such rules of order as may be adopted, all business requires a simple majority to pass.

2.4 Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority of the Westercon business meeting except where it conflicts with these bylaws or with any special rules of order which may be adopted by the business meeting.

3 Westercon Site-Selection

3.1 Eligibility of Sites

Any site 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.

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

² On a parliamentary inquiry based on a question of when the annexation must take place for a site to be eligible, the 2002 Business Meeting decided that a bid for an Australian site is eligible, even if the annexation has not yet taken place, provided that the annexation has taken place by the filing deadline for the intervening Westercon (see Section 3.3), and that if the Australian site has been selected, and the annexation has not taken place by that date, then this shall constitute committee failure, as covered by Section 1.9.

3.2 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 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.

3.3 Filing Deadline for Ballot

Only those eligible bids whose filing paperwork required by section 3.4 is in the possession of the administering Westercon at least sixty (60) days before the first day of the administering Westercon shall be listed on the ballot. Should the administering Westercon be postponed for any reason, the filing deadline shall be accordingly extended, even if this happens after the original deadline has passed.³

3.4 Filing Requirements

A Westercon bid committee must provide written evidence of the following: At least two (2) separate people declaring themselves Chairman and Treasurer; an organizing instrument such as bylaws, articles of incorporation or association, or a partnership agreement; and a letter of intent or option from a hotel or other facility declaring specific dates on which the Westercon shall be held; and, for a sponsoring organization from within the United States of America, evidence that the sponsoring organization is a non-profit association or corporation within the applicable state law of the sponsoring organization.

3.5 Eligibility of Voters

Site-selection voting shall be limited to those persons who are attending or supporting members of the administering Westercon and who have paid a voting fee toward their membership in the Westercon being selected. Other classes of membership may vote only upon the unanimous agreement of all qualified bidding committees. One person equals one membership equals one vote. Corporations, Associations, and other non-human entities may vote only for "No Preference." "Guest of" memberships must be transferred to an individual before voting for anything other than "No Preference."

3.6 Voting Fee

The voting fee shall be twenty US dollars (US\$20.00) or the local equivalent unless the committees listed on the ballot and the administering Westercon agree unanimously to charge a different amount.

3.7 Minimum Rights of Voters

The payment of the voting fee shall make the voter at least a full supporting member of the Westercon being selected, and may make the voter an attending member at the discretion of the winning bid.

3.8 Prototype Ballot

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc. (LASFS) shall prepare a prototype site-selection ballot, including instructions for preparation of the ballot, and shall provide the prototype to each administering Westercon at the same time the bylaws are provided to the administering Westercon as provided for in section 1.5. Upon receipt of the prototype, the administering Westercon shall complete the ballot by filing in the information about the eligible bid committees, including the dates of the proposed Westercons, the voting fee, minimum membership requirements, including the cost of a supporting membership in the administering

³ On a parliamentary inquiry at the time of ratification of the text of this section, it was ruled that "If the filing paperwork can be verified to be at the address of the administering convention, it is in the committee's possession."

Westercon, and the address to which site-selection ballots should be sent. The administering Westercon shall be responsible for the publication and the distribution of the ballots to the membership of the administering Westercon. All eligible bids received in accordance with sections 3.3 and 3.4 shall be included on the ballot. The ballot shall also include entries for “No Preference” and “None of the Above,” and shall provide space for at least one (1) write-in bid. The ballot shall be a secret ballot, specially marked for preferential voting with an explanation of the method of counting preferential votes.

3.9 Distribution of Ballot

The site-selection ballot and full rules for site-selection voting, including the deadlines for voting by mail, shall be sent by postal or electronic mail at least 30 days before the first day of the administering Westercon to all members of the administering Westercon as of one week before the mailing. The ballot and full rules for site-selection, including the hours during which site-selection will take place and the location of the site-selection, shall be given to all attending members upon registration at the Westercon, or such information shall be prominently displayed at the registration area throughout the Westercon.

3.10 Deadline for Voting by Mail

All ballots received by the administering Westercon at least ten (10) days before the first day of the administering Westercon shall be counted. The administering Westercon may count ballots received less than ten (10) days before the first day of the administering Westercon at their discretion.

3.11 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.

3.12 At-Conference 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.

3.13 Verification of Ballots

Properly completed ballots shall contain: the member’s printed name; the member’s membership number as assigned by the administering Westercon; the member’s dated signature; the member’s address of record with the current Westercon; the member’s current address if different; and the member’s vote(s) as defined elsewhere in this article. Verification of the ballots shall consist of matching the name and number of the member with the records of the administering Westercon. Ballots received by the committee prior to the deadline in section 3.10, and any others received by mail which may be counted, shall be held by the administering Westercon until the opening of the Westercon, at which time they shall be verified by the administering Westercon and the bidders.

3.14 Counting of Ballots

The administering Westercon shall arrange for the counting of ballots, and each eligible bid committee shall be allowed to send at least two (2) observers to such ballot-counting. The count shall be by preferential ballot. The winner shall be that bid which gains a majority of those votes expressing preference for a bid. For the purpose of vote counting, “None of the Above” shall be treated as if it were a bid. “None of the Above” and votes for ineligible bids shall count toward the total number of votes cast. Blank ballots, illegal or illegible ballots, and

votes for “No Preference” shall not count toward the total number of votes cast. All vote totals of final results and of all intermediate counts shall be made available at or before the closing ceremony.

3.15 Procedures When No Bid Wins or is Eligible

Should no eligible bid gain the needed majority, or should there be no qualified bidding committee, or should “None of the Above” win, a two-thirds (2/3) 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 which 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.

3.16 Availability of Results

The results of the balloting shall be reported to the site-selection business meeting of the administering Westercon, if one is held. A record of the results of the balloting, including all intermediate counts and distinguishing between the by-mail and at-con ballots, shall be published in the first or second progress report of the winning Westercon.

3.17 Hand-Carried Ballots

The administering Westercon shall accept hand-carried ballots, which are otherwise valid ballots delivered to the administering Westercon by someone other than the member who prepared the ballot.

4 Procedure for Amendment of These Bylaws

4.1 Method of Adoption

Amendments to the Westercon Bylaws must be ratified by the majority vote of the business meetings in two consecutive years. Proposed amendments shall be read in full by the chairman of the business meeting immediately before being voted upon.

4.2 Primary and Secondary Ratification

The secretary of the business meeting at which an amendment receives primary (first year) ratification shall submit an exact copy of the amendment to the following year’s Westercon business meeting. The question of secondary (second year) ratification is debatable and is amendable only to the extent that such amendments do not increase the scope of the original bylaw amendment.

4.3 Effective Date of Amendments

Unless otherwise provided, amendments shall take effect at the close of the Westercon where they receive final ratification. Operating rules for already-selected Westercons shall not be changed by amendments to the bylaws. Rules regarding eligibility and voting procedures for site-selection are not considered to be operating rules.

Westercon Standing Rules

1. Close Debate. Before proceeding to take a vote on a motion for the Previous Question, the presiding officer shall ask for a show of hands of how many people still wish to speak to the pending motion. This rule does not allow debate on the motion for the Previous Question.

Draft Agenda for Westercon 77

A. Call to Order

B. Committee Reports

There are no active committees of the Business Meeting.

C. Pending Bylaw Amendments

A.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 in order 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 any of 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.

D. New Business

There are no active bylaw amendments for the Business Meeting.

E. Announcements

F. Adjournment

The above copy of the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Business Passed On of the West Coast Science Fantasy Conference is hereby certified to be true, correct, and complete, effective as of the close of Westercon 76, July 7, 2024.

Kevin Standlee, Chair
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Westercon 76 Business Meeting