

2025 WSFS Business Meeting Agenda

Seattle Worldcon 2025

The 83rd World Science Fiction Convention

Seattle, Washington, United States

July 4, July 13, July 19, July 25, August 16 2025

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Introduction

The Business Meeting will be held virtually on the Lumi Meeting platform for registered members of Seattle Worldcon 2025, with the Site Selection meeting held in-person during the general convention, at the following dates and times (Pacific Daylight Time, UTC-7):

- Preliminary Business Meeting Friday, July 4 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **online**
- Main Business Meeting #1 Sunday, July 13 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **online**
- Main Business Meeting #2 Saturday, July 19 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **online**
- Main Business Meeting #3 Friday, July 25 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **online**
- Site Selection Business Meeting Saturday, August 16 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Signature Room, Seattle Convention Center**

The Officers are:

- Presiding Officer: Jesi Lipp (they/them)
- Deputy Presiding Officer: Warren Buff (he/him)
- Secretary: Ira Alexandre (they/them)
- Parliamentarian and Second Deputy: Martin Pyne (he/him)
- Timekeeper: O.R.
- Secretarial Staff: Winston Pei (he/him)
- Speaker Queue Management: Chris Henseley (he/him),
Alana Vincent (she/they)
- BM Help Desk: Terry Neill (she/her)

Regarding Running a Virtual WSFS Business Meeting

Supplemental materials about how to log in and use the Lumi Meeting platform for the online portions of the Business Meeting have been published in a document entitled Virtual Business Meeting Instructions and can be found on the Business Meeting page on the Seattle in 2025 website. The Business Meeting Staff here offer a brief overview of the information contained in that document, and additional rules and guidance for attending a virtual WSFS Business Meeting this year.

Overview

WSFS members with an attending or virtual attending supplement may participate in the virtual Business Meeting. The cutoff time for purchasing a membership and being able to participate in the meeting will be 24 hours prior to the start of each meeting. We cannot guarantee that you will have access to the Lumi platform if you purchase your membership less than 24 hours before each meeting. You will still be able to attend future meetings.

There will be two **Test Your Tech** sessions to ensure that you are able to log in to the Lumi platform and join the integrated Zoom. These will both be held on July 1st from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (all times Pacific Daylight Time, UTC-7). You can log in at any point during either 3-hour window. The same cutoff for membership purchases applies; please ensure you have purchased your membership by 7:00 a.m. on June 30th if you wish to join a Test Your Tech session.

You will access the Lumi Meeting platform through the Seattle in 2025 registration portal, where you can view your login credentials for the platform and access the link to the platform. Within the platform, you will be able to join the integrated Zoom meeting, view documents, request to speak, and vote.

Each member will need to be logged into the platform separately in order to vote. In general, we recommend each person access the platform from a separate device. However, for those for whom that is not possible, we have provided instructions for handling multiple logins on one device in the full Virtual Meeting Instructions document.

If multiple people will be joining the meeting from one location, such as a multi-member household, only one member should join the Zoom meeting (you can log in to the platform without joining the Zoom). When requesting to speak, you will need to note the name of the Zoom user that needs to be recognized.

If you are hosting a Business Meeting “watch party” at a convention or similar event, please contact bm-help@seattlein2025.org so that we may assist you in doing so successfully.

There will be an official Business Meeting Discord server. The server will be in read-only mode between meetings, and will become active from three hours before each meeting starts to three hours after adjournment on each meeting day.

Committee and Financial Reports

Given the large volume of business that has been submitted, we are hoping to address questions regarding committee and financial reports in advance. If you have questions regarding any of the committee or financial reports (with the exception of the Investigation Committee report), please email your question (and which report it is regarding) to bm-submit@seattlein2025.org by **June 25th, 11:59 p.m. Pacific**. Business Meeting staff will pass those questions along to the relevant parties and publish the answers online and in the virtual meeting platform. Answers will be published by the start of the Preliminary Business Meeting on July 4th, though we will attempt to publish them by July 2nd.

We will not be taking verbal reports or questions for committee reports (with the exception of the Investigation Committee) or financial reports (see [Additional Rules](#)).

Nominations and Elections

For elections to any committees, nominations will be solicited via the Lumi platform. In order to appear on the ballot, those nominated should email their consent to nomination to bm-candidate@seattlein2025.org by three hours prior to the start of the meeting when elections are to be held. You may also submit a brief statement of no more than 300 words of why you wish to serve on the committee, which will be posted in the Business Meeting Discord.

We currently expect that elections will be held at the Second Main Meeting on Saturday, July 19th, with a voting process that will allow the ballot to be open for a sufficient period of time to accommodate folks who are not able to attend that meeting due to time zone, religious, or other constraints.

Additional Rules

Section 5.1.4 of the WSFS Constitution states:

5.1.4: Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of (in descending order of precedence) the WSFS Constitution; the Standing Rules; such other rules as may be published in advance by the current Committee (which rules may be suspended by the Business Meeting by the same procedure as a Standing Rule); the customs and usages of WSFS (including the resolutions and rulings of continuing effect); and the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Per this remit, the following additional rules shall be in effect for the 2025 Business Meeting:

Virtual Meetings

Electronic and remote participation shall be allowed. Any tele-conferencing platform must ensure that all members participating in the meeting can hear those who have been assigned the floor, can speak and vote (if so entitled), and can have their attendance recorded. The Site Selection Business Meeting will be in-person.

Obtaining the Floor

Members wishing to speak in debate or make a motion shall follow the instructions provided within the meeting platform to use the Request to Speak function. The meeting platform must ensure that the Presiding Officer is able to determine the precedence of requests to speak. The Presiding Officer shall choose from those members who have indicated a request to speak and assign the floor to the speaker.

Reporting on the Speaker Pool

A member may, at any time, use the Request to Speak function to request a report from the Presiding Officer on the population of the speaker pool, which shall function as a Question of Privilege. Upon receiving the request, the Presiding Officer shall verbally report the number of speakers in the pool for speeches in favor, speeches against, and other purposes. If more than two such reports have already been provided during the current item of business, it is at the discretion of the Presiding Officer to determine if the frequency or timing of such requests has become dilatory and to decline to recognize such requests.

Ending Debate

When the Presiding Officer recognizes a speaker for the motion to End Debate, the recognition by the Presiding Officer itself will qualify as the making of said motion. If more than one speaker is in the pool for the same purpose, the Presiding Officer will state so, and the motion to End Debate will be considered to have been seconded.

When the time for debate has expired, or the motion to End Debate has been moved and seconded, before moving to a vote, the Presiding Officer shall indicate the number of speakers in the pool for speeches in favor, speeches against, and amendments.

Verbal Reports

There will be no verbal reports for committees or financial reports from Worldcons and NASFiCS. See the [Committee and Financial Reports](#) section above for information on how to submit written questions regarding reports.

Agenda Setting

Due to the large number of business items that have been submitted, we are going to attempt to streamline the agenda setting portion of the Preliminary Business Meeting. We recognize that the “First Pass” at the Glasgow meeting did not work perfectly; our hope is that we have addressed these issues in how we have structured the process for this year.

The goal of this process is that when we adjourn the Preliminary Business Meeting, we will know which, if any, of the New Constitutional Changes the meeting membership wishes to remove from the agenda (the Preliminary Business Meeting can choose, by a two-thirds vote, to Postpone Indefinitely some of the items on the agenda, which effectively kills those proposals for the current year). This will allow Business Meeting staff to have more clarity on the actual amount of business before the body in order to propose debate times and hopefully give guidance on when items will come up at the meeting.

The specific rules for this Agenda Setting portion of the meeting are as follows:

After disposing of changes to the Standing Rules and Resolutions, there will be an Agenda Setting process for New Constitutional Changes. During this process, the total debate time for each New Constitutional Change shall automatically be set to 4 minutes. Only the motion to Postpone Indefinitely shall be debatable. After debate time has expired, only the motion to Refer to Committee shall be in order. The following shall not be in order:

1. Debate on the main motion
2. The motion to amend, in any of its forms
3. The motion to take up items out of order
4. The motion to postpone until a definite time.

The motion to Refer to Committee may include specific instructions as to what the committee shall address, but the membership of the committee and instructions for reporting back shall automatically be as follows:

1. The committee shall consist of the maker of the motion to Refer, who shall serve as chair, and the first listed proposer of the original motion.
2. Any other committee members are to be appointed at the chair’s discretion.

3. The committee will report back when the original motion comes before the body, whichever Main Meeting that may be.
4. If the committee does not report back when the original motion comes before the body, the committee shall be discharged immediately.

In plain language, this process will work as follows:

For each New Constitutional Change, there will be an opportunity for members to make motions such as Postpone Indefinitely or Refer to Committee (but only for a committee to report back to one of the sessions of the 2025 Business Meeting, not to a future Business Meeting). There will be 4 total minutes of debate time per New Constitutional Change for making and discussing these motions, and only the motion to Postpone Indefinitely will be debatable. Once debate time has expired, either due to all the time being used for debate on a motion to Postpone Indefinitely, or from the time being used for the making of other motions, only the motion to Refer to Committee will be in order.

We do encourage members, if they feel proposals would benefit from further wordsmithing and perfecting, to take advantage of the timing of the virtual meetings and refer proposals to a committee to report back to one of the Main Meetings. This will give such committees at least one week to develop new wording (likely at least two weeks). Any committees formed during this Agenda Setting time will automatically be comprised of the maker of the motion to Refer (who will also be the chair of the committee), the first listed proposer of the New Constitutional Change, and anyone else the committee chair wishes to add to the committee, in keeping with our standard process for referring to committees. We will provide a process for members to indicate if they wish to serve on one of these committees, and provide their contact information to the chair.

These committees will report back when the relevant item of business is addressed at the Main Meeting. If the committee does not have a report ready when the original proposal comes up, the committee will immediately be discharged so that the body may handle the original proposal.

Regarding Debate Times

Debate time is set as a total amount of time for the motion, split evenly between each side. A debate time of 10 minutes means 5 minutes in favor and 5 minutes against. There is no limit on the number of speeches or the length of speeches — 5 minutes of speech in favor could be one 5-minute speech, five 1-minute speeches, or ten 30-second speeches.

Please note, however, that debate time is **not** the same thing as real time. Real time elapsed is generally two or three times the debate time elapsed.

This year, Business Meeting staff are trying an experiment regarding proposed debate times — crowdsourcing! Anyone can [fill out the survey here](#) with suggestions for how much time to be allotted to each proposal. These suggestions will be used to guide the initial debate times proposed by the Presiding Officer.

Regarding Proceedings Taking Place in Executive Session

At the 2024 Business Meeting, several resolutions were submitted regarding the 2023 Hugo Awards. Due to the nature of the claims made in those resolutions, Business Meeting staff determined they should be handled as the first step in the process for disciplinary proceedings laid out in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. Per *RoNR*, all matters regarding disciplinary proceedings must be handled in Executive Session.

Executive session means that the details of the proceedings must remain confidential within the membership of the Society. The content of proceedings must not be divulged to people who are not members of WSFS, and the minutes from debates that take place within Executive Session may only be read if the Society enters back into Executive Session; they are not made publicly available. Because WSFS does not have permanent officers to hold confidential minutes, the Secretary prepares the minutes from the Executive Session and submits them to the Secretary of the Mark Protection Committee and the Chair of the next Worldcon. Published minutes contain the minimum amount of information necessary to carry out any action decided upon by the members.

The Executive Session of the 2024 Business Meeting adopted a resolution to form an Investigation Committee to look into matters surrounding the 2023 Hugo Awards. That committee is reporting back to the 2025 Business Meeting. Their report, and all items arising from it, will also be handled in Executive Session. This portion of the meeting will not be livestreamed or contained in the posted recording of the Business Meeting. We expect to take up the report from the Investigation Committee at the beginning of the first Main Meeting on July 13th. The initial portion of the Investigation Committee's report, the text of four of the five motions coming from the committee, and the rationale for one of these motions are published in this agenda. The full report, which includes the rationale for three of the proposals published in this agenda, as well as the full text of a motion containing the committee's recommendations regarding the continuation of the disciplinary process, will be made available on the Lumi platform at the close of the Preliminary Business Meeting.

Members may access the report by logging into the platform between the Preliminary Meeting and the first Main Meeting (the platform will need to be closed for a couple of hours during this time in order to do some backend technical work; we will make sure to inform the membership of when the platform will not be accessible).

It is the responsibility of all members who attend the meeting to maintain the confidentiality of proceedings within Executive Session, including the full report.

Business Meeting Schedule

The virtual meetings will run from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pacific. Meetings may run slightly shorter or longer depending on where we are in the agenda (no more than 15 minutes longer, and probably not more than 15 minutes shorter). There will be a 15-minute bio/ergo break at approximately 10:45 a.m.; the exact time of the break will be dependent on where we are in the agenda, but breaks should occur within 10 minutes of the planned time.

For the virtual meetings, we expect the Lumi platform to be available starting an hour before the scheduled meeting time.

Generally speaking, the order of business will follow the order of the agenda. However, the rules around the Preliminary Business Meeting do complicate the way that we move through business. After each session, Business Meeting staff will publish a recap of the session and which items are expected to come up at the next session. Below is a broad outline of what order to expect things in.

Preliminary Business Meeting (Friday, July 4)

- Introduction to the Business Meeting and overview of how to request to speak, vote, etc.
- Rulings on the constitutionality of the virtual Business Meeting and any appeals
- Reauthorization of standing committees and any special committees that wish to continue (including resolutions D.4 and D.5); nominations to the Mark Protection Committee (see [Nominations and Elections](#) for how nominations will be handled)
- [Standing Rules changes](#) (C.1 - C.4; C.5 to be handled in Executive Session at First Main Business Meeting)
- [Resolutions](#) (D.1 - D.8; D.9 - D.12 to be handled in Executive Session at First Main Business Meeting)
- [Agenda Setting](#) for [New Constitutional Changes](#) (F.1 - F.22; see [Additional Rules](#))
- Setting debate times for [Business Passed On](#) (E.1 - E.9) and [New Constitutional Changes](#)

Please note the following restrictions on actions of the Preliminary Business Meeting: the Preliminary Business Meeting is not permitted to take a final vote to adopt new constitutional changes or ratify Business Passed On, and it may not refer constitutional changes to a committee unless that committee will report back to one of Seattle in 2025's Main Business Meetings. Additionally, it may not amend or indefinitely postpone any Business Passed On.

First Main Business Meeting (Sunday, July 13)

- In Executive Session: report from the Investigation Committee and all items coming from that report
- Any items for the Preliminary Business Meeting that were not completed
- Debate and votes on ratification of Business Passed On, with the exception of E.9, which will be handled at the Third Main Business meeting (July 25)
- Debate and votes on New Constitutional Changes

Second Main Business Meeting (Saturday, July 19)

- Debate and votes on any remaining Business Passed On
- Debate and votes on New Constitutional Changes
- Balloting for committee elections, vote to be open for 24 hours after conclusion of meeting

Third Main Business Meeting (Friday, July 25)

- Results of committee elections
- Debate and vote on E.9 - Cleaning up the Art Categories
- Debate and votes on New Constitutional Changes

Site Selection Business Meeting (Saturday, August 16)

- Results of the 2027 Site Selection
- Question and Answer time for future seated worldcons (2026 and 2027) - 30 minutes per Standing Rules 7.1 (15 minutes each - 5 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for Q&A)
- Presentations by 2028 bids - 5 minutes each

How to Read this Agenda

While many parts of this agenda, such as reports, can be considered self-explanatory, the following information will come in handy for examining the Resolutions, Standing Rule Changes, New Constitutional Changes, and Business Passed On.

All items mentioned above are aimed at changing something about how WSFS runs.

Resolutions are stand-alone entities that generally have a single purpose to accomplish and then are finished. A good example of a resolution is the eligibility extension; it gives a single work another year of eligibility for Hugo consideration and then functionally “goes away” once that purpose is accomplished.

Sometimes, resolutions have a continuing effect, such as a reminder to future Worldcons about some request of the Business Meeting. In those cases, resolutions are entered in the Resolutions and Rulings of Continuing Effect document, which is maintained by the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee, and hosted on www.wsfs.org.

Standing Rules Changes are items that aim to affect how the business meeting itself is run moving forward. While we generally use *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, there are a lot of "standing rules" that determine how the business meeting is conducted. An entirely fictional example of a proposed standing rules change would be "everyone at the business meeting must, at all times, wear a chicken hat." If that proposed rule change passed, then anyone who wants to be at the business meeting would be checked for their chicken hat at the door. Changes to the Standing Rules do not go into effect until the next year's Business Meeting, unless the body chooses by 2/3 vote to have the change take immediate effect.

New Constitutional Changes are items that would change the WSFS constitution itself. Examples of this kind of business would be any change to a Hugo Award category or how site selection for future Worldcons is conducted. Any proposed change to the constitution has to pass a vote at two successive Business Meetings. A new constitutional change is coming up at the Business Meeting for its first vote; if it passes, it will be sent on to the next Worldcon for its final vote. (*Note, we are trying to use the phrasing of "constitutional change" this year instead of "constitutional amendment" in order to prevent confusion with motions to amend these proposals.*)

Business Passed On are proposed constitutional changes from the previous Worldcon that are to have their second vote this year. You will note that "Business Passed On" comes before the new constitutional changes in the agenda; we have a heightened duty to address those items before the new business because they've already been voted on once.

Standing rules changes, new constitutional changes, and business passed on all aim to change parts of the governing documents of WSFS. To make it easier to understand how one of these items will change the governing documents, each has been formatted to make changes more visible:

Text to be added will look like this (blue and underlined)

~~Text to be deleted will look like this~~ (red and struck through)

Unchanged text will look like this (black and unstyled)

All proposals will also be accompanied by commentary from the drafters, which (hopefully) explains in plain language what the intent of the changes is. It is very worth considering if the language shown as added, deleted, or maintained will accomplish the intent as stated.

It is possible to edit proposed text during the business meeting; if that happens, the altered text will be made available and use the formatting explained above.

2025 WSFS Business Meeting Agenda

Seattle Worldcon 2025

The 83rd World Science Fiction Convention

Seattle, Washington, United States

July 4, July 13, July 19, July 25, August 16 2025

The 2025 Business Meeting Staff consists of Jesi Lipp, Presiding Officer; Warren Buff, Deputy Presiding Officer; Ira Alexandre, Secretary; Martin Pyne, Second Deputy Presiding Officer and Parliamentarian; O.R., Timekeeper; Winston Pei, Secretarial Staff; and Chris Hensley and Alana Vincent, Speaker Queue Managers.

The proceedings of these meetings will be recorded per Standing Rule 1.5. Any member may also make their own recordings and distribute them at their discretion, excluding those portions taking place in Executive Session (see [Regarding Proceedings Taking Place in Executive Session](#)).

A. Committee Reports and Motions

Committees of WSFS and the Business Meeting are as follows; reports from these committees are available in their entirety in [Appendix A](#):

Standing Committees of WSFS

- [Mark Protection Committee](#)

Standing Committees of the Business Meeting

- [Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee](#)
- [Worldcon Runners Guide Editorial Committee](#)
- [Formalization of Long List Entries \(FOLLE\) Committee](#)

Special Committees of the Business Meeting

- [Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards](#)
- [Software Committee](#)
- [Location, Location, Location Committee](#)
- [Hugo Administration Process Committee](#)
- [Business Meeting Study Group](#)

B. Financial Reports

The following conventions are required to submit financial reports, which can be viewed in their entirety in Appendix B:

- [LoneStarCon 3](#) (2013 - San Antonio, USA)
- [Sasquan](#) (2015 - Spokane, USA)
- [MidAmeriCon II](#) (2016 - Kansas City, USA)
- [Worldcon 76](#) (2018 - San Jose, USA)
- [Dublin 2019: An Irish Worldcon](#) (2019 - Dublin, Ireland)
- [CoNZeland](#) (2020 - Wellington, New Zealand)
- [Chengdu Worldcon](#) (2023 - Chengdu, China)
- [Glasgow 2024](#) (2024 - Glasgow, Scotland)
- [Buffalo NASFiC 2024](#) (2024 - Buffalo, USA)
- [Seattle in 2025](#) (2025 - Seattle, USA)
- [LACon V](#) (2026 - Los Angeles, US)

C. Standing Rule Changes

C.1 Extend Business Meeting Agenda Deadline

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

Rule 4.4: Availability of BM Materials. All WSFS Committee Reports, Worldcon Annual Financial Reports, and New Business submitted to the Business Meeting before the deadline established in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution shall be made generally available to WSFS members (e.g. via publication on the host Worldcon's web site) by no later than ~~seven (7)~~ ten (10) days after the deadline for new business set in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Chris Hensley, Farah Mendlesohn

Discussion: Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS constitution sets the submission deadline for new business and committee reports to thirty days before the preliminary business meeting. Standing Rule 4.4 sets the deadline, currently seven days, after the deadline for new business and committee reports to be publicly available to the members. In practice, there is a spike of new business and committee reports being received close to the deadline and those agenda items are in various formats.

This is reasonable, given that the reports and business items are being submitted by people volunteering their time to improve the community, often with limited experience drafting business for a parliamentary body, and the fact that we do not want, and should not, as a body to be rejecting business or reports because they do not meet strict formatting requirements. However, this leads to a situation where there is a significant time commitment required to work with members to ensure that the motions are validly formed, as well as to format the committee reports in a standardized way for both digital and print publication. Historically, this has been done thanks to the business meeting staff putting in many hours of work during the week to meet the deadline. Last year, at the Glasgow 2024 business meeting, we saw the real limits of what continual heroic effort of volunteers can accomplish in a seven day window. Due to an unusually large amount of submitted business, the agenda was not published within the seven days required, however it was published within the ten days proposed by this amendment.

Increasing the deadline for publishing the agenda from seven days, to ten days, is a more reasonable timeline given the work involved. Based on last year's meeting, it also gives the staff an appropriate amount of time to handle years with a high volume of business without negatively impacting the members' ability to participate in discussions of those items prior to the meeting.

C.2 Dude, Where's My Motion?

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

4.4: Availability of BM Materials. All WSFS Committee Reports, Worldcon Annual Financial Reports, and New Business submitted to the Business Meeting before the deadline established in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution, as well as a list of any committees that failed to submit a report by the deadline, or whose report did not properly account for the disposition of items referred to it as required in Standing Rule 7.6.1. shall be made generally available to WSFS members...

7.6.1: Committee Reports. Committee reports submitted to the Business Meeting shall include an account of the items of business referred to the committee, if applicable, and the disposition thereof.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Kate Secor, Terri Ash, Kristina Forsyth, Joshua Kronengold

Discussion: The WSFS Business Meeting often sends a good deal of business off to committee for consultation, revision, and improvement. Many amendments to the WSFS Constitution go through such a process, sometimes for several years, before being finally moved forward for adoption. When this process works well, it is a boon to the Society and the Business Meeting.

Unfortunately, as a volunteer organization, sometimes committees fall apart or "fail to launch", often through nobody's fault, but solely due to events beyond anybody's control. If membership is not formally decided upon at the Business Meeting, people may not know whether or not they were added to the committee. If the chair of a committee dislikes a business item, they can effectively smother it for several years. Additionally, some committees end up excluding major sponsors of business sent to them, resulting in people not knowing the status of "their" business until it fails to reappear on the agenda during the next year. In this process, business gets lost and people find themselves unable to move things forward that are important to them.

At a minimum, we therefore propose requiring that committee reports list business that was referred to them and their disposition of this business. This can include simply that the committee did not take the item up or did not advance it, but failing to even say this much does a disservice to the proposers.

C.3 Reconsidering Reconsideration

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

5.13. Reconsideration. For the purpose of the motion to Reconsider, all those not present for the original vote are considered to have voted on the prevailing side.

Proposed by: Joshua Kronengold, Cliff Dunn

Discussion: Roberts Rules are designed for a body that is largely static in nature. The Business Meeting is not; the composition of people in the room will swing wildly from session to session over the course of the meeting and for good reason, as each day of the session stands on its own, with its own priorities and conflicts. And motions can be surprising--either through late accepted motions that were not on the agenda, or through motions changing into something unexpected. While letting someone on the losing side "take another bite at the apple" is likely to border on dilatory, treating members not present the same way damages the rights of absentees. We note that while Roberts Rules does not permit this, other rules (such as Sturgis' Standard Code) are not so restrictive.

C.4 Committees Include Stakeholders

Moved, to amend the WSFS Standing Rules as follows:

Rule 7.7: Proposers on Committees. When any item is referred to a special committee whose membership is not elected or limited in number, no fewer than two proposing members of said item shall be appointed to the committee unless fewer than two proposing members are willing to serve. The maker of the original motion shall be given first right of refusal for such positions.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn and Kate Secor

Discussion: When the Business Meeting sends business off to committee, it is both rude to not give the author(s) of the business in question a chance to serve on the committee in question and necessarily limits the ability of the committee to address the business. If there is a compelling reason to exclude the author(s) beyond them being uninterested in doing so, a suspension of the rules can be invoked, but without some compelling reason they really should be on the committee.

C.5 Future Investigation Committees

Moved, To amend the Standing Rules as follows:

Rule 5.X: Investigation Committee. The formation of an investigation committee shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Proposed by: Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards

Discussion: See the [report from the Investigation Committee](#).

Note: This item will be handled in Executive Session with the report of the Investigation Committee.

D. Resolutions

From the WSFS Constitution Section 3.4.3: In the event that a potential Hugo Award nominee receives extremely limited distribution in the year of its first publication or presentation, its eligibility may be extended for an additional year by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the intervening Business Meeting of WSFS.

D.1: Hugo Eligibility Extension for *Pantheon* Season Two

Moved, to extend for one year the eligibility of season two of the television series *Pantheon* (both as a single entity and for all eight individual episodes therein), based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Nana K. Amuah, Olav Rokne, Cora Buhlert, Camestros Felapton

Discussion: *Pantheon* is an American animated series, based on Ken Liu's "Singularity" short stories, running from 2022 to 2023. Season one was initially released on the streaming service AMC+ in 2022. The rights to season two were bought by Amazon Prime Video following the show's cancellation, but the season was only released to Australia and New Zealand on October 15, 2023, unavailable to legally stream or purchase anywhere else. This was the case until 2025, when Netflix, after acquiring the series and releasing its first season on November 22nd of 2024, released the second season globally on February 21st, 2025.

Due to its limited release, very few members of the Worldcon held in 2024 (Glasgow 2024) would have seen *Pantheon's* second season before the deadline to nominate for that year's Hugo Awards. Because of this year's wider global release on Netflix, more would have seen it to justify an eligibility extension for 2026.

D.2: Hugo Eligibility Extension for *The End*

Moved, to extend for one year the eligibility of the movie *The End*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Nana K. Amuah, Olav Rokne, Cora Buhlert, Amanda Wakaruk

Discussion: *The End* is an apocalyptic musical movie released in 2024 directed and co-written by Joshua Oppenheimer. It received a limited release of only 18 cinemas on Dec 6, 2024, and was unavailable to most viewers until March of 2025.

Due to its limited release, very few members of the Worldcon held in 2025 would have had an opportunity to see this movie before the deadline to nominate for the Hugo Awards. Because of this year's wider global release on Amazon Prime, more would have seen it to justify an eligibility extension for 2026.

D.3 Hugo Eligibility Extension for *Rani, Rani, Rani*

Moved, to extend for one year the eligibility of the movie *Rani, Rani, Rani*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Nana K. Amuah, Olav Rokne, Cora Buhlert, Amanda Wakaruk

Discussion: *Rani, Rani, Rani* is an Indian-made time travel movie directed and co-written by Rajaram Rajendran. It was released in India in 2022, and received extremely limited distribution outside of India until 2025.

Until it became available on streaming services in late 2024, very few Worldcon attendees would have had a chance to see it prior to the Hugo nominating deadline in 2025.

D.4 Continuation of Business Meeting Study Group

Resolved, to continue the WSFS Business Meeting Study Group for a further year, to report back with specific recommendations to the 2026 WSFS Business Meeting, with Colin Harris and Kat Kourbeti appointed as Co-Chairs.

The scope of the Business Meeting Study Group for this year shall include:

1. Continued assessment of alternatives to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR)* as the basis for the conduct of the Business Meeting;
2. Continued assessment of the options for asynchronous decision making, broadening access to and participation in the Business Meeting; and
3. Refinements to the scope and processes of the Business Meeting, to better accommodate current business volumes while also removing barriers to access and participation.

Within this scope we shall also continue to consider (a) potential for remote participation in the meeting (b) timing of the meeting (c) associated technology requirements (d) what additional education and support can be provided to attendees to help them navigate and participate in the Meeting.

For each topic, any recommendations made by the Study Group shall include a clear assessment of the consequences, benefits and drawbacks of the proposed approach compared to the existing approach.

Proposed by: Colin Harris, Kat Kourbeti, Farah Mendlesohn

Discussion: Since its establishment at Glasgow 2024, the Business Meeting Study Group has completed a range of initial investigations into potential changes to the Business Meeting. Starting from wide-ranging discussions involving all group members, we established focused working groups to look more deeply into key topics. We have

identified options ranging from the incremental to the radical and set out a future framework of key principles to make the Business Meeting more transparent, accessible and efficient. The work completed to date is summarized in the Report of the WSFS Business Meeting Study Group included with the Seattle 2025 Business Meeting Agenda.

We seek the endorsement of the Business Meeting for the work carried out to date and the continuation of the committee for a further year. We expect to present detailed recommendations to the 2026 Meeting along with corresponding motions for changes to the Rules where appropriate.

D.5 Continuation of Hugo Administration Process Committee

Resolved, to continue the Hugo Process Study Committee as currently constituted, with the addition of one former Worldcon chair and one former Hugo Administrator to be appointed by the Presiding Officer, and additional members to be appointed by the committee chair at their discretion. The focus of the committee will be:

1. To work with the 2026 Hugo Administrator to document their processes and best practices formally into one document.
2. To draft changes to the WSFS constitution that better enshrine the Administrator's duties and relationships.
3. To work on developing a poll of WSFS membership regarding the relationship between the Hugo Awards and Worldcon.

Proposed by: Hugo Administration Process Committee

Discussion: See the [report from the Hugo Administration Process Committee](#).

D.6 Creation of Code of Ethics

Resolved, that a committee be created, to be appointed by the Presiding Officer, to bring to the 2025 Business Meeting a Code of Ethics for administrative officers of WSFS and the Hugo Administration and Constitutional amendments as required. The Code of Ethics should:

1. Outline clearly the duties of our administrative volunteers to protect the integrity of the Awards,
2. Set standards for professionalism and record keeping for the Hugo Administrator and the Hugo Subcommittee, and
3. Make clear a reporting mechanism for breaches of the Code of Ethics

Proposed by: Hugo Administration Process Committee

Discussion: See the [report from the Hugo Administration Process Committee](#).

D.7 Clarifying Electronic Signatures

Resolved, To request that the Secretary of the Business Meeting make the following grammatical correction to clarify the meaning of Section 4.4.2 of the WSFS Constitution by [inserting](#) words as follows:

Section 4.4.2: Amendment. Worldcons may, with the agreement of all active bids, choose to offer any electronic signature means [that are](#) legal in the seated Worldcon's home jurisdiction.

Proposed by: The Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee

Discussion: While discussing the substantive change proposed in the "Active Bids" proposal, the Committee noticed what they believe would be a grammatical correction that would not change the substantive meaning of the sentence but that would improve its readability. Such changes are authorized under Standing Rule 4.3 and are not considered Constitutional amendments. This resolution calls the matter to the attention of the Business Meeting Secretary and asks them to make this correction.

Note that this resolution does not override the "Active Bids" constitutional amendment.

D.8 Generative AI

WHEREAS generative AI tools are often trained on copyrighted material without the permission of copyright holders.

WHEREAS a significant portion of World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) members are creatives, many of whom find the use of generative AI offensive.

WHEREAS the administration of the 2025 Worldcon disclosed, via social media, its usage of generative AI shortly after public revelations that thousands of authors' works, including those of Worldcon attendees, had been utilized by ChatGPT without appropriate compensation.

WHEREAS the Seattle administration subsequently issued a public apology to attendees and provided multiple options for remuneration or restitution.

WHEREAS the expansion of large language model (LLM) technology has caused demonstrable harm to the lives and livelihoods of creative members of the international WSFS community, particularly in cases where such technology has been trained on pirated works without compensation to their creators.

BE IT RESOLVED WSFS seeks to honor the work of these creatives and urges future conventions to take this concern into account when determining their policies regarding AI-generated content.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025 WSFS business meeting formally acknowledges the impact of generative AI on creative professionals and affirms its commitment to ethical technological practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2025 WSFS business meeting encourages future Worldcons to integrate statements on the ethical use of technology into their codes of conduct, and implement practical training for their staffs and volunteers to reinforce awareness of ethical concerns related to generative AI usage, with such training building on prior sessions and addressing communication gaps that contributed to previous ethical breaches.

Proposed by: Els, Priya Sridhar

D.9 Instructions to FOLLE Committee

Resolved, that the Formulation of Long List Entries Committee is instructed to add an annotation to the public list of Hugo Finalists stating that, "Approximately 30 nominees were excluded from the final ballot of the 2023 Hugo Awards for reasons other than the nominating procedures prescribed in the WSFS Constitution."

Proposed by: Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards

Discussion: See the [report from the Investigation Committee](#).

Note: This item will be handled in Executive Session with the report of the Investigation Committee.

D.10 Whistleblower's Charter Committee

Resolved, that a committee be formed of volunteers, with a chair to be appointed by the presiding officer, to discuss a whistleblower's charter, and if they find it desirable, to propose one to next year's WSFS Business Meeting.

Proposed by: Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards

Discussion: Please see the full report from the Investigation Committee, which will be made available on the virtual meeting platform.

Note: This item will be handled in Executive Session with the report of the Investigation Committee.

D.11 Worldcon Chairs and Hugo Administration

Resolved, that it is the sense of the Business Meeting that Worldcon chairs should not serve on the Hugo Administration Subcommittee for their own Worldcon in order to avoid any apparent or real conflict of interest resulting from the interplay of authority between the chair and Hugo administrator.

Proposed by: Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards

Discussion: Please see the full report from the Investigation Committee, which will be made available on the virtual meeting platform.

Note: This item will be handled in Executive Session with the report of the Investigation Committee.

D.12 Regarding Disciplinary Proceedings

This resolution concerns the Investigation Committee's recommendations regarding the continuation of the disciplinary process. The text of this resolution will only be provided in the full report from the Investigation Committee.

Proposed by: Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards

Discussion: Please see the full report from the Investigation Committee, which will be made available on the virtual meeting platform.

Note: This item will be handled in Executive Session with the report of the Investigation Committee.

E. Business Passed On

See the agenda and minutes from the Business Meeting of first passage (<https://www.wsfs.org/rules-of-the-world-science-fiction-society/archive-of-wsfs-rules/>) for commentary.

The following items received first passage at Glasgow Worldcon 2024 and must be ratified at Seattle Worldcon 2025 in order to become part of the Constitution.

E.1 Missing in Action

Moved, to amend Section 1.5.2 of the WSFS Constitution as follows:

WSFS memberships held by natural persons may not be transferred, except [in the following circumstances: \(a\) when a person purchases a WSFS membership for someone without providing a name or purchases a duplicate membership. That membership may be transferred only prior to the opening of Hugo Award nominations in the winning convention, and \(b\) ~~that, in the case of death of a~~ if a natural person holding a WSFS membership \[dies\]\(#\), ~~it~~ \[the WSFS membership\]\(#\) may be transferred to the estate of the decedent.](#)

E.2 The Way We Were

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Replace ~~WSFS Membership~~ with [Supporting Membership](#) wherever it appears in the Constitution, and to replace ~~Attending Supplement~~ with [Attending Membership](#), including all similar variations of the words (e.g., WSFS Memberships, WSFS members, attending supplement) to their grammatically correct replacements.

E.3 Required License Agreement

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

4.6.1 Bid Eligibility

[\(4\) an executed copy, binding the bidding and prospective convention operating committee, of the most recent WSFS Mark Licensing Agreement that has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the Mark Protection Committee.](#)

4.5.6: Where a site and Committee are chosen by a Business Meeting or Worldcon Committee following a win by “None of the Above,” they are not restricted by exclusion zone or other qualifications [except that the selected committee must execute the required WSFS Mark Licensing Agreement.](#)

E.4 MPC Procedures

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 1.7: The Mark Protection Committee

1.7.4: The Mark Protection Committee shall determine and elect its own officers, which shall include a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers need not be elected or appointed members of the Mark Protection Committee, which may provide that the holder of an Office who was not so elected or appointed be a non-voting *ex officio* member of the Committee.

1.7.X: Meetings of the Mark Protection Committee shall be held with at least 3 days' notice either on the initiative of the Chair or within 7 days of a request by five members. The meeting shall be called by the Chair or, in their absence, the Secretary or, in the absence of both the Chair and the Secretary, any member may call a meeting.

1.7.Y: A quorum of the Mark Protection Committee shall be a majority of its members. Members may attend through the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, including in person, internet video meeting or by telephonic conference call.

Section 1.8: Membership of the Mark Protection Committee

1.8.X: Members of the Mark Protection Committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of that committee.

E.5 Hugo Administration and Site Selection Monitoring

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.13: Subcommittee and Exclusions. ~~No member of the current Worldcon Committee or any publications closely connected with a member of the Committee shall be eligible for an Award. However, should the~~ Each Worldcon Committee shall delegate all authority under this Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevocable by the Worldcon Committee, ~~then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.~~ No member of this Subcommittee, including the members elected by the Business Meeting, or any publications or works closely connected with them, shall be eligible for an Award.

Section 5.X: Hugo Administration and Site Selection Monitoring. The Business Meeting shall elect, as follows, four (4) different persons, two (2) each year, who have submitted their written consent to such election and a statement that they are

not affiliated with either of the next two Worldcons committees and will not become so affiliated during their term of office:

(1) two (2) persons, one (1) each year, to two-year staggered terms who shall serve as special members of each required Worldcon Committee Hugo Award Subcommittee; and

(2) two (2) persons, one (1) each year, to two-year staggered terms who shall serve as special site selection tellers on the same basis as the site selection tellers provided by convention bid committees.

These persons shall report to the Business Meeting and to the Mark Protection Committee as to the propriety of the procedures followed by the Hugo Award administrations and site selection that they monitor and describing any circumstances that made such monitoring difficult or impractical. Should a vacancy occur in this set of four persons, the remainder of their term may be filled by the Business Meeting and until Business Meeting so acts, temporarily filled by the Mark Protection Committee.

Provided that, at the first election of the special site selection tellers and special Hugo Award Subcommittee members, four persons shall be elected with the first elected of each pair elected to a two-year term while the second shall be elected to an initial one-year term to establish the staggering of the terms in office.

E.6 Editorial Alignment

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.3.12: Best Editor Long Form. The editor of at least four (4) novel-length works primarily devoted to science fiction and / or fantasy, at least one of which was published in the previous calendar year, that do not qualify as works under subsection 3.3.11.

E.7 No More Retros

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.14: Retrospective Hugo Awards

~~3.14.1: A Worldcon held in a year that is an exact multiple of 25 years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded may conduct nominations and elections for retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year with procedures as for the current Hugo Awards, provided that year was 1939 or later and that no previous Worldcon has awarded retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year.~~

~~3.14.2:~~ In any listing of Hugo Award winners published by a Worldcon committee or WSFS, Retrospective Hugo Awards presented prior to the 2026 Worldcon shall be distinguished and annotated with the year in which such retrospective Hugo Awards were voted.

E.8 Belated Finalists

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.4.X: The WSFS Business Meeting may, by a three-fourths vote, determine that a potential nominee for the Hugo Award or another award administered by WSFS was improperly declared ineligible and should have been a finalist on the previous year's ballot and, by such a vote, with their permission, give that potential nominee the status of being a finalist for that previous year.

Provided, that such three-fourths votes passed at the 2024 and 2025 Business Meetings shall be effective if this constitutional amendment is passed in 2024 and ratified in 2025.

E.9 Cleaning Up the Art Categories

This item will be taken up at the Third Main Meeting on July 25th to accommodate the scheduling constraints of one of the original proposers.

Moved, to amend the WSFS constitution as follows:

3.3.13: Best Professional Artist. ~~An illustrator whose work has appeared in a professional publication in the field of science fiction or fantasy during the previous calendar year.~~ One or more collaborators on a body of artwork in the field of science fiction or fantasy first displayed during the previous calendar year and created as (i) work for hire, (ii) on paid commission, or (iii) for sale (either directly or via a paywall-like structure).

3.3.17: Best Fan Artist. ~~An artist or cartoonist whose work has appeared through publication in semiprozines or fanzines or through other public, non-professional, display (including at a convention or conventions, posting on the internet, in online or print on-demand shops, or in another setting not requiring a fee to see the image in full resolution) during the previous calendar year.~~ One or more collaborators on a body of artwork in the field of science fiction or fantasy first displayed during the previous calendar year in a fashion that did not qualify for Best Professional Artist - i.e., neither work for hire, nor commissioned for pay, nor for sale, Free copies of a publication in which an artist is published shall not constitute "pay" unless they are supplied with the expectation of resale by the artist.

3.10.2: In the Best Professional Artist ~~category~~ and Best Fan Artist categories, the acceptance should include citations of at least three (3) works that were first displayed in the eligible year.

F. New Constitutional Changes

F.1 Clarifying Active Bids

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 4.4.2: Amendment. Worldcons may, with the ~~agreement of all active bids,~~ unanimous agreement of the current Worldcon Committee and all bidding committees that have filed before the ballot deadline, choose to offer any electronic signature means legal in the seated Worldcon's home jurisdiction.

Proposed by: The Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee

Discussion: The current wording regarding whether electronic signatures can be accepted in a site selection refers to "valid bids," without a clear definition of what a valid bid is. If it were taken to include any bids filed after the deadline for appearing on the ballot, a write-in bid could conceivably file right up until the close of voting and declare that it refused to accept electronic signatures. The NPFSC believes that "valid bids" was intended to mean "bids qualified to be on the ballot," and therefore proposes to make this explicit and remove any ambiguity.

F.2 Clarifying Hugo Administrator's Discretion

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.8.2: The Worldcon Committee shall within the range of options provided elsewhere in this Constitution, determine the eligibility of nominees and assignment to the proper category of works nominated in more than one category.

Proposed by: The Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee

Discussion: The existing Section 3.8.2 has been cited in social media as justification for a Committee making any decision it wants about a work or person's eligibility regardless of the rest of the Constitution. While we believe that interpretation of 3.8.2 is erroneous, it seems best to clarify the wording.

F.3 Clarifying Best Graphic Story or Comic

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.3.6: Best Graphic Story or Comic. Any non-interactive science fiction or fantasy story told in graphic form appearing for the first time in the previous calendar year. [An album/collection shall be eligible if less than half of its content has previously been published in collected format. But an album/collection will not be eligible if it contains material that has previously appeared on the Hugo ballot in this category.](#)

Proposed by: Nicholas Whyte and Tammy Coxen

Discussion: Most Hugo voters consume comics in album/collection format. There has been occasional controversy about allowing an album to qualify for the ballot when much of its content had been released in previous years in single issue format, or as a webzine.

In practice, most albums include sufficient new material to justify considering the content to have appeared “for the first time” in the year of eligibility, but it is better to have a clear instruction to consider albums of previously uncollected material as eligible, as long as that material is fresh to the Hugo ballot.

We propose a requirement that half of the content of a potential album nominee has not previously been published in album format, but we are open to amend that to be higher.

But we should collectively not lose sight of the main point, to allow voters to vote for the work that they have enjoyed.

In any case, this amendment will clarify the constitution and codify existing practice if it is passed.

F.4 Clarifying Best Series

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

~~3.8.3~~ **3.3.5.2:** If any series and a subset series thereof both receive sufficient nominations to appear on the final ballot, only the version which received more nominations shall appear.

[**3.3.5.3** If a series as a whole has qualified for the ballot in Best Series, and one or more elements of that series have also qualified for the ballot in other categories in the same year, all of those nominations will stand unless one or more are declined.](#)

Proposed by: Nicholas Whyte and Tammy Coxen

Discussion: The current subsection 3.8.3 of the Constitution is clearly intended to help Administrators resolve a situation where two potential nominees in the Best Series category could potentially be in competition against each other on the final ballot, despite

being by the same author and with one of them being a subset series of the other. In fact this situation has never come close to occurring, but the placement of these words in Section 3.8 has caused confusion to some commentators. Moving the subsection to Section 3.3 will not cause any practical change but will clarify the situation.

Some have misread subsection 3.8.3 as a prohibition on any work appearing in both one of the written fiction categories and as part of a finalist in the Best Series category; it has been pointed out that mathematically speaking, a 'subset' can have a membership of just one. However, a 'subset **series**' clearly must have multiple members (or it would not be a series), so this argument is incorrect.

The Hugo Administrators of Chengdu Worldcon in 2023 cited subsection 3.8.3 in their disqualification of the **Sandman** television series. This was incorrect; it should have been disqualified (if at all) under subsection 3.2.11.

Moving subsection 3.8.3 to the rest of the Best Series rubric will reduce the potential for confusion.

The proposed new subsection 3.3.5.3 clarifies the constitution and codifies existing practice. Voters clearly enjoy celebrating both series and their constituent parts, and for instance in 2021 voted Hugos to both *Network Effect* and to the *Murderbot* stories as a whole.

An attempt to bar a series and any of its constituent parts from appearing on the ballot in the same year was decisively rejected by the 2022 Business Meeting, as was another, more extreme proposal to bar a series if **any** of its constituent parts had previously won a Hugo.

The above proposed wording ("other categories") for subsection 3.3.5.3 is deliberately broad, and allows for the possibility that a series might include not only written fiction, but also graphic novels and/or games.

F.5 Clarifying the Best Dramatic Presentation Categories

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.8.6 If an episodic series as a whole has sufficient nominations to qualify for the ballot for Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form, and one or more episodes of that series also has or have sufficient nominations to qualify for Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form, then the administrators shall exclude either the series from the Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form category or the potentially qualifying episode(s) from the Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form category.

The administrators shall take into account the number of votes both for the potentially excluded nominees and for those who would be brought onto the ballot in the event of an exclusion, and shall consider how best to reflect the wishes of the greater number of voters.

3.9.4: After the initial Award ballot is generated, if any finalist(s) are removed for any reason, they will be replaced by other works in reverse order of elimination; except that no episode in a dramatic presentation series shall be eligible to fill such a vacancy if it has already been determined that other potentially qualifying episodes of that series shall be excluded under Subsection 3.8.6 in the same category.

Proposed by: Nicholas Whyte and Tammy Coxen

Discussion: While arguably this situation is already covered by Sub-section 3.2.11, “No work shall appear in more than one category on the final Award ballot”, there is some confusion on the issue, and it must be admitted that on its face, Sub-section 3.2.11 appears to be more relevant to the possibility of individual works potentially qualifying as such in more than one of the first four **written** fiction categories.

It’s clear however that Hugo administration in practice has evolved to the point that no series can appear on the Best Dramatic Presentation Long Form ballot if any of its episodes appears on the Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form ballot, and vice versa.

It has been suggested that in this situation, the Hugo administrators should be expected, or even obliged, to consult the show-runners of the TV series in question as to whether they prefer the series as a whole or the individual episodes to be on the ballot. We do not support that idea because:

- 1) the nominees for individual episodes are the writers and directors, who may not be full-time staffers of the studio, and it is unfair to let the studio make decisions on their behalf;
- 2) votes cast by WSFS members, rather than the choices of studio executives, should in general determine what appears on the Hugo ballot;
- 3) TV studios in general are notoriously slow to engage with Hugo administrators, and we should not make our procedures hostage to their (lack of) response.

The studio will have its own incentives, completely different to those of the author or director of an individual episode. It's not wrong for them to have different incentives, that's natural. But there's no reason to give the studio's incentive structure or decision making more power than the creators who are actually nominated. This should be between the nominated creators and the fans - or just the fans themselves, if the creators aren't interested.

The second paragraph of our proposed amendment is deliberately advisory rather than detailed; one can envisage future circumstances where it is useful for administrators to exercise discretion.

Administrators have been consistent in adjudicating nominations for the Best Dramatic Presentation categories in the manner described above over the years; if passed, this amendment will not change anything, but will clarify the rules and codify existing practice.

If our other proposed amendment on **Clarifying Nominee Diversity** is also passed, the proposed changes to Sub-section 3.9.4 will need to be cumulated.

F.6 Clarifying Nominee Diversity

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

~~**3.8.6:** If there are more than two works in the same category that are episodes of the same dramatic presentation series or that are written works that have an author for single author works, or two or more authors for co-authored works, in common, only the two works in each category that have the most nominations shall appear on the final ballot. The Worldcon Committee shall make reasonable efforts to notify those who would have been finalists in the absence of this subsection to provide them an opportunity to withdraw. For the purpose of this exclusion, works withdrawn shall be ignored.~~

No more than two works that are episodes of the same dramatic presentation series shall appear on the final ballot in any one category. No more than two written works that have exactly the same author or authors shall appear on the final ballot in any one category.

The Worldcon Committee shall make reasonable efforts to notify authors and creators who have more than two works among the top six nominees in any one category on the initial Award ballot when it has been generated, and will offer them the option to choose a maximum of two of those works to appear on the ballot. If the authors or creators cannot be contacted or do not reply, the two works with the most votes will appear on the ballot, and the other work(s) in question shall be excluded.

3.9.4: After the initial Award ballot is generated, if any finalist(s) are removed for any reason, they will be replaced by other works in reverse order of elimination; except that, consistent with Subsection 3.8.6, no episode in a dramatic presentation series shall be eligible to fill such a vacancy if two episodes of that series have already qualified (and have not been withdrawn) in the same category, and no written work shall be eligible to fill such a vacancy if two works by exactly the same author or authors have already qualified (and have not been withdrawn) in the same category.

Proposed by: Nicholas Whyte and Tammy Coxen

Discussion: The situation anticipated in Sub-section 3.8.6 has so far happened only twice. In 2017, the first year after Sub-section 3.8.6 came into force, three episodes of Game of Thrones were on the initial Award ballot for Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form when it was generated; the show-runners chose to withdraw one of them. In 2019, three stories by Martha Wells were on the initial Award ballot for Best Novella when it was generated; she withdrew two of them.

Frankly we, the movers of this amendment, disagree with the intent of Sub-section 3.8.6 and regard it as unnecessary interference with the will of the Hugo voters, punishing TV shows or authors who commit the offence of being too popular. Our preference is to repeal the entire sub-section.

If we are to keep it, however, it should at least be rewritten to avoid confusion. The current wording is ambiguous and does not completely match the reality of how the Hugo final ballot is determined. In particular, Sub-section 3.8.6 became part of the Constitution at the same time as E Pluribus Hugo, and is slightly inconsistent.

This amendment does not change anything in practice, but clarifies the Constitution.

If our other proposed amendment on **Clarifying the Best Dramatic Presentation Categories** is also passed, the changes to Sub-section 3.9.4 will need to be cumulated and the references here to Sub-section 3.8.6 will need to change to refer to Sub-section 3.8.7.

F.7 Clarifying WSFS Membership Rights

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

1.5.2: The rights of WSFS members of a Worldcon include: the right to receive all of its generally distributed publications; the rights to nominate and vote in the Hugo Awards of the current Worldcon, and the right to nominate in the Hugo Awards of the following year's Worldcon, subject to being a natural person and joining the Worldcon before the relevant cutoff date(s), per clauses 3.7.1 and 4.2.1; the right to vote in site selection, subject to being a natural person; and the right to attend the WSFS Business Meeting of that calendar year, subject to being a natural person with rights of attendance to the Worldcon through an Attending Supplement or other

class of membership. However, if the current Worldcon provides for online participation in the Business Meeting, then these rights include participation in the online portion of the Meeting for all WSFS members.

~~WSFS memberships held by natural persons may not be transferred, except that, in case of death of a natural person holding a WSFS membership, it may be transferred to the estate of the decedent.~~

1.5.3: WSFS memberships held by natural persons may not be transferred, except that, in case of death of a natural person holding a WSFS membership, it may be transferred to the estate of the decedent.

1.5.3 4: The rights of WSFS members who have an attending supplement of a Worldcon include the rights of WSFS members plus the right of general attendance at said Worldcon ~~and at the WSFS Business Meeting held thereat.~~

Proposed by: Kat Kourbeti, Kristina Forsyth.

Discussion: The rights of WSFS members have not been adequately and comprehensively defined in the appropriate section of the constitution, and in fact are scattered across different sections. This amendment proposes a streamlining of the rights that come with a WSFS membership, and a comprehensive outline of everything a WSFS member is entitled to, including an extension to allow for the attendance of the Business Meeting by virtual means at minimum.

Currently, attendance of the Business Meeting is a right attached to Attending Supplements, which seems counterintuitive for a number of reasons. In previous years, WSFS members could buy a Day Pass and attend the Business Meeting for one day, which was technically a gray area constitutionally, but allowances were made regardless. Since 2020, the wording around WSFS rights and Business Meeting attendance has cast doubt on the constitutionality and validity of certain Business Meetings, and confusion as to whether Virtual Attending Supplements are included in this, or if they are classed as a lower level of membership.

With this amendment, the right to attend the Business Meeting is attached to the WSFS membership, and it is up to each Worldcon to decide how to conduct the Business Meeting, and by extension if a supplement is needed in order to attend it. We are deliberately including language to facilitate attending the Business Meeting remotely, and believe that enshrining the rights of WSFS members into the membership is a good first step in ensuring all WSFS members have equal rights when it comes to having a say in the governance of the Society.

F.8 Fourteen Days of Christmas

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.4.4: Any work which had its initial release on or after December 17 of a given year, and which was not required under Section 3.12.3 to be included among the works within the final ten rounds of the finalist selection process, shall be deemed to have its eligibility extended for one year.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn and Erica Frank

Discussion: Extreme end-of-year releases are a sticky point for Hugo Award nominations:

A movie which only receives a one-week, one-theater release in December as “Oscar bait” followed by a wide January release can easily be perceived as a next-year release - a Christmas Day (December 25) release (historically only requiring a single theater in New York or Los Angeles - *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, for example, had its premier at a single theater on December 21, 1937; it was nominated for an Oscar for Best Scoring in 1937, but didn’t go into general release until partway through 1938) will qualify a movie for the Academy Awards, as it will meet the seven-day release requirement.

Over in the comics world, the disconnect between “street date” and “cover date” has been a sticky mess for a long time. Most notably from our perspective, in 2022 *Ghost Spider* topped the nominating ballot for Best Graphic Story or Comic but had been subject to a very-late-December release of one edition, resulting in a large number of confused nominators accidentally wasting their nominations, and folks not being able to do anything at that point.

More to the point, in almost every country that has hosted a Worldcon, the Christmas season is one of major distraction - as millions of people visit friends and family over the holidays, their ability to notice what was in narrow release is far from guaranteed. Such distracting periods occur throughout the year, but the one at Christmas causes a problem because of its proximity to the end of the calendar year.

Our view is that any work that makes the Long List had sufficient exposure to not merit an extension, and that most any well-received wide release in December will have a good shot at making the Long List. We don’t want to see such works hit the Long List twice and crowd out works in the subsequent year. For all other works, however, we favor erring on the side of caution and letting them have a second bite at the apple.

F.9 Hugo Award Software Source

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.7.4 Nomination Software Licensing. All bespoke software used in the collection, processing, and reporting of member nominations for the Hugo Awards must be licensed under an Open Source Software (OSS) license, as defined by the Open Source Initiative (OSI). The license must be categorized as both “International” and “Popular” according to the OSI’s categorization scheme. The source code must be made available publicly to WSFS members before the close of nominations.

3.11.6 Voting Software Licensing. All bespoke software used in the collection, processing, and reporting of member votes for the Hugo Awards must be licensed under an Open Source Software (OSS) license, as defined by the Open Source Initiative (OSI). The license must be categorized as both “International” and “Popular” according to the OSI’s categorization scheme. The source code must be made available publicly to WSFS members before the close of voting.

Proposed by: Software Committee

Discussion: We recommend that the source code used to implement the Hugo Awards must be made available publicly to WSFS members before the close of nominations or voting, respectively. We think that this requirement would enhance transparency and trust in the Hugo Awards process, while allowing sufficient flexibility for future conventions to adapt to evolving technological needs. Any WSFS member is empowered to use this access to audit, or cause to be audited, the software in question.

F.10 Site Selection Concordance

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

4.4.3: Site Selection Software Specification. When site selection is performed electronically, as provided for in 4.4.2, the specific software selected to perform site selection by the current Worldcon Committee must be unanimously approved by all bidding committees that have filed before the ballot deadline. Any substantive changes to the site selection software requires the same such agreement.

After any such software selections and approvals described in this section have been made, they may not be rescinded at a later date, except by the same such unanimous agreement.

Proposed by: Software Committee

Discussion: We recommend that the business meeting take no explicit position on the nature of site selection voting software. We do propose this amendment, to give the administering convention a reasonable amount of time to implement any electronic site

selection measures after an agreement has been reached with the bids, without risk of a bid withdrawing its consent for the approach.

F.11 Mandated Hugo Admin Reports

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.12.3: The complete numerical vote totals, including all preliminary tallies for first, second, . . . places, shall be made public by the Worldcon Committee within ninety (90) days after the Worldcon. During the same period, the results of the last ten rounds of the finalist selection process for each category (or all the rounds if there are fewer than ten) shall also be published. [These reports must be accompanied by a detailed summary of any eligibility rulings made by the Hugo Administrator, including disqualifications and categorization changes.](#)

Proposed by: Hugo Administration Process Committee

Discussion: See the [report from the Hugo Administration Process Committee](#).

F.12 Speculative Poetry Hugo Award

Moved, to amend the WSFS constitution as follows:

[**3.3.Y: Best Poem:** A science fiction or fantasy poem of any line length or word count.](#)

[Provided that unless this amendment is re-ratified by the 2029 Business Meeting, this Section shall be repealed;](#)

[and provided further that the question of re-ratification shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the 2029 Business Meeting](#)

Proposed by: Holly Lyn Walrath, Brian Garrison, Lynne Sargent, Marie Brennan, Akua Lezli Hope, Sue Burke, Deborah Davitt, Myna Chang

Discussion: A Hugo Award specifically for poetry is necessary to recognize a form with a rich history that has been in place since the beginning of the speculative genres. Furthermore, the current speculative poetry community is a vital and thriving field.

Many common questions and issues are addressed at: PoetryHugo.com

With further supporting evidence, documentation, sources, references, and discussion. A synopsis of major points is provided below:

The viability of a Poetry category was demonstrated at Worldcon Seattle in 2025, with 16% of voters nominating in this category. Categories with fewer nominations include Best Fan Artist, Best Professional Artist, and Best Editor Long Form.

This category has broad language to recognize the wide swath of forms poetry can take from one-line poems to haiku to epic poetry to song lyrics.

Full details and discussion are available at PoetryHugo.com

F.13 Retire NASFiC

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 1.2: Objectives. WSFS is an unincorporated literary society whose functions are:

- (1) To choose the recipients of the annual Hugo Awards (Science Fiction Achievement Awards).
- (2) To choose the locations and Committees for the annual World Science Fiction Conventions (hereinafter referred to as Worldcons).
- (3) To attend those Worldcons.
- ~~(4) To choose the locations and Committees for the occasional North American Science Fiction Conventions (hereinafter referred to as NASFiCs).~~
- (5) To perform such other activities as may be necessary or incidental to the above purposes.

Section 1.8: Membership of the Mark Protection Committee.

1.8.1: The Mark Protection Committee shall consist of:

- (1) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected Worldcon Committee and each of the two (2) immediately preceding Worldcon Committees, and
 - ~~(2) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected NASFiC Committee and for each Committee of a NASFiC held in the previous two years, and~~
 - (3) Nine (9) members elected three (3) each year to staggered three-year terms by the Business Meeting. However, if such an election is not held due to a Business Meeting not being held or not being quorate or any other reason, the term of office of all elected Mark Protection Committee members shall be extended by one Worldcon year.
- 1.8.2:** Newly elected members take their seats, and the term of office ends for elected and appointed members whose terms expire that year, at the end of the Business Meeting.

1.8.3: If vacancies occur in elected memberships in the Committee, the remainder of the position's term may be filled by the Business Meeting, and until then temporarily filled by the Committee.

~~**Section 4.9: NASFiC.** If the selected Worldcon site is not in North America, there shall be a NASFiC in North America that year. Selection of the NASFiC shall be by the identical procedure to the Worldcon selection except as provided below or elsewhere in this Constitution:~~

~~**4.9.1:** Voting shall be by written ballot administered by the following year's Worldcon, if there is no NASFiC in that year, or by the following year's NASFiC, if there is one, with ballots cast at the administering convention or by mail, and with only members of the administering convention allowed to vote.~~

~~**4.9.2:** NASFiC Committees shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid conflicts with Worldcon dates.~~

~~**4.9.3:** The proposed NASFiC advance voting fee can be set by unanimous agreement of the administering Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot deadline. If agreement is not reached, the default fee shall be the median (middle value) of the US dollar fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.~~

~~**4.9.4:** If "None of the Above" wins, or if no eligible bid files by the deadline, then no NASFiC shall be held, and any advance voting fees collected for the NASFiC site selection shall be refunded by the administering convention without undue delay.~~

~~**4.9.5:** In the case the administering convention is a NASFiC, it shall hold a Business Meeting to receive the results of the site selection voting and to handle any other business pertaining directly, and only, to the selection of the future NASFiC convention. This meeting shall have no other powers or duties.~~

~~**4.9.6:** For the purposes of this Constitution, North America is defined as: Canada, the United States of America (including Hawaii, Alaska, and the District of Columbia), Mexico, Central America, the islands of the Caribbean, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Bermuda, and the Bahamas.~~

Further moved, that upon the ratification of the changes in the first section of this motion, to direct the Mark Protection Committee to take the necessary actions to abandon the NASFiC service mark.

Provided that, Should there be any NASFiC appointees to the Mark Protection Committee as of the ratification of this proposal, they shall serve the remainder of their terms on the Committee.

Proposed by: Lisa Hertel, Kristina Forsyth, Dave Hook

Discussion: There are multiple arguments for separating the North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) from WSFS.

First, NASFiC is not a convention for the world, but actively a convention for those who choose not to participate in Worldcon, and it privileges one group of fans in a way that no other group shares. This inequality became obvious when the 2023 Chengdu Worldcon Business Meeting passed a motion for a WSFS-sponsored Asian Science Fiction Convention (ASFiC). There are two paths to take to rectify this inequality, and creating an infinite number of regional alternatives to Worldcon is not the reasonable option. Let WSFS be responsible for the Worldcon, and let any regions who want to have a regional or national convention be responsible for their own. Just as Eurocon is not under the aegis of WSFS, there is no need for a North American convention to be under an increasingly international organization.

Second, recent NASFiCs have been failing, and even one of the proposers of the name, the late Tony Lewis, suggested it was an idea whose time has passed. Several former NASFiC chairs (from this century) concur. They have failed to revitalize local fandom, and failed to attract much attendance or professional participation. Even though the Worldcon in China attracted only a few hundred fans from outside of the PRC, the NASFiC that year in Winnipeg only got about 500 attendees. Obviously, NASFiC cannot attract the needed audience to be viable, even when there are limited options. Unfortunately, the Long List at <http://www.smofinfo.com/LL/TheLongListNasfic.html> is incomplete.

Third, the original arguments for NASFiC no longer apply. International travel is far less expensive than it was fifty years ago, and there are more frequent flights, making getting overseas easier. There are a lot more local conventions of all kinds, making it easy for fans to go to conventions; there are also a number of online or hybrid conventions, which require no travel at all. There are also several large regional conventions, such as Dragon*Con, which can serve as a substitute for Worldcon in years when the Worldcon is not in North America. Fandom is no longer “a proud and lonely thing;” if anything, it has become mainstream thanks to the proliferation of science fiction and comic book related media, including anime, video games, movies, and television. “Getting your fan on” has never been easier.

With almost half the Worldcons now being held outside North America, now is the appropriate time to introduce this amendment; it will be voted on and ratified by the audience most affected by the removal of NASFiC from the WSFS constitution. Please note that removing the convention from the constitution and abandoning the mark do not preclude someone from creating a replacement North American convention; we welcome that. We just feel that it need not be administered by WSFS, and that future Worldcons be removed of the burden of holding site selection for, and awarding, a NASFiC.

F.14 Unnecessary PII

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Article 4 – Future Worldcon Selection Section

Section 4.4: Ballots.

4.4.1: Site-selection ballots shall include name, signature, ~~postal address~~, email address, and membership-number spaces, and may include a telephone number space. The ballot should be filled in by the voter; however, if the voter does not have their membership number, it may be supplied by the Site Selection Administrator or their designated staff member. Ballots omitting name, ~~or~~ signature, ~~or postal address~~ may only be counted as “No Preference.” Each site-selection ballot shall list the options “None of the Above” and “No Preference” and provide for write-in votes, after the bidders and with equal prominence. The supporting WSFS membership rate shall be listed on all site-selection ballots.

Section 4.5: Tallying.

4.5.1: The name and other personally identifiable ~~address~~ information shall be separated from the ballots and the ballots counted only at the Worldcon. Each bidding committee should provide at least two (2) tellers. Each bidding committee may make a record of the name and email address of every voter.

Proposed by: Alan Bond, Katharine Bond, Helen Montgomery, Chris Rose, Nicholas Whyte

Discussion: A Postal Address is a flawed way of determining if someone is real. It is unnecessary information for the administration of Site Selection, and is inequitable in its disenfranchising of multiple constituencies that might want to participate in Site Selection. There is no business case for a postal address to be required in the modern world. PII collection by organizations such as Worldcon that sequentially operate in multiple jurisdictions around the world, and specifically the requirement that that PII be transferred between separate legal entities raises a lot of legitimate legal concerns. The address requirement also provides a barrier to moving forward with online voting. With the move towards using Election Buddy to conduct elections (at least in part), we should be making decisions that support the use of that technology and not ones that make it harder.

F.15 Check for Site Selection Cheating

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 4.1: Voting.

4.1.2: Voting shall be by written ballot cast either by mail or at the current Worldcon with tallying as described in Section 6.4. Ballots shall be counted as “No Preference” unless submitted in person by the person voting or received more than 15 days before the close of site selection voting.

Proposed by: Tim Szczesuil, Donald Eastlake, Gay Ellen Dennett, Jill Eastlake

Discussion: Unfortunately, sometimes there is cheating. The current time schedule for the Hugo Award ballots allows time for careful analysis of anomalies in those ballots and, if anomalies are detected, time for carefully thought-out remedial responses if necessary. But the compressed time schedule for Site Selections ballots makes such analysis and response impractical.

There have been multiple cases of apparent Hugo Award vote cheating in the past, most recently in connection with the Hugo Awards administered by the 2023 Glasgow Worldcon. These cases of cheating were detected by analysis of the ballots and were resolved by remedial responses. The administering Worldcon can set a reasonable deadline for Hugo Award ballots giving themselves time to analyze them and, if it appears warranted, take action. But site selection voting is different.

There is no problem with a site selection ballot handed in at con by the voter. Any cheating would be in the mail-in or hand-carried ballots which are currently allowed up through the day before the result is announced. Mail-in used to mean postal mail, which at least provided additional clues in terms of postmarks and the like. But Chengdu, for example, was elected by a huge avalanche of last-minute emailed PDFs of scanned ballots.

As publicly documented in the Site Selection administrators report to the 2021 Washington, DC, Business Meeting, Chengdu won due to 1,591 ballots (out of the 2,006 total ballots voted for Chengdu) which had certain characteristics. Many of these 1,591 ballots consisted of sequential blocks of ballots with what appeared to be consecutively assigned email addresses, that is, the “username” part of the email address before the “@”, or a subfield thereof, appeared to count up through sequential digits/letters. The mover and all seconders of this motion were involved in counting that Site Selection vote and can attest to the presence of this anomaly.

This motion is not an attempt to relitigate any of the decisions made in 2021, which would be futile, but this kind of anomaly is exactly the sort of thing that has led to careful consideration of Hugo Award ballots validity and, in some cases, the taking of remedial action. In 2021, due to the compressed time scale for Site Selection vote counting, there was little time to consider this anomaly and other unusual ballot characteristics with the

final decision to accept these 1,591 ballots made at a last-minute meeting in the middle of the night before the formal announcement of the Site Selection results.

If this amendment, or some other change at least as effective, is not made, it will continue to be impractical to carefully analyze the mailed Site Selection ballots and, if anomalies are detected in those ballots, difficult to carefully consider what remedial action, if any, should be taken.

This amendment does represent a change, for example for people who are used to having someone hand-carry their Site Selection ballot and cast it at con. Such ballots will still get the reduced rate for WSFS membership but will not count as votes.

If passed this year and ratified next, the first Site Selection affected would be the selection of the 2029 Worldcon as administered in 2027 so people should have time to adjust.

F.16 Quorate Quorums

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

5.2: Continuation of Committees. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, any committee or other position created by a Business Meeting shall lapse at the end of the next following [quorate](#) Business Meeting that does not vote to continue it.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn and Joshua Kronengold

Discussion: 5.1.5 acknowledges that a Business Meeting might not be quorate and allows it to receive reports, but if the meeting isn't quorate it can't continue committees or do anything beyond "receiving" reports. Such a meeting also can't vote *not* to continue committees (as it lacks a quorum), so this would have the effect of generally permitting any existing committees to continue if a Business Meeting failed to properly convene (while not invalidating that meeting). As the effective dismissal of all committees would likely stall out ongoing business, the prospect of summarily extending them for a year is the lesser of the bad options.

While we acknowledge that the chances of this are quite low in any given year, there are at least a few occasions where the risk appeared, including one of the early Aussiecons which only barely made quorum, the pandemic-affected CoNZeland, and the risk also presented itself at Chengdu.

F.17 Conversion Rights

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

1.5.5: Voters have the right to purchase an attending supplement in the selected Worldcon ~~within~~ for a period of not less than ninety (90) days ~~of~~ following its selection, for an additional fee set by its committee. This fee must not exceed four (4) times the site-selection fee and must not exceed the price of an attending supplement for new members. The ninety (90) day period shall not begin until the convention makes such conversions generally available to voters who are not present at the Worldcon hosting site selection.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Joshua Kronengold

Discussion: For many years, standard practice has been that a seated Worldcon will start taking supporting-to-attending conversions/upgrades almost immediately, usually starting the day Site Selection is announced. In 2021, however, this did not happen - the newly-seated Worldcon processed some conversions at Discon, but never opened up the sale of conversions at any other time within the following 90 days, effectively blanking out the rights in this section. While the convention resolved the situation by simply converting all supporting members to attending members at no cost, the potential issue still remains.

Essentially, we weighed two options here: Either don't start the 90 day clock until the hosting Worldcon opens up conversions to folks not at the convention, or automatically convert everybody. Holding off on starting the clock is less "destructive" (it doesn't potentially cost the newly-seated convention hundreds of thousands of dollars), but a sufficiently dysfunctional convention might never open up sale of attending memberships, thus triggering convention failure. We still feel that a trigger mechanism might be needed to deal with such an eventuality, and would favor the creation of a committee to deal with such a "break glass" mechanism (or at least guidelines for when other seated Worldcon should declare committee failure).

But to replace with the other idea, which would be substantially more punitive but not give the convention an option to push out the clock indefinitely, we could replace the text with the following:

Moved, to change the WSFS Constitution as follows:

1.5.5: Voters have the right to purchase an attending supplement in the selected Worldcon within ninety (90) days of its selection, for an additional fee set by its committee. This fee must not exceed four (4) times the site-selection fee and must not exceed the price of an attending supplement for new members. In the event that a seated Worldcon fails to make such conversions generally available to voters who are not present at the Worldcon hosting site selection for at least thirty (30)

days in this timeframe, all such voters shall be granted attending memberships at no additional cost.

This is a version of such a “break glass” motion. We note that a convention could fulfill the terms of this version of 1.5.5 in a number of ways if technology is the issue. For example, another organization could be worked with to temporarily receive membership conversions (such as the Worldcon that hosted Site Selection).

We acknowledge that such a result might well be catastrophic to a convention’s finances and viability. To that we say, with the utmost respect, that if a convention is not prepared to accept membership conversions within two months of being seated, that convention is not prepared to be seated.

F.18 Res Plz

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

5.1.6: Deadline for Submission of New Business. The deadline for submission of nonprivileged new business and committee reports to the Business Meeting shall be thirty (30) days before the first Preliminary Meeting. Proposed agenda items may be withdrawn by the consent of all proposing members at any time up to fourteen (14) days before the published deadline for submitting new business. A list of such withdrawn business must be made available to the membership. ~~The Presiding Officer may accept otherwise qualified motions and reports submitted after the deadline, but all such motions shall initially be placed at the end of the agenda. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.~~

5.1.6.1: Late Business. The Presiding Officer shall accept, within seven (7) days of the publication of new business and reports, new business submitted pertinent to those matters referred to committees which have failed to submit a report by the deadline above or which have submitted a report inconsistent with the requirements in the Standing Rules. The Presiding Officer may accept otherwise qualified motions and reports submitted after the deadline. All such motions shall initially be placed at the end of the agenda. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Kate Secor, Terri Ash, Kristina Forsyth, Joshua Kronengold

Discussion: When committees implode, or otherwise fail to dispose of business sent to them, the result is frequently an additional lost year on whatever was proposed due to not knowing that the committee in question has failed to report back (or, in some cases, even function) until after the Deadline for Submission of New Business. While late business *can* be accepted, it doesn’t have to be. While we agree with the idea of not “ambushing” members with resurrected motions out of the blue, at the same time we feel it is only fair

to allow business which was sent to committee and then “lost” to be resurrected after it becomes clear that this has become the case.

We note that this section expects that committees will report out in time for their reports (and agenda items, as may be the case). While “Dude, Where’s My Motion?” will formalize a listing requirement to back this up (and therefore, hopefully be in effect by the time this takes effect after the 2026 Business Meeting), these items are separate because one deals with a section of the Constitution while the other deals with a section of the Standing Rules. Each item can operate without the other, but the passage of both would make for a coherent whole as “Dude, Where’s My Motion?” would allow people to work from *knowing* what is missing rather than having to sort it out on the basis of its absence.

F.19 Fixed Targets

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

2.10: Fixed Deadlines. The deadlines provided for in Sections 4.6.3 (Bid Filing Deadline) and 5.1.6 (Deadline for Submission of New Business) of the Constitution shall be announced at the Site Selection announcement session of the Business Meeting of the prior year's Worldcon. Once announced, except in extraordinary cases meriting a delay of the deadline(s) in question these dates shall be fixed notwithstanding any subsequent alteration of the dates of the convention.

4.6.3: For a bid to be allowed on the printed ballot, the bidding committee must file the documents specified above no later than 180 days prior to the official opening of the administering convention as scheduled as of the announcement in 2.10 of the Constitution.

5.1.6: Deadline for Submission of New Business. The deadline for submission of non privileged new business and committee reports to the Business Meeting shall be thirty (30) days before the first Preliminary Meeting as scheduled as of the announcement in 2.10 of the Constitution. Proposed agenda items may be withdrawn by the consent of all proposing members at any time up to fourteen (14) days before the published deadline for submitting new business. A list of such withdrawn business must be made available to the membership. The Presiding Officer may accept otherwise qualified motions and reports submitted after the deadline, but all such motions shall initially be placed at the end of the agenda. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn and Kate Secor

Discussion: Various deadlines in the Constitution are tied to parts of a given year’s Worldcon, be it the first day of the convention or the date of the Preliminary Business Meeting, or something else. When those dates move partway through the process, it can cause confusion and/or inconvenience. One example is that in 2021, Site Selection filings

closed...and then reopened. Something similar could plausibly have happened again in 2023, and if a convention is seriously considering shifting dates this could place things in limbo.

An absolute nightmare to imagine would be a convention being forced to move its start date up by a week or two close to the Site Selection filing deadline, potentially resulting in filings closing retroactively. While it is very likely that a committee would kludge their way around this, such a decision could also be disputed.

A given year's Worldcon is, generally, about one year before the next one. While this is substantial advance notice, it is also not unreasonable to at least lock in dates to the calendar at that point as most of the facilities, etc. should be contractually in hand by then given that a Worldcon will also have generally been seated for close to a year at that point. Assuring people that the deadlines won't slide early only seems fair, and while we take the view that a convention being delayed by more than a week or two would qualify as "extraordinary circumstances", we also take the view that the "cost" in uncertainty that dates might move for a short delay outweighs any benefits.

F.20 Location, Location, Location revisited

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 4.6: Bid Eligibility

4.6.6: No bid filing or Site Selection vote shall be accepted for a proposed location which, at the time of filing or submission of ballot, does not adhere to reasonable standards for minimum human rights and self-determination as defined by at least one commonly accepted standard.

The standards shall be:

a) Freedom House¹: rating of at least 60 out of 100 in their Freedom in the World dataset

b) Economist Intelligence Unit²: rating of at least 6.00 in their Democracy Index

c) Human Rights Data³ from Our World in Data: rating that meets or exceeds the World Rating (Not population rated)

¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/explore-the-map?type=fiw&year=2025> use "Download the Data" in the left menu and download the "Freedom in the World" data, see Col. S, Total

² <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2024/> Requires sign up to download report. See Table 2.

³ <https://ourworldindata.org/human-rights> from Our World in Data, See Table tab on Human Rights spreadsheet, see Col. for past year.

A bid filing for a location which cannot meet at least one of these standards shall be deemed to be incapable of freely executing the Objectives of the Society as put forth in Article 1, Section 1.2.

4.6.6.1 Bids shall, as part of their filing, indicate their scores on each standard in effect at the time of filing, or indicate that they are not included in that standard.

4.6.6.2. A bid or vote for a location which does not meet or exceed the minimum score on at least one standard shall be ruled ineligible or invalid.

4.6.6.3 If there are one or fewer operative standards, the current convention committee may, with the concurrence of the next convention committee, designate no less than one and up to three published standards of a similar nature, to be in effect for the coming year, in order to guarantee at least one and no more than three active standards at all times.

4.6.6.4 If there are fewer than three operative standards when a Business Meeting takes place, the Business Meeting shall consider and select additional standards to bring the total up to three. Other changes can be made to these standards by following the regular Constitutional amendment process.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Ann Marie Rudolph, Joshua Kronengold, Tim Szczesuil, Mark Whitroth, Ellen Montgomery, Ron Oakes, Jim Young, Gayle Surette, Paul Haggerty

Discussion: The objective of this amendment is not to ensure that every Worldcon will take place in an ideal setting for every member - that would almost definitely prove impossible over a long enough timeframe - but merely to set a "basement threshold" which is likely to limit such occurrences. The amendment is also explicitly and intentionally crafted in such a way as to ensure that no country is exempt from potential disqualification if a designated standard cannot be met.

We re-submit this very similar amendment because no alternative solution has been proffered. This may not be a perfect solution, but it does provide a mechanism to avoid another failure similar to 2023. It is feasible, transparent, relatively predictable, it imposes little additional burden, and nothing else proposed has met those criteria.

To those who wish for a different solution, please consider these factors when you consider dismissing this proposal in favor of something else. And consider that if we do nothing this year again, no change will happen until at least 2028.

Background: It is painfully obvious that there are parts of the world where it would be difficult, if not impossible, to carry out certain functions of the World Science Fiction Society safely and freely. Likewise, there are locations where it would be unsafe for a significant portion of fandom to attend out of a concern for the safety of members due to repressive laws regarding sexuality, religious affiliation, and so on.

Such discussion was dismissed as paranoid until recently, often with uncharitable insinuations about those raising the specter of those issues. But it is hard not to view the fiasco surrounding the 2023 Hugo Awards as reflecting such issues, even if the exact source is shrouded in some mystery (e.g. whether informal governmental pressure was involved versus a judgment call being made out of sincere concern).

The speculative works that the Hugo Awards reward often reflect controversial subject matters which may not be approved of in many parts of the world. Yet works which discuss controversial topics from various angles, some at odds with popular views of the day, are often the works which we want to recognize. We do not wish to deny our nominators and voters the ability to freely nominate the works of their choosing, and to have their nominations and votes freely counted. Nor do we wish to force the staff of a convention to choose between adhering to our rules and going to jail, or flouting our rules to protect themselves. In our view, the only moral course is to avoid putting them in that position in the first place.

Almost every country has some sort of rule or law on the books that could cause trouble in extreme circumstances. The sponsors do not operate under any illusion that this is not the case. Having acknowledged that, however, we also need to collectively admit that there are places where these types of rules or laws or customs are the rule rather than the exception. It would be grossly disingenuous to suggest that what happened in 2023 or something similar will never happen again. It is also clear from history that places where such concerns might arise can and will change over time, both as a result of changing national priorities and policies as well as those of fandom.

We invest a lot of trust in the convention committees that we choose through Site Selection. Our current processes do not prevent a determined group from overwhelming the historic voting numbers in our Site Selection process. If we wish to expand participation in Worldcon, we must also set some boundaries as to what can be considered a suitable location for this conglomeration of members that we have.

Once a bid has been launched, it would create massive discontent if it was later ruled to be ineligible in some way, particularly in some way which was not plainly stated in advance of the process. By publishing these standards as part of the Constitution and the Bid acceptance process, it makes clear to those who wish to bid in a non-qualifying location that they need to find a different venue.

Some ideas proposed add oversight to the Hugo selection process. But a key element of those proposals is the presumption that those overseeing the process are truly able to have access to the information that they would need in order to detect irregular actions, that they would be able to recognize it, and that they would not feel compelled to ignore it in order to avoid disastrous consequences for those involved in running the convention in the host location. Threats need not be explicit - for reference, please see Ada Palmer's

excellent summary⁴ of invisible influence of censorship in authoritarian states. We therefore consider it judicious to avoid, to the extent that we can, having a Worldcon hosted in a location where such pressures are likely to be present.

We do recognize that these standards, as a rule, operate at the national level rather than the subnational level and that laws can vary within a country. If any reliable standards could be found to address this, we would have strongly considered such a route. Given what is readily available, national-level standards are the best that we feel we can currently rely on.

F.21 Save the Retro Hugos

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.14: Retrospective Hugo Awards

3.14.1. A Worldcon held in a year that is an exact multiple of ~~10~~ 25 years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded may conduct nominations and elections for retrospective year Hugo Awards for one such ~~that~~ year with procedures as for the current Hugo Awards, provided that year was 1939 or later and that no previous Worldcon has awarded retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year. Trophies may be presented, but are not a requirement.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Brian Collins, Gideon Marcus, Janice L. Newman, Lorelei Esther, George Pritchard

Discussion: Though controversial in certain quarters, the Retro Hugos also fulfil an important function of honouring works created before there were Hugo Awards. The Retro Hugos also offer the opportunity to rediscover older works and forgotten authors and can function as a corrective to received wisdom about the SFF of the past. Finally, the Retro Hugos have also done a good job in the past of looking beyond the confines of American magazine science fiction to include finalists from further afield.

We are aware that the holding Retro Hugos means additional work for the Worldcon hosting them and the Hugo administrators. However, it should remain at the discretion of each individual Worldcon whether they want to take on this extra work or not.

The consultative vote about the Retro Hugos conducted by the Seattle Worldcon concluded with a narrow majority in favour of retaining the ability for future Worldcons to hold Retrospective Hugo Awards, should they wish to do so. This suggests that there is at least some interest in the Worldcon community to retain the Retro Hugo Awards.

Furthermore, there only are seven (potentially eight) years of Retro Hugos left to cover, namely 1940, 1942, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1952 and potentially 1957, which only awarded

⁴ <https://reactormag.com/tools-for-thinking-about-censorship/>

Hugos in three categories, all for magazines. So the Retro Hugos already come with a built in sunset clause.

Changing the years in which Retro Hugos may be held from an exact multiple of 25 years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded to an exact multiple of 10 years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded also means that it will not take another 25 years to get to the remaining Retro Hugo years, but that Retro Hugos can be given out, while there is at least a chance of some winners and their direct descendants being still alive to enjoy the honour.

F.22 End the False Binary!

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.3.13: Best ~~Professional~~ Artist in the Field of Professional Illustration. An ~~illustrator~~ artist whose illustrative work ~~has appeared in a professional publication~~ in the field of science fiction or fantasy has appeared in a professional publication during the previous calendar year.

3.3.18: Best Fan Artist. An artist ~~or cartoonist~~ whose work relating to science fiction, fantasy, or SFF fandom has appeared ~~through publication~~ in ~~semiprozines or fanzines or through other~~ public, non-professional, display (including in semiprozines or fanzines, at a convention or conventions, posting postings on the internet, or in online or print-on-demand shops, ~~or in another setting not requiring a fee to see the image in full resolution~~) during the previous calendar year without appearing in a professional publication.

3.10.2 In the Best ~~Professional~~ Artist in the Field of Professional Illustration category, the acceptance ~~should~~ must include citations of ~~at least three (3) works~~ work first published in the eligible year.

Proposed by: Kevin Black, Richard Man, Angela Jones, Sunnyjim Morgan, Kees van Toorn, Linda Deneroff

Discussion: This amendment is intended to be adopted only if F.18—Cleaning up the Art Categories is rejected.

It's time to end this unprofitable Fan v. Pro debate by cutting the Gordian Knot. Since 1975, the Best Professional Artist category has been limited by its description *only* to artists who produce illustrations that appear in professional publications. That's fine—professional illustrations are great!—but it's time to rename the category, and call it what it *already has been for almost 50 years*: Best Artist in the Field of Professional Illustration.

The existence of separate categories for Best Professional Artist and Best Fan Artist creates a false opposition between the two categories. Words can hurt! “Professional” and “fan” are

not opposites (or else we wouldn't allow professional artists to win Hugo Awards for making fan art), but words that *are* the opposite of "professional" include "unprofessional" and "amateurish." So what does this binary imply about fan artists? Art's relationship to fandom has evolved—artists making fan art sell their work online and at conventions and shouldn't be penalized for doing so. It's time to get rid of the term Professional Artist, and just have categories for artists who make fan art, and artists who make professional illustrations.

The Best Fan Artist category includes all fannish artists not engaging in professional illustration. 2D art or 3D art, the best artist can win, regardless if they have placed their work on sale or contributed art as a volunteer. The amendments in this section clean up tangled language but leave the scope of the award unchanged. We only specify the work must relate to science fiction, fantasy, or SFF fandom, and must *not* have appeared in a professional publication.

What is a professional publication you ask? According to the WSFS Constitution §3.2.13:

A Professional Publication is one which meets at least one of the following two criteria:

- (1) it provided at least a quarter the income of any one person; or
- (2) was owned or published by any entity which provided at least a quarter the income of any of its staff and/or owner.

As fans, we love both fan art and professional illustration and we must stop casting shade on fan artists. These amendments allow us to recognize both artistic domains without pitting the two groups against each other. Adopt this amendment instead of F.18—Cleaning up the Art Categories and free your mind from the pro vs. fan artist binary!

Appendix A: Full Committee Reports and Motions

A.1 Standing Committee of WSFS

A.1.1 Mark Protection Committee Report and Nominations

Membership and Structure

Members of the WSFS Mark Protection Committee ("MPC") from August 2024 through June 2025 were as follows, with the expiration of membership listed in parentheses after their name:

- Judy Bemis (elected until 2026);
- Alan Bond (appointed by Seattle 2025 until 2027);
- Joni Dashoff (elected until 2026);
- Linda Deneroff (Secretary, elected until 2027);
- Donald E. Eastlake III (Chair, elected until 2027);
- David Ennis (appointed by Buffalo NASFiC 2024 until 2026);
- Olav Rokne (elected until 2027);
- Linda Ross-Mansfield (appointed by Pemmi-Con until 2025);
- Chen Shi (appointed by Chengdu 2023 until 2025);
- Kevin Standlee (elected until 2025);
- Alissa Wales (appointed by Glasgow until 2026);
- Mike Willmoth (elected until 2026);
- Nicholas Whyte (elected until 2025);
- and Ben Yalow (elected until 2025).

Bruce Farr remains its appointed treasurer.

Worldcon Intellectual Property ("WIP") is a California public benefit/non-profit corporation (also recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service) controlled by the MPC that holds the MPC's bank account and WSFS's service marks. The current MPC Financial Report is appended at the end of this document. A report from the WSFS Marketing Committee ("WSFSMC") is included as an appendix to this report. The WSFSMC is an advisory board of the MPC and is responsible for managing the WSFS websites (TheHugoAwards.org, Worldcon.org, NASFiC.org, and WSFS.org) and social media accounts on Facebook and other social media.

Report

The MPC proposed items of new business to the 2024 Glasgow WSFS Business Meeting which were adopted as follows:

1. The resolution to fund the MPC with US\$1.00 per WSFS Worldcon member and with US\$0.30 per member of non-Worldcon conventions sanctioned by WSFS from any

surplus they may have. This was passed and supersedes the previously recommended donations.

2. The MPC's second motion to require a license agreement between bidding and operating Worldcon committees and the MPC was passed and sent on to the Seattle WSFS BM for ratification. The WIP/MPC then created a Licensing Advisory Board to come up with a licensing agreement between WIP/MPC and individual committees. Members of this advisory board are Don Eastlake, Alan Bond, and Judy Bemis as MPC-appointed members, Jesi Lipp as BM Chair, and the chairs (or their appointees) of the two seated Worldcons (i.e., Kathy Bond for the Seattle Worldcon and Joyce Lloyd or appointee for the Los Angeles Worldcon).
3. The Glasgow WSFS BM also passed the MPC's motion creating BM selected Hugo Administration Subcommittee members and Site Selection special tellers to monitor those functions and report to the BM, and that, too, was sent on to Seattle for ratification.
4. Finally, the WSFS BM did the same for a motion to specify MPC procedures.

Detailed information on these motions can be found in the 2024 Glasgow WSFS BM minutes and in the Business Passed on to Seattle documents.

The Worldcon.fr domain was transferred to Nicholas Whyte, who renewed it through December 31, 2027. Thank you, Nicholas.

Probably the biggest issue we dealt with this year was negotiating with Warner Brothers Studios for the use of fictitious Hugo Awards to be used in the background of a new film (current working title *Ghostwriter*, directed by J.J. Abrams), to ensure that the word "Replica" appears on any such Hugo Award props. (They had originally requested original rockets to appear in the film, but they were unable to obtain any for the years they wanted.)

Our website SSL certificates have been updated to run through June 2026.

In December 2024, we received registration for our trademark "Worldcon" in Australia! We still plan to obtain a trademark there for "Hugo Award" but are working our way around a stumbling block. In the meantime, in England and Europe we renewed our trademarks for Hugo Award, Worldcon, and our rocket design. Our European attorneys and the governmental fees are quite expensive, but they agreed to us paying £600 a year for the next 10 years instead of requiring payment in full upfront, which would have depleted our funds.

Also in December, the MPC/WIP granted Sara Chen's request (with caveats) to name a new bilingual fanzine from SFW (Science Fiction World, the most influential SF publishing house in China) "Hugo News". The fanzine would be free and designed to keep Chinese fandom updated with the Hugo Award news, which is the task no one was doing sustainably there. The MPC requested that they (a) use the full term "Hugo Award" (per our agreement with Hugo Boss), (b) include a prominent statement near the top of the first page that the

magazine is not a production of the World Science Fiction Society or any World Science Fiction Convention, (c) that the official site of the Hugo Awards is <https://www.thehugoawards.org/>, and (d) include the statement "World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFiC", "Lodestar Award", "Hugo Award", the Hugo Award Logo, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Rocket are service marks of Worldcon Intellectual Property, a California non-profit corporation managed by the Mark Protection Committee of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society. You can contact the WSFS Mark Protection Committee at mpc@wsfs.org."

The MPC is still pursuing that thehugoawards.com and thehugoawards.org, that were held by Deb Geisler for the MPC/WSFS. Her widower, Mike Benveniste has offered to transfer these names to the control of the MPC at the Glasgow Worldcon, but he had contracted COVID, and it did not happen. The ".com" version of the name was "parked" at the registrar, so it looked like someone was squatting on it and wanted to sell it. Don pursued acquiring this name as approved by the MPC. It looked like we would be out the \$99 domain name broker's fee but that was refunded.

Domain Names

Domain	Domain Agent	Handle to Renew	Renewal Date
WSFS.org	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 8 years	2028-06-14
Worldcon.org	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 8 years	2028-08-02
Hugo.org	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2028-08-31
HugoAward.org	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2033-05-03
Worldcon.com	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2028-10-09
Worldcon.co.uk	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2028-10-17
Worldcon.org.uk	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2028-10-17
Worldcon.uk	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2031-06-17
NASFiC.org	Worldcon Intellectual Property	GANDI.net – 9 years	2029-05-09
wsfs.us	Donald Eastlake	godaddy.com	2028-06-20
wsfs.info	Donald Eastlake	godaddy.com	2027-07-25
worldcon.us	Donald Eastlake	godaddy.com	2028-08-12
worldcon.info	Donald Eastlake	godaddy.com	2027-07-05
worldcons.org	Donald Eastlake	godaddy.com	2026-01-18
worldcon.fr	Nicholas Whyte	GANDI.net	2027-12-31

U.S. Marks

Mark	Action	Renewal Dates
World Science Fiction Convention Reg. No. 1283681	Section 8, Section 9	6/26/2033-6/26/2034
Worldcon Reg. No. 1283680	Section 8, Section 9	6/26/2033-6/26/2034
World Science Fiction Society Reg. No. 1284719	Section 8, Section 9	7/3/2033-7/3/2034
WSFS Reg. No. 1286562	Section 8, Section 9	7/17/2033-7/17/2034
The Hugo Award Reg. No. 1287322	Section 8, Section 9	7/24/2033-7/24/2034
3D Rocket Mark Reg. No. 4620505	Section 8, Section 9	10/14/2033-10/16/2033
Rocket Mark Reg. No. 4320959	Section 8, Section 9	4/16/2032-4/18/2033
NASFiC Reg. No. 3647140	Section 8, Section 9	6/30/2028-6/29/2029
Lodestar Award Reg. No. 7246730	Section 8, Section 9	12/19/2028-12/19/2029
Rocket Mark (Miscellaneous Design)	Section 8, Section 15	4/16/2028-4/15/2029

UK Marks

Mark	Class	Expiry Dates	Trademark No.
Worldcon	Class 16, 35, 41	2035/06/17	014277016
Hugo Award	Class 9, 16, 41	2035/06/18	014278519
The Hugo Award Logo	Class 16, 35, 41	2035/06/21	014270748

EU Marks

Mark	Class	Expiry Dates	Trademark No.
Worldcon	Class 16, 35, 41	2035/06/18	014277016
Hugo Award	Class 9, 16, 41	2035/06/18	014278519
The Hugo Award Logo	Class 16, 35, 41	2035/06/22	014270748

Australian Marks

Mark	Class	Acceptance After	Trademark No.
Worldcon	Class 41	2025/09/15	014277016

Mark Protection Committee/WIP Financial Report
All U.S. Dollars
Period Ending May 31, 2025

	Date	Deposits	Payments	Check No.	Account Balance
Book Balance end of 2024 fiscal reporting	2024-07-01				\$15,759.47
Analysis Bank Service Charge	2024-07-31		\$52.00		\$15,707.47
Esther Horwich Atty, Hugo and Rocket TM Renewal	2024-09-10		\$1,425.00	1136	\$14,282.47
Bruce Farr, Reimb, Goja Haines Australia Worldcon reg review	2024-09-17		\$485.00	1137	\$13,797.47
Kevin Standlee, Reimb, Domain Hosting	2024-10-10		\$98.40	1138	\$13,699.07
Deposit, 2024 Buffalo NASFiC Dues	2024-10-28	\$161.25			\$13,860.32
Esther Horwich, Atty, USPTO correspondence	2024-10-28		\$120.00		\$13,740.32
Pairedomains Debit	2025-01-03		\$3.00		\$13,737.32
Glasgow 2024 Worldcon dues	2025-01-28	\$8,828.00			\$22,565.32
Pairedomains Debit	2025-02-04		\$3.00		\$22,562.32
Bank Service Charge	2025-02-14		\$28.00		\$22,534.32
Pairedomains Debit	2025-03-04		\$3.00		\$22,531.32
California Meridian, D&O Insurance to 2-28-26	2025-03-10		\$1,211.00		\$21,320.32
Pairedomains Debit	2025-04-02		\$3.00		\$21,317.32
Pairedomains Debit	2025-05-02		\$3.00		\$21,314.32
Book Balance May 31, 2025					\$21,314.32

—Bruce Farr

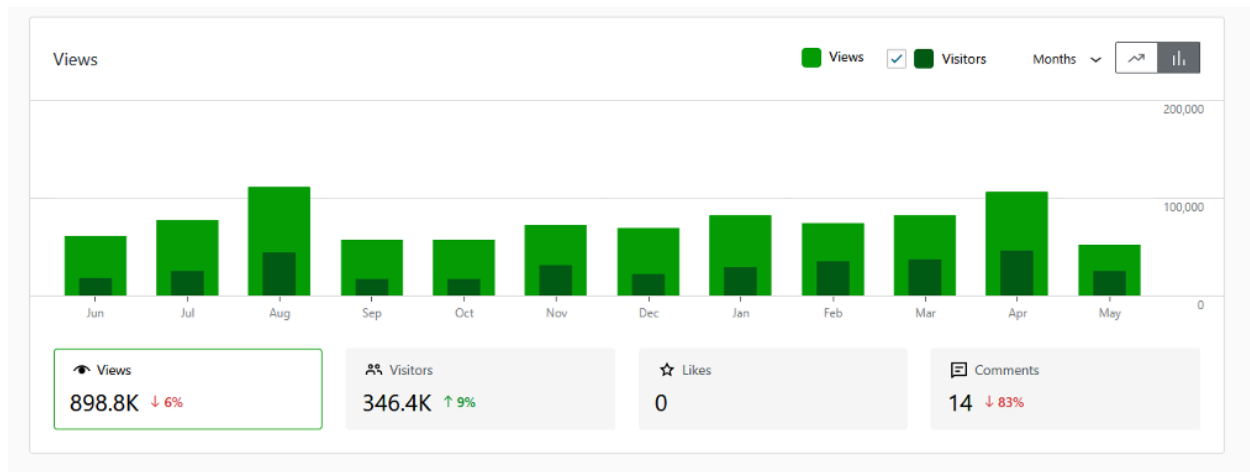
WSFS Hugo Awards Marketing Committee August 2024-June 2025

The WSFS Marketing Committee (“WSFSMC”) members are Linda Deneroff (Chair), Jerry Kaufman, Craig Miller, Chris Rose, Kevin Standlee, and Jo Van Ekeren. The WSFSMC was established by the WSFS Mark Protection Committee, and its chair and members are appointed by the MPC annually.

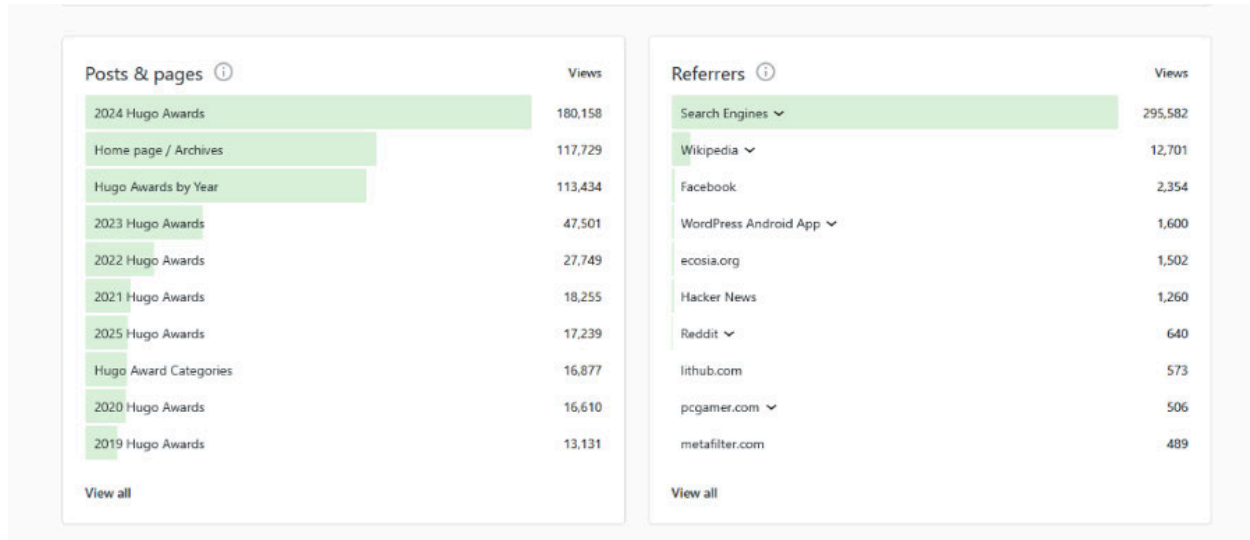
The WSFSMC continues to work with Worldcon committees to support the marketing of the Hugo Awards, to handle inquiries from the press regarding the Awards as needed, to maintain TheHugoAwards.org, including the list of past finalists and winners, and archiving the “Section 3.11.4” reports of nomination and voting information issued by Hugo Award administrators, and to maintain the WSFS.org, Worldcon.org, and NASFiC.org websites and answer general queries submitted through those sites.

The WSFSMC will continue to cooperate with Worldcon committees so that we can update the Hugo Awards web site at the first opportunity after the awards are announced as well as to use the @TheHugoAwards BlueSky feed, Hugo Awards Facebook page, and other social media to publicize the announcements of the winners in each category.

thehugoawards.org
Views per Month, June 1, 2024-May 17, 2025



thehugoawards.org
Most Requested Pages/Posts and Referrers, June 1, 2024-May 17, 2025



Thehugoawards.org
Top Page Views per Country, June 1, 2024-May 17, 2025



We continue to attempt to gather all the recordings of past Hugo Awards ceremonies (including any made before online posting of such recordings was possible or common) and to put copies of them in the Worldcon Events YouTube channel. We are still looking for a copy of the 2017 Hugo Awards ceremony recording that was deleted when the 2017 Worldcon's YouTube channel was deleted. If anyone has a copy of the 2017 ceremony video that they can provide us, we will upload it to the Worldcon Events channel.

We maintain the list of seated, future, and recent Worldcons and the lists of bids for future conventions to the best of our knowledge. Multiple members of the committee have the

credentials for the web sites. Bandwidth and disk space usage for the web sites we manage were within the allowances for our account. We may see peak loads around the time of the winner announcements, and will work with our hosting provider to minimize extra charges, which are borne by the Mark Protection Committee.

We continue to field inquiries directed to Worldcon.org and TheHugoAwards.org, forwarding them to the current Worldcon or Mark Protection Committee, as necessary.

A.2. Standing Committees of the Business Meeting

A.2.1 Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee

Committee Members: The members of the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee (NP&FSC) for 2024-2025 were Donald Eastlake (Chair), Jared Dashoff, Linda Deneroff, Tim Illingworth, Jesi Lipp, Martin Pyne, Kevin Standlee, and Jo Van Ekeren. The authority of this committee stems from the following:

Standing Rule 7.7: Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee

The Business Meeting shall appoint a Nitpicking & 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.

Report

1. The committee moves the Constitutional Amendment and Resolution appended hereto.
2. The Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing Effect (RRoCE) should have been done earlier – the Committee Chair is responsible for the delay.
3. Worldcon Committees that still have funds they have not disposed of are reminded to send the required financial report to the WSFS Business Meeting by the deadline 30 days before the Preliminary Business Meeting.
4. The committee thanks Jed Hartman who sent the committee a number of good ideas.
5. The Business Meeting Secretary, using their authority under Standing Rule 4.3, is requested to add commas after “Best Editor” in the titles of Sections 3.3.11 and 3.3.12 so they are punctuated similarly to 3.3.9 and 3.3.10.

Proposals

See [D.7 Clarifying Electronic Signatures](#), [F.1 Clarifying Active Bids](#), and [F.2 Clarifying Hugo Administrator's Discretion](#)

A.2.2 Worldcon Runners Guide Editorial Committee

No report was submitted by the deadline.

A2.3 Formalization of Long List Entries (FOLLE) Committee

No report was submitted by the deadline.

A.3 Special Committees

A.3.1 Investigation Committee on the 2023 Hugo Awards

Committee Members: Warren Buff (chair), Nicholas Whyte, Farah Mendlesohn, Randall Shepherd, Todd Dashoff, Chris Garcia

Report

This committee was formed in Executive Session of the WSFS Business Meeting for two reasons. First, the contents of the censure motions referred to this committee represented an unusual risk under Scottish law. Second, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, the parliamentary authority under which the WSFS Business Meeting operates, calls for the consideration of any disciplinary action over behavior outside of the meeting itself to be treated with the maximum privacy possible. The methods this committee employed were necessarily less thorough than those that a legal proceeding might due to the lack of compulsory process. Even proceedings with those greater powers often reach flawed conclusions, and the report of this committee is only an intermediate step in the disciplinary process. As such, the conclusions of this committee regarding the actions of individuals must be handled in Executive Session to minimize the risk of undue harm to the reputations of the persons involved. The full report will only be available to members of the World Science Fiction Society, and its contents are only to be discussed in an Executive Session of the WSFS Business Meeting.

We would also like to clarify that our remit as a committee does not extend to making binding conclusions about whether any person acted inappropriately or not, merely making recommendations to the WSFS Business Meeting regarding the advisability of forming a trial committee to continue the disciplinary process. With that said, we would like to address some of the most common allegations in public discussion of the 2023 Hugo Awards which our investigation did not in any way support as conclusions. None of the evidence we examined gave any indication that decisions regarding the administration of the 2023 Hugo Awards were taken at the direction or under the influence of the government of China, the Chinese Communist Party, or Chinese fandom generally. Any such decisions, right or wrong, originated within Worldcon fandom and its traditions.

Several of the works whose exclusion we were asked to investigate were already publicly discussed at the WSFS Business Meeting in Glasgow. We briefly examined them and discussed possible reasons for their exclusion. For some, we believe the reasons came from the WSFS Constitution. For others, no such reason was readily apparent.

- *Babel*, by R.F. Kuang, excluded from Best Novel. *Babel* is a work of novel length published initially in English in 2022. *Babel* would appear to qualify for potential inclusion on the 2023 Hugo Awards ballot.
- "Color the World" by Mu Ming (Congyun Gu), excluded from Best Novelette. "Color the World" is a work of novelette length originally published in Chinese in 2019

whose English language translation first appeared on December 31, 2021. Thus, “Color the World” was ineligible for inclusion on the 2023 Hugo Awards ballot.

- “Fongong Temple Pagoda” (尽化塔) by Hai Ya, excluded from Best Short Story. “Fongong Temple Pagoda” is a work of short story length originally published in an English translation by Chen Jie in December 2022, and appearing for the first time in its original Chinese in April 2023. Due to its English publication date, “Fongong Temple Pagoda” would appear to qualify for potential inclusion on the 2023 Hugo Awards ballot.
- “The Sound of Her Wings”, from the *Sandman* series, excluded from Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form. “The Sound of Her Wings” is a dramatic presentation whose length falls within the short form category originally published in 2022. The overall series appears to have been correctly excluded from Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form, though the incorrect rule was cited for this. That exclusion was proper under section 3.2.11 of the WSFS Constitution, rather than the cited 3.8.3 (which applies to the Best Series category). “The Sound of Her Wings” would appear to qualify for potential inclusion on the 2023 Hugo Awards ballot.
- Paul Weimer, excluded from Best Fan Writer. Paul Weimer is a fan writer whose work appeared in generally available non-professional publications in 2022. Paul Weimer would appear to qualify for potential inclusion on the 2023 Hugo Awards ballot.
- Xiran Jay Zhao, excluded from the *Astounding* Award. Xiran Jay Zhao’s debut novel appeared in 2021, within the two-year window for the *Astounding* Award. They did not professionally publish science fiction or fantasy before 2021. Xiran Jay Zhao would appear to qualify for potential inclusion on the 2023 *Astounding* Award ballot.

Based on the leaked internal spreadsheet of potential nominees, a number of works which were not discussed at the WSFS Business Meeting in Glasgow also appear to have been excluded from the final ballot.⁵

- Once Upon a Time in Nanjing aka We Live In Nanjing / 我们生活在南京, by Tianrui Shuofu / 天瑞说符, excluded from Best Novel.
- Let’s Get Back to the Point / 言归正传, by Yu Guang / 余光, excluded from Best Novel.
- Stories Bygone on Mars aka Once Upon a Time on Mars / 火星往事, by Hui Hu / 灰狐, excluded from Best Novel.
- The Prophet Machine / 先知机器, by Deng Siyuan / 邓思渊, excluded from Best Novel.
- The Red Stone / 红石, by Jiang Bo / Bo Jiang / 江波, excluded from consideration in Best Novel. Although it was not one of the top six works listed in the category, it was listed higher than some works that made the final ballot.

⁵ The Chinese names of the nominees and their authors in the Best Novelette category were not included in the validation spreadsheet.

- The Nantianmen Project / 南天门计划, by Wu Jun / 吴俊, excluded from consideration in Best Novel. Although it was not one of the top six works listed in the category, it was listed higher than some works that made the final ballot.
- Huangnideng aka Huang Ni Bang / 黄泥塘, by Xiao Xinghan / 萧星寒
- Relics, by K.J. Parker (Tom Holt), which had originally been published in Chinese as 圣物, excluded from Best Novella.
- Practice / 修行, by Bai Li / 白雷, excluded from Best Novella.
- Upstart, by Lu Ban, excluded from Best Novelette.
- Hummingbird, Resting on Honeysuckles, by Yang Wanqing, excluded from Best Novelette.
- Turing Food Court, by Wang Nuonuo, excluded from Best Novelette.
- Song of Fungus / 菌歌, by Chen Qiufan (Stanley Chen) / 陈楸帆, excluded from Best Short Story.
- Lonely Room / 孤独终老的房间, by Hao Jingfang / 郝景芳, excluded from Best Short Story.
- Tongji Bridge, by Lu Hang, excluded from consideration in Best Short Story. Although it was not one of the top six works listed in the category, it was listed higher than some works that made the final ballot.
- The Faceless City / 无面之城, by Yang Wangqing / 杨晚晴, excluded from consideration in Best Short Story. Although it was not one of the top six works listed in the category, it was listed higher than some works that made the final ballot.
- Wandering in the Deep / 深渊独行, by Yanggui Zhengzhuan / 言归正传, excluded from Best Series.
- Ashes in Deep Sea/ 深海余烬, by Yuan Tong / 远瞳, excluded from Best Series.
- Protect Nanshan Park / 保卫南山公园, by Tianrui Shuofu / 天瑞说符, excluded from Best Series.
- Spirit Walker / 灵境行者, by Maibaoxiaolangjun / 卖报小郎君, excluded from Best Series.
- Base No. 7 / 7号基地, by Jing Wuhen / 净无痕, excluded from Best Series.
- Chen Yao / 陈曜, excluded from Best Editor, Short Form.
- Li Wenyi / 李闻怡, excluded from Best Editor, Short Form.
- Dai Haoran / 戴浩然, excluded from consideration in Best Editor, Short Form. Although not one of the top six nominees listed in the category, Dai Haoran was listed higher than some nominees that made the final ballot.
- He Ziheng / 贺子恒, excluded from consideration in Best Editor, Short Form. Although not one of the top six nominees listed in the category, He Ziheng was listed higher than some nominees that made the final ballot.
- La Zi / Raz / 拉兹, excluded from Best Editor, Long Form.
- Chen Yao / 陈曜, excluded from Best Editor, Long Form.
- Li Keqin / 李克勤, excluded from consideration in Best Editor, Long Form. Although not one of the top six nominees listed in the category, Li Keqin was listed higher than some nominees that made the final ballot.
- Alex Brown, excluded from Best Fan Writer.

The 2024 WSFS Business Meeting apologized to the creators of the prior list of works, but did not consider apologizing to the second list. This committee does not favor the practice of retroactively declaring finalists, but does believe some annotation in the historical record is advisable. Therefore, we offer for consideration the following motion:

Be It Resolved, that the Formulation of Long List Entries Committee is instructed to add an annotation to the public list of Hugo Finalists stating that, "Approximately 30 nominees were excluded from the final ballot of the 2023 Hugo Awards for reasons other than the nominating procedures prescribed in the WSFS Constitution."

A Note on the Advisability of Future Investigation Committees

We have taken this process seriously, and would hope that the World Science Fiction Society approach it with gravity if it wishes to employ the process again. It is tedious, emotionally fraught, and bears the potential of damaging the relationships at the heart of fandom. The outcome of such a committee is likely the recommendation to form a trial committee, whose members would carry a burden we can only imagine would be heavier. Yet, in extreme circumstances, it is also necessary. Consequently, we recommend adopting a change to the Standing Rules to require a higher majority for the formation of an investigation committee than for a standard committee. While the vote to form this committee was taken by a show of hands rather than a definite count, we do not believe this rule change would have prevented the formation of this committee.

Moved, To amend the Standing Rules as follows:

Rule 5.X: Investigation Committee. The formation of an investigation committee shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

The remainder of this committee's report will be handled in Executive Session. See [Regarding Proceedings Taking Place in Executive Session](#).

A.3.2 Software Committee

Committee Members: Chris Rose (chair), Henry Balen, Tammy Coxen

Report

This committee was formed by the business meeting to look at potential constitutional requirements for software used to poll the WSFS membership on matters of Hugo Awards and Worldcon site selection. Several proposals were made or amended to address that. After discussion within the committee, we are reporting back to the business meeting as follows.

We worked with a definition of “custom software” as software that is written purely for the purpose of collecting nominations, creating the Hugo ballot, and tallying member votes for activities of WSFS. This should exclude software such as (but not limited to) Windows, Excel, Google Sheets, Word, etc, which are off the shelf options that a Hugo Administrator might use in the process of validating or reporting on the results. We found the term “custom” to be a bit misleading and chose “bespoke” to convey the idea that the software in question exists only for Hugo Awards purposes and no other.

We conclude that the primary goal of adding software requirements to the WSFS constitution should be to ensure that said software is worthy of the WSFS membership’s trust. We also address the realities of software development and specifications in forming our recommendations.

Strict requirements on software should be avoided because the needs of the convention and Hugo subcommittee cannot be predicted at the time of amendment, and must be adaptable to changing needs over the course of the convention. Many software development lifecycles have a tight loop of requirements to development, and many of the professional developers we’ve consulted believe that the needs of a modern agile software development process are not satisfied by the requirements of constitutional amendments as feedback.

The committee also considered site selection, which we judge to be separate from the Hugo Awards because it has even stricter requirements for anonymization than the Hugo Awards. Specifically, even the site selection administration must be unable to associate site selection votes with the voters. The social impact of leaking who voted for which bids has been repeatedly referenced by worldcon bidders and committee members as the worst possible outcome of a site selection process, whether they were or were not successful in their bid.

Proposals

See [F.9 Hugo Award Software Source](#) and [F.10 Site Selection Concordance](#).

A.3.3 Location, Location, Location Committee

Committee Members: Tammy Coxen (chair), Yasser Bahjatt, Ann Marie Rudolph, Donald Eastlake, Olav Rokne, Kevin Black, Brandon O'Brien, Ingvar Mattsson, Alan Fleming

Report

This committee failed to meet and does not have a proposal to bring forward to the convention. As chair, I take primary responsibility for this – it fell off my radar screen in a busy fall of 2024 and then the US election happened and it became hard to think of much except the daily horrors. When I did start trying to organize a meeting in the spring, we were unable to find times that worked for our very geographically diverse group, and several committee members had commitments that did not give them time to focus on the work.

We did have some conversation over email and based on the diverse array of thoughts and opinions presented, it was clear that it was going to take some very intense work to develop a proposal. In addition, and to my mind, even more importantly – I do not think it would be appropriate to bring a proposal regarding acceptable Worldcon locations to the business meeting in Seattle in 2025, because if such a proposal passed, it would be ratified in 2026 in Los Angeles. Having both stages of this process take place in the United States at the current moment seems highly problematic.

The Business Meeting should consider if they would like to attempt to reconvene this committee under a different chair. If they do, we would be happy to pass along notes and documents from the discussion we were able to have. Some of the main points are submitted as an appendix below.

Submitted by: Tammy Coxen, Committee Chair

Appendix: Discussion to Date

There are two main camps in this discussion, each with subcamps.

1. Let the voters decide

- a. Change nothing
- b. Have some kind of qualification process around the privilege of voting for Site Selection

Discussion: We could mandate additional information to be provided as part of bid filing, such as scores on indices, safety policies, laws regarding certain populations such as LGBTQ.

"Providing voters comprehensive information and trusting them to make good decisions" fails when anyone - including people outside of the Worldcon community - can just buy a Worldcon. One option would include limiting voting to attending members to make that prospect more expensive, and because the people with the most stake in where Worldcon

should be attending members. But that is prohibitively expensive for fans who can only attend the Worldcon when it is near them, because in order to vote they would be forced to buy an attending membership for a convention they were not able to attend.

2. Qualify the bid

- a. Do this directly such as through a qualification vote by the business meeting or some other mechanism
- b. Rely on external metrics

Discussion: Is it true that the Hugo Awards cannot be administered fairly in a country that exceeds an objective threshold of authoritarianism? Could the 2023 Hugo Awards have been properly administered by a different person?

Sites currently undergoing armed conflict still rank as acceptable according to the previously proposed indices. So does the US, which at least some members of the Worldcon community would not deem an acceptable bidding location at this time. Metrics are not real time, and any mechanism is subject to situational change between bid qualification and the time of the vote or convention.

What is safety? Safety for whom, and from what? Creators and fans from developing nations may themselves be less safe in a designated “safe” region, or risk being identified as so “unsafe” by reason of their nationality or other identity that they are not even allowed to attend.

Labelling regions as “potentially unsafe” seems at best dicey to support with empirical justification, and at worst an invitation for projection of parochial predilections and prejudice.

We should be making determinations as fandom on our own terms: “we create our own quality judgments, we are willing to exercise discretion, and we are looking for conventions who are willing and able to take accountability for what is in their control to act upon” is better than simply limiting potentially unsafe regions' access to fandom and the legitimately radical capacity we insist this genre has on society, especially by writ of other organizations' often politicized assessments.

Some possible goals for a subsequent proposal (these were not all necessarily agreed on by the group, but were put forth as framing considerations):

- Timing matters (know soon enough not to waste time & money bidding)
- Reduce the chance of interference by outside entities
- Expand the geographic footprint of Worldcon
- Avoid complexity
- Include a fail-safe mechanism should a location's status change after seating

A.3.4 Hugo Administration Process Committee

Committee Members: Brianne Reeves (chair), Chris Rose, Doctor Science, David Hook, Gareth Kavanagh

Over the course of the 2024 business meeting, the WSFS attendees voted on Item D.10, which established this committee with the following mandate:

Resolved, that there be a Hugo Process Study Committee that shall report back to the 2025 Business Meeting with recommendations and proposed amendments. The remit of this committee shall include, but not be limited to: employing third parties to administer, oversee, and/or audit the Hugo Awards and the financial implications thereof; other options for independent oversight of the Hugo Awards; creation of a whistleblower process and protections; and how such processes might affect the site selection process.

The leadership and membership of this committee will be determined by the Presiding Officer.

The committee has convened and offers the following report:

Evaluation of the Current Hugo Administration Process

The Hugo administration process is guided by the World Science Fiction Society Constitution, notably [Article 3](#). The current instantiation of the rules aims to strike a delicate balance: to offer technical and practical guidance on eligibility and voting while also offering flexibility to both the administrators and the WSFS membership at large to determine what is and is not “speculative fiction.” It’s worth noting here that the Hugos are, at least philosophically, an extension of the will of the WSFS membership, and that the flexibility currently baked into the Articles is a mechanism to preserve this relationship.

Over the course of the past 86 years of the World Science Fiction Society, the constitution has undergone several changes, many of practical regard to the Hugo Awards. Most changes have been relatively minor -- largely codifying categories or updating definitions -- but several have presented radical updates to the awards administration, most recently being [E Pluribus Hugo](#). This addition added a very specific tallying process for the nominations process to reduce the impact of slate voting.

It’s important to note that, as of 2024, there is no “step-by-step guide” to administering the awards; the Constitution lays out rules for eligibility, but the practical administration of those rules is not prescribed outside the guidance of Article 3 and [E Pluribus Hugo](#). As a result, the practical aspects of administration, especially those surrounding complex eligibility issues, have largely operated as a kind of institutional knowledge passed from administrator to administrator and based upon an expected good-faith effort to comply with best practices and norms of behavior.

Selection of An Administrator

One of the most prevalent observations that the Committee had regarding the selection of an administrator is that the Hugo Administrator is often selected (1) from among known and respected WSFS members, and is (2) guided by prior administrators who act as a part of a kind of bank of advisors. In a sense, the role is quasi-apprenticeship, meaning that an administrator learns the role after consultation and extensive discussion with other former administrators. In many cases, they have served in high-pressure or high-demand roles, including, though not limited to, the Deputy Administrator role prior to their selection for the Administrator role proper. Once they have served as an Administrator, they often serve for multiple years. Examples of this include:

- Nicholas Whyte (2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024)
- Dave McCarty (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2023)
- Tammy Coxen (2016, 2020)
- Vincent Docherty (2010, 2011, 2013, 2014)

Formally, the administrator is selected by the Convention Chair. They are often directly recruited to the job or are otherwise already associated with a bid. This committee would like to underscore that some of this is a direct result of the heavy responsibility of the role, the nature of the SFF community, and the awards themselves. It is unreasonable to believe that a volunteer in this position should be someone unvetted or otherwise unknowledgeable about genre fiction. Whether this would be the case for a third-party administrator is an issue we explore later in this report. Similarly, the importance of prior administrators as a repository of institutional knowledge is, at least on its face, a boon to the administrators. We can assume that, as long as former administrators are supportive and provide valuable insights in a productive way, their presence as a resource is highly valuable for any administrator, especially those with less experience.

Most importantly, the administrator typically does not act as the sole determiner of later eligibility. Instead, the administrator's primary role is to lead the Hugo Subcommittee which works together to determine each work's eligibility in a category. In an ideal situation, the administrator is a "first among equals," and facilitates a determination by the research team rather than dictating. This also seems to be a norm rather than a codified process. It's not clear that there are any guiding rules about how the administrator manages the team's input or weighs complicated questions regarding eligibility.

Selection of the Hugo Subcommittee

The Hugo Subcommittee is assembled by the Administrator with the assistance of other high-level volunteers. These volunteers assist the Administrator in researching nominated works, researching nominee contact information, compiling nomination lists, combining duplicate nominations, etc.

There is no single set of criteria for who qualifies for being on the research team; the members are typically experienced, high-level volunteers who are familiar with WorldCon, including former chairs and others who have shown long-term commitment to the organization, but otherwise their experience in vetting nominations varies.

It's worth noting that this, much like the flexible nature of the Administrator role, is largely a function of the ways that a volunteer organization works and the seriousness of the role. Members are a combination of (1) people who have already expressed interest and who are vetted for reliability and capacity, and (2) individuals who are already demonstrating that reliability and capacity who are then recruited into the team. This accounts for the proportionally high rate of members who were involved in long-term bids and who have previous high-level roles like Chair or Vice Chair of a convention. It similarly can serve as a step into the administrator's pipeline long-term.

Many Administrators view themselves as an organizer of the Subcommittee rather than a final arbitrator. It is the general opinion of this committee that this perspective is ideal and creates a collaborative and fandom-centered approach to eligibility questions. However, there is no formal delineation of these roles, and there is no clear mechanism for how to address conflict between the members of the Hugo Subcommittee and the Administrator if there are shifting interpersonal dynamics and the Administrator acts as more of an arbitrator.

Nominations

The Hugo Administrator and the Hugo Subcommittee⁶ accept both electronic and paper nominations during the nomination period. The nomination period is not determined by the constitution directly, instead being dictated by the practicalities of administering the procedure and Worldcon tradition. The nomination forms are created by a software partner (more information in the evaluating nominations section below).

Gathering Nominations

Nominations are open to any member of the previous Worldcon and any member of the current Worldcon whose membership was purchased before January 31 per WSFS constitution, rule 3.7.1. The nomination forms are open format and anyone can nominate a work in whichever category that they deem most suitable. This is both a constitutional necessity under the WSFS bylaws (see section 3.8) and is a philosophically well-grounded approach to nominations.

Currently, the nominations are gathered primarily online using a custom-made [balloting program called "NomNom"](#) created by a volunteer team led by Chris Rose. This system is

⁶ In several of Nicholas Whyte's posts about this, he refers to it as a "[Hugo Research Team](#)."

being extended for 2025 to replace a previous balloting system⁷. Ballots must be entered by the close of nominations or be postmarked by that date for consideration.

Tabulating and Evaluating the Nominations

The Subcommittee begins tallying and researching the nominees as soon as possible. The NomNom system does an initial tallying as the awards come in, but the hurdles start almost immediately -- capitalization, spelling variations and other grammatical differences result in several lines for a given nomination (ex. The Left Hand of Drakness, Left Hand of Darkness, and Left Hand of Darkness would all count as unique entries)⁸. This is all in addition to gathering necessary contact information and verification for top contenders.

What the NomNom system cannot do, and so falls to the team, is the subjective work of checking eligibility and reassigning works to the appropriate categories per the WSFS Constitution sections 3.4-3.6. This presents one of the biggest points of controversy in the process: the discretionary power of the Administrator and Subcommittee.

Some eligibility and categorization issues are clear-cut. For instance, the Hugo Subcommittee is directed to reassign votes for eligible works that appear in multiple categories. This process is largely a matter of mathematics rather than categorization (see WSFS Constitution, section 3.8.8). Fortunately, this also appears to be the most common scenario that the Subcommittee addresses.

In less clear-cut areas, there is no one method of determining a nomination's eligibility nor are there any written guidelines or comprehensive precedents set -- at least not any available to the general public that the committee could find. The most information currently available about this process is the combination of Nicholas Whyte's blog posts, the 2024 administrator's report and the [Chengdu reporting from Chris M. Barkley and Jason Sanford accessible on File 770](#). More importantly, it is unclear what the limitations of the administrator's powers are or what their duty to disclose may be.

Creating the Ballot

The Subcommittee applies the E. Pluribus Hugo rules to the eligible nominees and presents the top six nominees in each category (The eligibility assessment is, presumably, happening in tandem with the numerical assessment). Currently, the tallying is done by the NomNom system, meaning this part of the process is automated and does not require manual assessment. For this reason, any discussion of tallying the nominations is better served by the technology committee managing NomNom.

⁷ For more in-depth information on this system, we refer you to Chris Rose and the tech team report out to the Business Meeting in 2025.

⁸ NomNom systems are updated to reduce this as much as possible and the collating process here is not, in fact, a part of the process that we believe needs to be addressed outside of the current software team's work.

The final ballot is assembled from the nominations deemed eligible under both the E. Pluribus Hugo rules and the eligibility assessment. When it becomes clear that an eligible nominee qualifies for the final ballot, the Hugo Subcommittee is responsible for reaching out to the artist, writer, publicist, etc. The nominee then accepts the nomination and is added on to the ballot. In some cases, nominees do refuse their nomination.⁹

The final ballot is then set up in NomNom for a final vote and given to the current year's WorldCon Committee for announcement, distribution and voting.

Final Voting

Post-distribution of the final ballot list, WorldCon uses the same NomNom system to gather votes. Those votes are calculated and made public first by announcing the winners in the Hugo Awards Ceremony and then a full final tally must be made public under WSFS Constitution, section 3.12.3. This list must include the "long list" which includes all nominees and a list of the top ten nominated works that did not make the final ballot. The long list and final vote tally must be released within 90 days of the award ceremony.

Other Observations

A few themes stand out when reviewing the existing Hugo process, much of which narrows down to the themes of flexibility, trust and transparency. It's immediately apparent that much of the Hugo administration process is both less formal and more collaborative than it may seem at first glance. As a result, there is a lot of ambiguity within the Hugo administration, much of it intentionally so. But this poses a dual dilemma: how does one learn to administer judiciously, what standards does the community consider judicious and what happens if that administration fails to live up to the community's expectations?

This is, of course, the crux of the issues WorldCon has seen in the past few years.

The upcoming section discusses some of the more popular remedies mentioned in the wake of these scandals. It is important to remember when reviewing them that some of the flexibility inherent to the current system serves an important philosophical role in allowing space for unusual works to receive nominations. More practically, some of the ambiguities also serve a key role in keeping WorldCon a "world" convention; the Hugo Awards travel annually and so the legal ramifications in any given change to the Constitution may limit how, where or by whom the Hugos can be administered. As such, we urge readers of this report to be cautious about any changes suggested.

⁹ Per WSFS Constitution section 3.10.1, there are no formal provisions for what to do when the Hugo Subcommittee cannot reach a potential nominee. Presumably, the nominee is treated as declining their nomination, but this is not explicit.

Third-Party Administration

One of the primary tasks of this committee was to consider the role a third-party administrator may serve in the Hugo Awards process. For the purposes of this initial discussion, we looked specifically at hiring a third-party business for the administration rather than separating our volunteers into a separate organization or any organizational reforms.

Financial

The financial issue at the core of the proposal to have a third-party administrator is the primary concern. It determines whether the rest of the questions become issues to address in full or remain theoretical.

First and foremost, it was difficult to find a company with the capacity to manage the Hugo Awards or that has specialization in awards management. There are some organizations that do this work, often tangentially to other management services. While several companies have award management software, the auditing processes and eligibility work are not services they provide.¹⁰ At this point, it's unclear if we could use an awards management company for this service; many companies are focused on administrative services and consultative services are either unavailable or will likely be prohibitively expensive.¹¹ Some other industry-related awards, such as the Oscars, have relied upon accounting firms to do this work. However, we anticipate that those services are more expensive than the management services mentioned here.

Simply put, most of the identifiable companies who manage awards processes are limited to doing the same work as our existing NomNom system and would still require substantial volunteer investment into the systems alone without the added benefit of being a true third party for vetting eligible nominees¹².

Given that this would most likely need to be a convention expense, it's also worth noting that WorldCon and the Hugos operate on a thin margin and volunteer labor has been integral to keeping those costs down. Because each convention has its own operating budget, it's not clear that the Hugos can afford to hire a service for any given convention. Any potential rules change here should come with the understanding that hiring this service may jeopardize convention finances year-over-year in unpredictable ways.

¹⁰ For instance, one service, [Award Force](#), offers awards balloting software with a base rate of \$6,000. This does not include the labor intensive vetting process or finding or contacting nominees. They do not offer these services when reached out to for inquiry.

¹¹ Some consultative services begin in the tens of thousands of dollars, and a true estimate is likely much higher. Given that this Committee has no power to contract with any of these companies, that information seemed sufficient for an initial inquiry.

¹² This also does not consider whether any consultant is in a position to make some of the necessary categorization decisions around eligibility. The Hugos support a large but still niche area of creative endeavors.

Other Concerns

There are some additional concerns about whether transferring data and voting information to a third party would create an additional legal burden on the Hugos, especially when transferring or maintaining that data internationally. We do know that this has presented significant issues in the past, even in data transfers between convention committees. As we have no legal expertise in data privacy, that would need to be evaluated separately from this work.

Reporting Structures

In addition to our mandate to explore third-party options, this committee was also requested to explore whistleblower procedures. In this case, we want to acknowledge that “whistleblower” as a term holds a very distinct legal connotation in many countries, and that whistleblowers in this context do not have the legal protections nor the legal obligations that that term may imply. As such, we’ve chosen to call this a reporting structure. The underlying question behind this mandate -- what happens in the wake of administrative misconduct -- is a valid one.

The biggest concern here is what members of the Hugo Subcommittee should do if they believe the administrator has participated in misconduct or otherwise allowed bias to jeopardize the legitimacy of the awards. Frankly, it’s not clear if there is an individual or organization to which the administrator or subcommittee is accountable other than the Chair of the year’s convention.

There was discussion about if the overarching WSFS has a mechanism for resolving these issues. Currently, WSFS is largely managed by committee. The Presiding Officer of the Business Meeting, who may otherwise seem like a logical choice, is provided by the Convention Committee and does not have punitive powers or a clear mechanism for resolving these issues. The committee also discussed the WIP/Mark Protection Committee. Their mandate, however, seems tailored to license concerns and does not extend to these matters.

There is also no guidance on how WorldCon or WSFS should respond to legitimate claims of misconduct nor is there a Code of Ethics on the WSFS website or otherwise that guides Organization officers’ behavior. The result of this is clear in the 2024 revelations about the Chengdu ballots and the very public way that information was released.

Limitations

It’s immediately apparent that there are serious gaps in knowledge about the Hugo process, and that the publicly available documentation does not provide sufficient information for this committee to fully address some of the issues referred to this committee in the 2024 Business Meeting. Most notably, we are not equipped to fully address the structural changes of creating a formal Hugo Administration structure that

operates outside of the current year's convention nor to restructure the WSFS Constitution in the radical way that would require. We believe those changes require buy-in and significant knowledge contributions from former Hugo Administrators and WorldCon Chairs. Our conclusions are limited as a result.

Conclusions

WHEREAS there is no formal definition of a Hugo Administrator in the WSFS constitution;

WHEREAS there is no formal definition of a Hugo subcommittee in the WSFS constitution;

WHEREAS the Hugo Administrator and Hugo Subcommittee's roles and processes have largely been passed down through institutional knowledge rather than codified;

WHEREAS there is no Code of Ethics for a Hugo Administrator, the Hugo Subcommittee or any senior officer of the World Science Fiction Society;

WHEREAS there is no clear requirement for disclosure of eligibility rulings made by the Hugo Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS there are substantial financial and logistical barriers to a third-party administrator outside of our current volunteer structure, this Committee recommends the following course of action:

1. The body convenes a committee to create a Code of Ethics for administrative officers of WSFS and the Hugo Administration in addition to the Convention Code of Conduct¹³. This Code of Ethics should:
 1. Outline clearly the duties of our administrative volunteers to protect the integrity of the Awards,
 2. Set standards for professionalism and record keeping for the Hugo Administrator and the Hugo Subcommittee, and
 3. Make clear a reporting mechanism for breaches of the Code of Ethics
2. Require that the Hugo Subcommittee release a Hugo Administrator's report annually that summarizes any eligibility issues, administrative problems or other

¹³ A preliminary review of the Convention Codes of Conduct from [Seattle](#), [Washington, D.C.](#), [Dublin](#), [New Zealand](#) and [Glasgow](#) shows that the codes of conduct are Convention-centered and focused on facilitating positive fan interactions on the site and online spaces of Worldcon. There are no addendums for what should occur outside of the Convention proper. Some of these codes have been used more broadly in the past, but still focus on interpersonal issues rather than issues embedded into the power structure of the organization itself. It was unclear if there is any historical Code of Conduct for WSFS as a whole, though that may be an issue of website organization. It is not available in the WFSF constitution, public rules or elsewhere on the WSFS website that this committee could find.

Subcommittee rulings that impact the awards. We recommend that WSFS consider amending rule 3.12.3 of the WSFS constitution to read:

3.12.3: The complete numerical vote totals, including all preliminary tallies for first, second, . . . places, shall be made public by the Worldcon Committee within ninety (90) days after the Worldcon. During the same period, the results of the last ten rounds of the finalist selection process for each category (or all the rounds if there are fewer than ten) shall also be published. [These reports must be accompanied by a detailed summary of any eligibility rulings made by the Hugo Administrator, including disqualifications and categorization changes.](#)

3. Request that the current or upcoming Hugo Administrator document their processes and best practices formally in one comprehensive document.
4. The body nominates (1) a former WorldCon Chair or their deputy and (2) a former Hugo Administrator or their deputy to assist this committee or another committee to draft changes to the WSFS constitution that better enshrine the Administrator's duties and relationships.
5. The question of whether the relationship between the Hugo Awards and Worldcon should be fundamentally altered felt too big for this committee to tackle without a clearer sense of the attitudes and needs of the community as a whole. We propose that this committee or a successor conduct a poll of WSFS membership, asking, roughly:

1. Whether respondents are satisfied with the current relationship between the administrator, WSFS and the WorldCon Committee, where the Hugo Awards are administered by a committee that is reconstituted for each Worldcon, of which it is fully a subsidiary.
2. If they're not satisfied, do they think they'd most prefer:
 - a. The same arrangement structurally, but with more defined roles and codes of ethics,
 - b. the same basic arrangement, but with a permanent Hugo Oversight Committee that would provide continuity across Worldcons,
 - c. a truly separate Hugo Awards Legal Entity, awards voted on by WSFS members but administered by a distinct, continuing group, or
 - d. something else (accompanied by a field for the respondent to describe their preferred relationship.

Respondents would be asked whether they've been on the Hugo Committee, ConComm, or Hugo ballot, to see if these stakeholders are more or less dissatisfied than WSFS members as a whole.

This poll can be used to determine how much repair the Hugo Awards process truly needs. Moreover, it addresses the fundamental issue which is frustration among attendees and the legitimacy of the process overall.

Additional Items of Consideration

The 2024 Business Meeting referred consideration of a number of agenda items to the Hugo Process Study Committee. We're providing a short summary of each relevant agenda item here; the full minutes of the 2024 Meeting can be found on the WSFS Rules page <https://www.wsfs.org/rules-of-the-world-science-fiction-society/>.

F.5 Transparency in Hugo Administration

This is a pretty simple request that all disqualifications and withdrawals be listed and explained when the statistics are published, to improve transparency.

This is addressed in **Recommendation 1c**.

F.6 Independent Hugo Administration

It is time that WSFS took the Hugo Awards seriously and put some money into starting a real, honest to goodness corporation, which would be responsible for administering the Hugo Awards under the auspices of this Constitution.

This is one of the options to be polled and possibly considered under **Recommendation 5**.

F.7 No Illegal Exclusions

Give the runners of a given year's Hugo Awards a choice – they can either run a category “cleanly” or they can not run it. We do not desire to cast aspersions on them if, due to local law, a category simply cannot be run in a given year, but we expect them to exercise that discretion rather than tampering with the finalist list in any way.

F.8 Irregular Disqualifications and Rogue Administrators

Either a category shall be run “cleanly” (that is with the qualifying finalists being placed on the ballot unless disqualified under our rules or withdrawn by the finalist themselves) or it shall not be run at all. We consider a failure to run a given category in a given year to be a lesser “offence” against the participants of a given Worldcon than running a category with seat-of-the-pants adjustments and exclusions.

F.7 and F.8 are essentially the same, and both are “fighting the last war”: making specific rules to prevent the perceived problems with the Chengdu Hugos. **Recommendation 1** is a

more general solution to the problem that we believe will solve both this problem and any similar issues.

F.9 And the Horse You Rode in On

If anything like what happened with the 2023 Hugo Awards happens again, the Hugo Administrator is done with the Hugo Awards and future conventions are on notice that they are to be barred, on pain of being unseated.

Recommendation 1 is a more general solution to this problem. We believe the combination of a clear Code of Ethics and a reporting avenue for misconduct will address this while preserving WSFS's ability to handle situations on an individual basis.

F.10.C Hugo Oversight Committee

3.15.1: The Authority of the Hugo Oversight Committee is to have an unhindered and transparent view of the Hugo nominating and final voting process. If at any time a majority of the committee believe the Hugo Subcommittee is not conducting any part of the Hugo nominating/voting in a fair uncorrupted manner; Then the committee shall revoke the authority of the Hugo Subcommittee and authority to conduct the Hugo Awards in a given year shall be transferred to the next Worldcon.

3.15.2: Membership of the Hugo Oversight Committee. This committee shall be comprised of representatives appointed, one each, by the following bodies: The Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists, Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association, European Science Fiction Society.

This is one of the options to be polled and possibly considered under **Recommendation 5**.

A.3.5 Business Meeting Study Group

Chair: Farah Mendlesohn

Working Group Chairs: John Coxon (Asynchronous Solutions), Kat Kourbeti (Process & Scope), Farah Mendlesohn (Systems)

Committee Members: Gary Blog, Jared Dashoff, Cliff Dunn, Martin Easterbrook, Donald Eastlake III, Jack Foy, Mark Godin, Colin Harris, Jed Hartman, Jesi Lipp, Perrienne Lurie, Mara Michaud, Zoë O'Connell, Kate Secor, Marguerite Smith, Darusha Wehm, Alana Vincent

Final Report drafted by: Colin Harris, Kat Kourbeti, Mara Michaud

Summary

This committee was established to study the Business Meeting and its processes, procedures, and systems, to find solutions to a variety of issues that have accumulated over several years, and in particular the last decade. From a persistent reputational issue around the BM experience being unwelcoming and hostile, to a consistently prolonged meeting time that often fails to address all business adequately, it is clear that we need to consider large-scale changes that will enable the Business Meeting to more effectively govern WSFS and the Worldcons it is attached to.

We were specifically instructed by the 2024 WSFS Business Meeting to consider alternative systems to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR), which is the current basis for the conduct of the Business Meeting. This task was assigned to a subcommittee, or Working Group (WG), titled the **Systems WG**. A few different options were considered as alternatives to RONR, with some showing significant promise. A detailed report follows herein.

The largest subcommittee/WG within the BM Study Group, titled the **Process & Scope WG**, considered the bigger picture of the challenges faced by the Business Meeting, including what falls within its scope, the barriers keeping members from participating in it, and the processes in place currently for bringing business in, discussing and deliberating on it, and making decisions as a community. As one of the instructions in the original motion was to assess the options for scheduling the Business Meeting separately from the Worldcon, the remote participation aspect remained key in their discussions, although chiefly considered in combination with a synchronous meeting, much like the current version, but ideally much more streamlined and effective. Many recommendations are included in this WG's report, some of which will begin to take shape this year.

Lastly, we were instructed to assess the options for remote participation by Members in the Business Meeting, at three possible levels: observation only, contributing to debate (speaking), and participating in votes. A proposal for a fully asynchronous meeting was brought forth and expanded upon through the **Asynchronous Solutions WG**; their report lays out a radical proposition for a BM that would function fully remotely, giving the

opportunity to members from every country and time zone to weigh in on proposals, provide feedback, and make decisions.

As you will see through reading this report, the work is not complete in any area, although we have carried out a substantial range of investigations and identified the most promising options to be taken forward. We invite the 2025 WSFS Business Meeting to endorse the work we have completed to date, and to continue the Study Group for another year. We are confident that we will be able to deliver a range of specific proposals into the 2026 Meeting.

Systems Working Group Report

Moderator: Farah Mendlesohn

WG Members: Cliff Dunn, Jed Hartman, Kat Kourbeti, Kate Secor

1. Summary

This working group was tasked with evaluating available meeting moderation systems, including Robert's Rules and possible alternatives to it, as it has been identified as a barrier for engagement and participation by the committee at large.

There was an asynchronous discussion of various systems the members put forward; some were discarded as unfit for purpose, while others were analyzed with the conclusion that more research, and a potential trial period, would be beneficial next year to ascertain their suitability for the needs of WSFS.

2. Options Identified

Robert's Rules of Order

Our current system, identified as a barrier to engagement and participation by the Process & Scope WG and the committee at large. Technically not mandated by the WSFS Constitution, but many of our Standing Rules seem to be strongly entangled with Robert's, and to assume various aspects of Robert's.

Pros:

- It is familiar to many, including the volunteers who run the Business Meeting as presiding officers.
- Robustness (it will cover most anything that comes up because it's been hammered out for over a century).
 - Permits debate from both sides (unlike e.g. Martha's Rules).
 - Has systems for handling sensitive topics.
 - Has systems for entering more free-form discussions when necessary.
 - Enforces a certain standard of conduct that can help mitigate hot tempers.

- Has specific motions to stop discussion of harmful or unconstitutional topics without wasting a lot of time.
- Large community of existing “experts” who can help people with it, although they might be hard to find.
- Widely used outside the Worldcon community, which means we might be able to find people coming in with some experience of it.

Cons:

- It is a USA-developed system, based on the UK’s parliamentary code—therefore it assumes an Anglo-centric approach, and is unfriendly to members from outside the Anglosphere.
- It also disadvantages those not trained in it, as it has a steep learning curve.
- It advantages those who can commit most time to the meeting, which is an issue now that meetings last several days.
 - This *could* be dealt with by enacting some changes to the current processes, which we will leave to the Process & Scope WG to review.
- Criticisms via the Foraker Group, an Alaska-based non-profit support organization, on Robert’s include:
 - “It is simply a way of running a meeting that has “always been done” and never questioned. Equally true is that some groups would like another option but are not sure what it is. Others would actually like to use Robert’s Rules, but face challenges due to organizational culture or lack of understanding.
 - It is used to shut down meaningful conversations.
 - It is used in the antithesis of the group’s innate culture to talk or deliberate in a different way.
 - It is used by only a few who then, in turn, dominate the discussion and decisions.
 - It is used to intimidate (intentionally or unconsciously) people from joining the [business meeting].
 - Training, mentors, and grace will all be required if you want to counter the negative consequences that often come with the strict use of this structure.”

It is interesting that these criticisms are common across many organisations that use RONR for their governance, and that the chief problems named above are seen again and again.

In particular, people with no prior experience of it can find it impenetrable and a necessary evil at *best*.

If Robert’s is kept, there are suggestions for some changes:

- Time limits for debate to be set by the chair, and not the meeting; also possibly in blocks to align with convention programming.
- A rigid linear model in which items are placed on a timed agenda and dealt with in order—no votes to re-order the agenda/delay discussion.
- Questions to proposers to be allowed, but to be submitted in advance, with a deadline.

Sturgis, a.k.a. [Standard Code](#)

Alternatively, if Robert's is favored but a simplified version desired, there is Sturgis:

- This is an abbreviated version of Robert's, that can be presented on one page of notes*.
- It allows for General Consent, but also allows for an objection.
- If anyone objects, a vote must be taken on the action.
- The presiding officer may also propose actions by general consent without any motion. If anyone immediately objects, the question must be stated and voted on in the usual way.

* However, the claim that it fits on one page seems to be only because it takes so many things for granted. It still relies on jargon like "question of privilege" and "point of order" and "division," and I find the one-page presentation kind of overwhelming.

This appears to be the closest to our current system in terms of being robust and readily available, and likely to have a less steep learning curve for existing members due to its similarity to RONR, but also for newcomers due to being structured more simply.

We would definitely like to trial this system in a mock-BM setting to assess its suitability.

Martha's Rules of Order

Aimed at achieving consensus, Martha's Rules is a decision-making system rather than a debating system, and deliberately restricts discussion.

Pros:

- Permits a straw vote (i.e. a move to a quick vote where there is consensus).
- It uses a written and timed agenda, and requires votes to be taken when an issue is first raised - a first vote cannot be deferred.

Cons:

- There is a concern that it does not allow for full debate, as a consensus can lead to a vote. It also does not allow for *not* doing a straw vote, even if the matter is known to be divisive.
- Doesn't have a clear path to request a full debate (it either seems to be "quickly proceed to a vote" or "the opposition gets to state their concerns and then you proceed to a vote").
- Amendments are not possible; instead, the proposal is "returned to the proposer" without a formal vote if there are significant concerns. That's fine for a group that meets once every month or two, but not so great for us since we meet annually.
- If there's "a majority that can put up with it but significant opposition", the opposition gets to make a negative case but there's no provision for the pro side to try and sway them (let alone amend the proposal to address concerns).
 - There are also a lot of situations where it is easy to imagine "I can live with this if it passes but I wouldn't support passing it".
- Also not addressed: What if lots of people don't put a thumb in any direction?

Conclusion:

Martha's is culturally a bad fit for the Business Meeting - there are too many implicit assumptions that don't align, but fundamentally it seems to regard debate/discussion as a bad thing rather than as a natural and necessary part of deliberating major decisions, and fails to acknowledge that a body using it might be bereft of consensus on many issues before it. Therefore we are striking it from our list going forward.

Democratic Rules of Order

Democratic Rules of Order is a "set of common-sense rules" that follows a roughly similar general meeting structure to Robert's, but with much less formal system mechanics and jargon.

In particular, the general flow of the meeting consists of people making and seconding motions, discussing them, proposing amendments to them, and voting on them. However, the details don't rely on nearly as many jargon phrases or formal rules as Robert's.

Assorted quotes from the rulebook

(In the below, "[[...]]" indicates places where we elided something, usually a cross-reference to another part of the book. Other material in square brackets is bracketed in the book itself.)

On General Procedure:

- “The mover’s privilege [...] allows cooperative members to work out decisions quickly and easily. A more formal amending process is automatically required if opinions are divided. The degree of formality is usually determined by custom, agreement, or a law”
- “The chair’s duty is to preserve order and fairness in meetings by following the bylaws and rules of order. Members must abide by the rulings of the chair without debate except when a point of order [...] is made.”
- “Members must wait for permission (a verbal or nonverbal sign) from the chair before speaking. If several members stand at once, the chair selects one and notes who should be next. The others should sit until the speaker has finished; in large assemblies, the chair may require members wishing to speak to line up behind a microphone, or put their names on a list and wait their turn. A list of the order of speakers, preferably visible to all, is often useful, especially for virtual meetings.”
- “Agenda: The items of business and the order in which they are to be discussed at meetings, generally prepared by the secretary [...]. The agenda should be made known to members beforehand. An agenda distributed in advance is particularly valuable for virtual meetings. The agenda can be changed by the members any time during the meeting except when another motion is on the floor (being considered by the members). The agenda change must be voted on if one or more members object.”
- “Sometimes decisions are made by consensus in which the chair says ‘If there are no objections, then [the decision is described],’ but otherwise all decisions are made with motions or resolutions [...] in which a member says ‘I move [that some action be taken].’ Before any motion can be considered, it must be seconded by another member; this prevents time being spent discussing an idea that has little chance of approval.”
- “A new motion cannot be made until the motion on the floor has been withdrawn or voted on, except for those motions that directly affect the motion on the floor. Possible actions that would affect the motion on the floor would include:
 - amendment to a motion [...]
 - postponement to a later date [...]
 - referral to another entity [...]
 - imposing a limit to speakers’ time [...]
 - making changes to the voting procedure [...]
 - point of order [...]”
- “It is customary to allow the mover to speak to the motion first, and then again at the end of the discussion.”

- “A nonbinding opinion poll (straw vote) can be held by the chair any time during a meeting if the members are willing. If a member objects, the chair should ask the members for a decision and conduct the opinion poll or not according to the members’ vote [...]”
- “Every member has a right to speak once to a motion, but in large meetings, a motion limiting speakers’ times could be passed. The chair should not normally accept a motion to ‘vote now’ if members who have not yet spoken are waiting to do so. However, if arguments on both sides of the question have been fairly presented and good order is being jeopardized by discussions becoming repetitive, the chair should accept such a motion.”
- “Occasionally, there is merit in discussing an idea informally before a motion has been formulated. To allow for this, a member may move ‘that we discuss [some topic] informally for a few minutes.’ This motion needs seconding and should be voted on almost immediately. After discussing the topic, if no motion is forthcoming, the meeting should proceed with the next item on the agenda.”

On Amendments:

- “During discussion, ideas for improving the motion may occur. Provided that not more than one member objects, the mover may reword or withdraw the motion any time before it has been voted on. A seconder for new wording or withdrawal is required. Rewording can be continued until the motion is as perfect as the mover, assisted by the meeting, can make it.
Once the mover has decided on new wording—and it has been seconded—the chair or secretary should read out the reworded motion, which immediately becomes a new motion on the floor, replacing the previous one. If two members object prior to this reading out of the reworded motion, changes can be made only with motions to amend.”
- “If the mover does not—or cannot, because of objections—make a suggested change to the motion, any member may move an amendment to the original motion. An amendment may delete, substitute, or add words that will modify the original motion but must not negate it or change the intent.
The amendment, when accepted by the chair and seconded, immediately becomes a new motion on the floor, temporarily replacing the original motion. The amendment grants mover’s privilege to the mover of the amendment. Any rewording must be acceptable to the chair as not changing the topic. The details of the proposed amendment are discussed (not the original motion), and then the amendment is voted on. An amendment cannot be amended, but it can be defeated and replaced with another amendment.”
- “If the amendment passes, the secretary should read the newly amended motion, which is now a new motion on the floor to be discussed (if desired) and voted on. It

cannot be reworded or withdrawn by the mover's privilege now, since it has been partly established by the members, but this new motion can be passed, defeated, or amended again.

If the amendment fails, the previous motion again becomes the motion on the floor. If this previous motion was the original motion (having never been amended), then the original mover regains the mover's privilege. Further amendments are allowed, one at a time."

On postponing or sending a motion to committee:

- "A member may, any time before the motion has been voted on, move to postpone the motion on the floor (including any amendments passed) to an indefinite or a specific future occasion or to refer it to a standing committee, or an ad hoc committee specific for this purpose, for further study.

A member believing that consideration of a particular motion would be unwise could move 'that we postpone the motion indefinitely.' If the motion to postpone indefinitely is seconded and passed, then that particular motion cannot be discussed further at that meeting. It can be brought up at another meeting. A motion cannot be postponed permanently, because one meeting cannot bind a future meeting."

Pros:

- Significantly more accessible/approachable to newcomers than Robert's is.
- Would-be Chairs have significantly less to learn than they do for running a Robert's meeting.
- No need for a formal Parliamentarian as such.
- Spends less time in deeply nested meta-debate than Robert's does.

Cons:

- Requires more judgment calls from the Chair than Robert's does.
- Relatedly, it doesn't give detailed rules for all situations.

Conclusion:

We would like to revisit this next year and trial some sample motions through it. There is potential as it does appear robust, but there are some hesitations as to whether it would fully suit our needs.

Roberta's Rules of Order

A modified version of Robert's Rules primarily used for virtual meetings. Emphasis is placed on reaching "concordance".

There is a website titled "Roberta's Rules", and a book by Alice Collier Cochran titled "Roberta's Rules of Order: Sail Through Meetings for Stellar Results Without the Gavel", intended for non-profit boards and other teams, that offers guidance on transitioning from Robert's to Roberta's. Unfortunately the website is threadbare, and the book is expensive as it is largely out of print.

As it was discovered late in our process, the information we are using is sourced through:

- An introduction available for free through Amazon UK
- Comments on the book from readers on the Amazon page and the author's website
- An article from the book's author featuring a hypothetical scenario of a nonprofit board meeting

From the latter, the main difference compared to Robert's is the following:

"Instead of procedural formality, debate and simple majority rule, this method advocates informality, dialogue and decision-making options including a supermajority called "concordance". Concordance achieving a percentage of approval that represents a substantial majority of the board or team members – determined by the group. It encourages the group to work toward consensus, using the principles of conversational dialogue rather than debate, with a time limit. For instance, a group may decide to strive for consensus for a meeting or two, and if the decision hasn't been reached, use an 80% substantial agreement level to reach concordance."

Discussion:

- It is not clear if the Roberta's Rules website and the Cochran book are referring to the same ruleset.
- Cochran's book emphasizes "concordance" versus consensus or even majority vote. Based on prior BM experience, there are a *lot* of times where we just won't get to that level of substantial agreement, by the nature of many of the things we consider. A small/unrepresentative session getting to concordance and then the Meeting being "ratcheted" into that decision would be a concern.
- Another concern is that the main book on it isn't readily accessible the way the manuals for Roberts/Sturgis are, so in order to adopt it we would need to create our own resources for it, which is another extraneous burden on volunteers. Unless it is ultimately deemed that much more appropriate for the BM's needs, this would count as a significant deterrent.

The ABC of Chairmanship

This system was created in 1939 for trade unions and Labour Party branches in the UK. A fully digital version is available for free at: <https://chair.guide/>

This was a late entry to our list, and as such we did not get the opportunity to explore it. We are including it here as we would like to continue to examine it, should the BM Study Group be reauthorized for the following year.

3. Next Steps

It is clear our work is not complete, as there are several options we would like to explore more fully, as well as run trial mock-BMs using these alternative systems to determine their suitability for our particular needs (including what changes we might need to make to the Standing Rules to ensure compatibility).

We recommend that the Business Meeting re-authorise the BM Study Group for another year, and by extension this WG, so this work can be continued towards a more actionable conclusion.

Process & Scope Working Group Report

Moderator: Kat Kourbeti

WG Members: Gary Blog, John Coxon, Cliff Dunn, Mark Godin, Colin Harris, Jesi Lipp, Perrienne Lurie, Mara Michaud, Zoë O'Connell, Kate Secor, Marguerite Smith, Alana Vincent

1. Background

Seeing as the Business Meeting is how Worldcon members have a say in WSFS and the Worldcons under it, barrier-free access to our Business Meeting should be as important as barrier-free access to our convention spaces. The Process and Scope WG has been tasked with examining the current processes the Business Meeting employs with a view to:

- widen participation to reflect the growing diversity of the Worldcon/WSFS membership body, across multiple axes;
- ensure the meeting continues to serve the ongoing needs of the Society and Worldcon;
- address the perception that there is “the Worldcon” and “the Society/Business Meeting” as separate-and-vaguely-overlapping entities which end up at odds, and any perceived unfairness arising from it.

An overview of barriers to participation in the Business Meeting, as it is currently organized

The Meeting Experience

- **Physical presence** – When the Business Meeting is held in-person, only those physically present can act at the meeting, participate in debate, or vote.
 - **Inconvenient meeting spaces** – It has been common for in-person Business Meetings to be allocated space in distant rooms or even distant buildings at Worldcon, making it difficult to jump between program items or volunteering at the convention and the Business Meeting.
- **Time frames** – Even those who are physically or virtually present are only able to participate during the time that they are present in the physical room (or in the virtual meeting). This often leads to having to spend most of the convention in the room (or the virtual meeting) and miss out on other aspects of the convention such as panels, talks, readings, and socializing.
- **Volume of the agenda** – The number of items submitted for consideration by the Business Meeting has grown over time, particularly over the last decade. This has significantly lengthened the duration (both daily and in total) of the Business Meeting. In recent years, this has caused the available debate time for each topic/proposal to become very short. This can lead to people feeling rushed in debate, and frazzled over the course of a long day attending the Business Meeting. It can also impact how civil the membership is as the hours wear on, during a process that many already find stressful.
- **Scheduling** – The uncertain timing of agenda items means that participants can never be sure when a topic/proposal might come up for a vote, be rescheduled, or be eliminated from the agenda entirely. As such, the only sure way to guarantee being present for a specific topic/proposal is to never leave the room or virtual space. Efforts to monitor the progress of the agenda are certainly possible, but they can be difficult and are sometimes just not enough to guarantee people the opportunity to participate. This issue can essentially force members to choose between spending time participating in the con as a whole, or devoting significant tracts of time (sometimes their entire convention experience) exclusively to the Business Meeting.

Prerequisite Knowledge (or Lack Thereof)

- **Lack of awareness** – Many members of Worldcon don't know how the convention is organized, how WSFS is governed, or how those two things interact. As a result, they might not know that the Business Meeting exists or how the Business Meeting ultimately affects their Worldcon. Many members do not know that they

automatically have a right to attend, participate, and vote in the Business Meeting. Furthermore, even when members are interested in participating, information on how to do so is difficult to find. There are few clear guidelines about such things as what a proposal requires and best practices on drafting one, or even the structure of the meeting. Instead, the meeting relies on experience and the assumption that there will be acculturation. However, this adds a formidable hurdle to participation in terms of the time and effort needed.

- **Reputation and trust** – Even more Worldcon members do not believe that they have a reason to participate. This may be because they have heard stories about the Business Meeting that made them question if they would be welcome there, or whether newcomers with little experience in parliamentary debate could even achieve anything at the Business Meeting. This barrier is self-reinforcing and if it is not actively worked against, it will continue to keep interested members from participating in the Business Meeting, to the detriment of all of our Worldcons.
 - Issues of reputation and trust can also affect existing meeting attendees, as the experience of the meeting itself can be alienating in various ways (some of which are outlined in the next subsection, “Groups Affected by These Barriers”). Attendees who feel continuously unheard, dismissed, and unvalued due to these systemic issues often cease to engage with it after a series of bad experiences, and it is within our reach to ensure that doesn't happen.
- **Complicated debate system** – The organization and administration of the Business Meeting is currently facilitated through the use of a parliamentary debate system known as [Robert's Rules of Order](#), developed over the course of nearly 150 years to facilitate order and moderation of public meetings in the USA, originally based on the United Kingdom's Parliamentary Debate System. WSFS has made modifications to some of these rules through the years, which are known as the [Standing Rules](#) of the Business Meeting.
 - Per [The Foraker Group](#), an Alaska-based non-profit support organization: “Robert's Rules of Order was created to bring order to a meeting in a very structured way that is mirrored in Western (some would say colonized) government structure. It sets out a specific process for how a group convenes and ends a meeting, presents an idea, and finds agreement or dissent from that idea.”
 - Some of the resulting barriers to participation identified by The Foraker Group, which this WG believes are all currently affecting the WSFS Business Meeting, include:
 - “It is used to shut down meaningful conversations.

- It is used in the antithesis of the group's innate culture to talk or deliberate in a different way.
 - It is used by only a few who then, in turn, dominate the discussion and decisions.
 - It is used to intimidate (intentionally or unconsciously) people from joining the board."
- **Steep learning curve** – Because *Robert's* is so highly structured, but not widely known, even following along during the Business Meeting is not trivial. But the difficulty is not limited to newcomers to *Robert's*.
 - For newcomers, short video tutorials and printed FAQs are helpful, but are often insufficient for following along in real time. There has also been resistance in adopting a "How To Business Meeting Guide" produced by members of this subcommittee that would make the current system easier to digest. We would like to see this guide kept up to date and made available widely.
 - Learning the system well enough to actually participate requires significant effort, and often leads to frustration. This can be quite acute for those members who come to the Business Meeting for the first time looking to have an effect on a single issue that is very important to them, but become bewildered by the complexity of the process they find themselves trying to navigate.
 - Even those familiar with parliamentary procedures can find the structure of the Business Meeting—for example, the existence of a Preliminary Business Meeting—bewildering. And those who may no longer consider themselves newcomers are often still hesitant to put forward business.
 - The long history of the WSFS and its Business Meeting have led to a situation where there can be deep knowledge of the system and its intricacies—but that information is often not broadly available. There is, for example, no publicly available information to reference when trying to craft a good motion for submission.
- **Rules lawyering** – A common complaint from less experienced members is that they see more experienced members use their intimate knowledge of *Robert's* in order to achieve the result they desire, such as foregoing debate of a motion entirely and dismissing the proposal before it is brought forward, or sending a proposal to committee where it eventually dies, unexamined. Regardless of the intentions behind these procedures, this can lead to the proliferation of issues that have long plagued WSFS because a small number of people are perceived to be keeping things as they have always been.

- **Others** – We acknowledge that there may be further reasons the wider community does not engage with this aspect of the Society which we cannot intuit at present.

Groups that may be especially affected by some or all of the above barriers

- **Worldcon volunteers** – The volunteers of a Worldcon make the entire con happen; there simply would be nothing without them. Because of the live and time-intensive nature of in-person Business Meetings, it has often been very difficult for Worldcon volunteers to participate in the Business Meeting. As a result, the people who make the con possible for everyone else have been largely unable to have a say in its governance.
- **Members who cannot travel** – There are numerous reasons why Worldcon members might be unable to travel, whether temporary or permanent: financial reasons, health and/or disability reasons, employment reasons, family reasons, and even happenstance can make it difficult for members to attend a particular convention in person. Members who can't travel have long been able to nominate and vote for the Hugos, and in the last several years, it has become more and more possible to include those members in other areas of the con because we leverage technology to bring them into the fold virtually. However, in-person Business Meeting requirements keep all of those members from participating in the governance of the organization.
 - **Members from outside the host country** – Worldcon is hosted in many different countries and its membership is international. In-person Business Meeting requirements exclude members who are unable to travel to a specific host country, regardless of the reason. That inadvertently leads to the ideology of the host country's government trickling down into restrictions on who can participate in Worldcon governance.
 - **Members with safety concerns in the host location** – Because the laws vary in every Worldcon host jurisdiction (not just by country), members may have to weigh issues of safety when choosing to attend a Worldcon in person. That may include considerations about the rights that they would or would not be legally entitled to; the patterns and practice of actual law enforcement; the relative frequency of various types of crime, be that property crime or hate crime, or anything in between; or even the availability of medical treatment in the legal climate of the host location. After weighing these concerns, there may be Worldcon members who choose not to travel to a specific convention to protect themselves. In-person Business Meeting requirements punish those members in those years.
 - **Virtual members** – In a post-Covid world, many Worldcons are adding virtual components to their conventions, such as parallel virtual programming, hybrid programming, virtual social spaces, etc. A Virtual

membership is typically a lot cheaper than an Attending membership, and it can help bypass some of the barriers mentioned on this page, including the ones below. It also comes with all the rights of a WSFS membership, namely the participation in nominating and voting in the Hugo Awards, as well as Site Selection for the Worldcon in two years' time. Yet, under the current Constitution, and during most Worldcons (with the notable exception of this year), these members are barred from having a say in WSFS business, even though they technically have exactly the same rights as at-con Attending members.

- **Members with physical restrictions** – Members who have limited mobility, challenging healthcare issues, or disabilities are often affected by multiple of the barriers that have been described here. Because the physical restrictions faced by the Worldcon membership are so numerous and diverse, we will not give examples here; however, we want to stress that it is easy to underestimate the number of members who are affected, in part because of the fact that many of them are not seen at the in-person meetings (or sometimes even the convention) because of the restrictions they face.
- **Neurodivergent members** – While we recognize that this doesn't affect all neurodivergent people in the same way, the physical and social environment of the in-person Business Meeting can be uncomfortable, challenging, inhospitable, or even damaging for some members who are neurodivergent, to varying degrees. Given the high percentage of neurodivergent people in our community, more care should be taken to develop a process that is welcoming and accessible to all.
- **Newer members** – Citing the *"Prerequisite Knowledge"* section above, all members new to the community are faced with a mountain of knowledge they often didn't know they needed to have in order to attend a Business Meeting.
 - Many are also **discouraged through word of mouth** by others who perhaps tried in the past but found the Business Meeting unwelcoming, and a portion could even be facing **language barrier challenges** that would make the Business Meeting seem impenetrable.
 - As the community is growing in diversity across multiple axes, including country of origin, languages spoken, and socioeconomic background, it is paramount to ensure our official channels are welcoming and accessible to new entrants.
 - **Younger members** who might not have come across parliamentary debate before can particularly struggle to understand what is going on at all. Typically, parliamentary debate activities are available in schools with a higher amount of resources, mostly in the English-speaking world or International School circuit; therefore the people more likely to understand

our current processes would be coming from more privileged backgrounds. This is disenfranchising to anyone who did not have access to such resources growing up, and continues to ensure the Business Meeting is a closed community made up of people who understand these systems and are able to operate within them.

- **Others** – At this point we'd like to acknowledge our list is not exhaustive, and may include further groups of people affected by the barriers above.

2. Recommendations

This subcommittee was formed to discuss the above issues and explore various solutions based on discussions held asynchronously over the course of a few months in 2025. We combined notes from those asynchronous discussions with notes taken during virtual meetings in May 2025, and have arrived at a proposed future framework as outlined below.

Note: Aspects of this framework are being further investigated by the Asynchronous WG and the Systems WG, whose separate reports will be more in-depth on those issues, and will be labeled as such.

Key Considerations and Principles

The following considerations and principles form the basis of our future framework. We will use the next year (until we report to the LAcon V Business Meeting) to develop specific proposals based on this foundation. We will also coordinate with the Asynchronous and Systems teams to ensure that the proposals from the three teams are complementary.

Considerations

- A. The physicality of the meeting (in-person, virtual, or hybrid) can for the most part be considered separately from the meeting scope and processes (how we set the agenda, manage debate, take votes etc). [This is not to ignore the practical implementation issues associated with different arrangements.]
- B. The Business Meeting is formed of multiple components including e.g. Committee Reports, Worldcon Financial Reports, MPC elections, Resolutions, and Rule Changes (Constitution, Standing Rules, Resolutions of Continuing Effect). These have different characteristics which may necessitate different recommendations.
- C. The synchronicity of discussion is an important consideration. We feel that some aspects of the meeting are more amenable to asynchronous discussion than others. For Resolutions and Rule Changes in particular (the “core” function of the meeting), real-time debate has historically added significant value; should we wish to move away from that, any alternative approach must be robustly piloted.
- D. Recent years have seen significantly more business submitted to the meeting, creating agenda pressure and time overruns. Some components (e.g. scrutiny of

reports) have been squeezed to make more room for the “new business”. We do not see this situation changing without active intervention, and we feel that the time demand placed on attendees is already a barrier.

Principles

- A. The Business Meeting is a means to an end (the effective governance of the Society) and not an end in itself. We should aim for the shortest, simplest meeting (particularly for at-con, real-time sessions) which can be achieved without compromising the quality of decision making.
- B. The governance of the society should be as open and transparently democratic as possible. We should minimise barriers to entry and participation. This includes all of the barriers identified in the “Background” section of this report.
- C. The existing approach cannot achieve (A) and (B) with reasonable time commitment for participants, while also handling current levels of business and not overly rushing debate (which typically results in a less civil environment as well as weaker discussion).
- D. Our future framework proposes:
 - a. To move selected components of the agenda to other forms of debate and/or review, freeing up time in the “main” meeting sessions. These could include some or all of the following:
 - i. MPC elections
 - ii. Committee Reports
 - iii. Seated Worldcon Financial Reports
 - iv. Questioning of Future Worldcon Bids
 - v. Setting of Debate Times

The main (and potentially real-time) meeting sessions would therefore be limited to the discussion of resolutions, standing rules changes, and constitutional changes (new and passed on); the presentation of the Site Selection results; and the presentation by the newly seated Worldcon (and NASFiC if appropriate).

- b. To ensure that business coming to the main meeting (and hence using up valuable attendee time) is well prepared, well socialised, and has sufficient support to justify its consideration. This could include some or all of the following:
 - i. Providing more assistance to proposers when drafting motions;
 - ii. Earlier publication of draft motions;

- iii. A pre-con open review period during which the wider WSFS membership can review, ask questions, and comment on proposals;
- iv. Opportunity in this period for members to submit written speeches “for and against” the proposals, to be published alongside them;
- v. Opportunity for proposers to refine their motions based on feedback received in this asynchronous discussion;
- vi. Consultative votes, where proposals would need to have a minimum level of support (e.g. 25% of people expressing a view) to be taken forward to the main meeting.

We believe these changes could have multiple benefits: they would raise the profile of the business meeting and broaden awareness of the business under discussion; they would give all members a voice without requiring them to attend the main meeting; and they would hopefully result in more focused discussion at the main meeting, since participants will have had more chance to engage with the proposals and to understand their intent and consequences.

In this model the main business meeting still has a key role in refining and challenging proposals, and still has the final vote on changes—but this should be seen as the culmination of a broader and more inclusive process.

- E. We hope that with this more robust preparation, we would see less time spent on Amendments, Parliamentary Inquiries, Points of Order etc, and quicker routes through debate to clear decisions.
- F. If sufficient time pressure is removed from the Agenda, we would be strongly in favour of block scheduling, so that members interested in particular topics only need to attend the meeting for relevant sessions.

To emphasise some points from our key considerations: we believe that these process changes will be beneficial regardless of whether the “main” meeting takes place during the con or at some other time; regardless of whether it is physical, virtual or hybrid; regardless of whether we retain RONR or adopt some other parliamentary system; and to some degree regardless of whether it is synchronous or asynchronous.

That being said, we feel the most feasible approach is likely to be an asynchronous element pre-con leading into a streamlined, synchronous meeting held at or around the time of the convention.

Parliamentary System

The Process and Scope WG has avoided making detailed recommendations based on adjusting our use of RONR or adopting some other system, as the Systems WG is looking into alternative systems. Any chosen system will of course need to be tuned and optimised

for our particular use case and community; we believe that our future framework is valid for all but the most radical changes to our governance system.

We note that any system can only be adopted if we have individuals who are willing and able to run the meeting with it. Should the decision be to continue with RONG, the focus will need to be on making it less of a barrier to engagement, especially to new participants.

Virtual Participation

We are in favour of allowing all WSFS members, including those with sole WSFS memberships and virtual attending members, to participate in any synchronous main meeting remotely, whether that is through an all-virtual or hybrid solution and regardless of when and where the meeting is scheduled. Ideally this should include the ability to speak and to vote. We feel this is essential to removing barriers to entry and participation, and to establishing the rights included with WSFS memberships.

We do not believe this reduces the benefits of the changes outlined in the future framework; indeed quite the opposite. There is still a need to reduce time pressure in the agenda, and broader participation makes it even more important for business to be well prepared and socialised in advance.

3. Other Ideas

During our discussion we have considered a range of more specific ideas, which we will look at over the coming months. These build out from the future framework in different ways, each with their own pros and cons.

Moving the Preliminary Business Meeting (PBM)

For an evolutionary change, one could hold the Preliminary Business Meeting (PBM) virtually a few weeks ahead of the convention, retaining the Main Business Meeting in broadly its current form.

Year-Round Engagement

Fostering engagement with Business Meeting matters throughout the year through either:

- multiple PBMs/town halls to be spaced out throughout the year, so more business can be dealt with and official motions streamlined ahead of the BM itself, where we would seek the input of members present and finalize any decisions;
- or an asynchronous method of communication that would enable members to refine proposals and seek feedback from the membership through various consultative votes throughout the year, which would then combine with an at-con BM where we would hold a final vote on items discussed year-round.

We acknowledge that, as it stands, it can be difficult to ascertain at which point in the year the BM changes hands from the previous Worldcon to the next, and do not have an explicit recommendation as to whether the BM presiding officers are expected to take part or moderate these year-round discussions. We understand that it would constitute a substantial amount of volunteer work, and would not want to place this on their shoulders unilaterally. (There are also concerns with WSFS membership dues and when one might need to join to ensure participation, so this would need to be ironed out.)

Therefore, to avoid burnout and make sure these processes are sustainable for the volunteers who take part in these proceedings, we would recommend any of these ideas be considered in combination with one of the delivery systems below.

Improving the Quality of Submitted Business

We identified various options for improving the quality of submitted proposals before they reach the main meeting, beyond the “public review and feedback” described previously.

A key proposal was that of a **Pre-filtering Triage System, or Shepherd Committee**: a group of volunteers well versed in the constitution and rules of the WSFS who could act as a resource to those submitting new business to the Business Meeting.

- A less formal option could pair experienced volunteers with those seeking feedback on proposals they intend to submit; there is an unofficial WSFS Discord managed by the Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee that does this already to a degree.
- A more formal option could create a new committee that would evaluate prospective proposals for clarity, to ensure that they have the effect the proponent intended, and to see if they would require additional changes to the WSFS Constitution (or the formal Standing Rules of the Business Meeting) to be valid and effective.

It would not be the role of the Pre-filtering/Triage/Shepherd Committee to have opinions on the goal of the proposals that they were asked to weigh in on. Their jobs would be only to evaluate how well the proposals were written to accomplish their goals.

Block Scheduling

Intended to ensure predictability and accessibility for participants, the concept here would be to set the order of debate on each item ahead of time, so a schedule can be formed and publicized. It would help people who are otherwise occupied during the convention (due to being volunteers or on program) to know when the items they are passionate about speaking for/against, or ones they have formed/proposed themselves, are due to be debated and voted on.

Multiple variants of this idea were proposed with different lengths of time for the “blocks”. One length of time that was fairly popular was 90 minute blocks, as a length of time that would be compatible with the programming blocks at many WorldCons.

A Fully Asynchronous Business Meeting

Spearheaded by John Coxon, this proposal aims to implement an approach similar to the [Python Enhancement Proposals](#) to foster ongoing, inclusive participation of the community in WSFS business.

We leave it to the Asynchronous WG to lay out their proposal(s), however the consensus from this subcommittee is that some aspect of this will be necessary in the future, at least in preparing business for the main meeting, if not in replacing it entirely.

Outreach and resources

To encourage more members to participate and to facilitate effective participation, we believe that there must be an increase in available information, collected resources, and outreach to members.

We anticipate that the information and resources will benefit all members who wish to participate, but for maximum benefit, the outreach should be available to all members but tailored to newcomers and members who are less experienced with the Business Meeting.

That would include but not be limited to:

- **Reference materials and educational resources**, including, at minimum, how-to guides for crafting motions for submission to the Business Meeting. We already have handouts summarising procedures, and some Worldcons arrange an orientation programme item for new BM attendees; however, a more robust document formulated for complete newcomers should be made widely available through official channels (eg. the WSFS website, where all BM records are maintained).
- **Outreach**, to encourage members to take more interest in the Business Meeting – this may be the most difficult, or the last to be effective, because it must overcome the existing reputational issues. In addition, it may be sensible to limit outreach until the BM is running more effectively.
- **More support for newcomers** to help them navigate the meeting, hopefully with a human touch.
 - Online commentary in plainer language, such as the one provided by Kate Secor on the convention Discord in recent years, is a good start; we would in fact recommend that a volunteer BM commentator role be standardized going forward.

- We should also consider how to provide more support for people sitting in the physical meeting, such as making live commentary available via a screen, or making periodic reminder announcements for members to use a device to access the Discord commentary.
- **Town Halls** that discuss upcoming motions, with an eye toward explaining how the proposed motions are structured, how they interact with the rules and constitution of the WSFS, and the likely effects should the motions pass. Care should be taken to be fair and neutral during these descriptions, as the primary goal is to inform, not persuade, the membership. Town Halls could also be used to facilitate debate among the membership, before the Business Meeting.

4. Next Steps

Reauthorization of the BM Study Group

As it is clear from the recommendations above that we have not been able to arrive at a single proposable conclusion, and still need time to refine the above into something that can be presented to the membership at large, we recommend that this committee and its associated working groups should be reauthorized for another year of deliberation by the 2025 Business Meeting.

Standing Committee for Business Meeting Care and Improvement

A more robust solution still would be to solidify the BM Study Group as a Standing Committee tasked with the betterment of the Business Meeting. This would recognize the work of this committee as long-term, and would allow the process that began this year to continue to examine the issues faced by the BM, propose changes as necessary, and review the effects of the changes by comparing them to the stated goals and the needs of WSFS and its members.

Asynchronous Solutions Working Group Report

Moderator: John Coxon

WG Members: Cliff Dunn, Mark Godin, Colin Harris, Kat Kourbeti, Perrienne Lurie, Farah Mendlesohn, Mara Michaud, Zoë O'Connell, Kate Secor, Darusha Wehm, Alana Vincent.

1. Summary

We consider how asynchronous methods could be used to resolve WSFS business. We explain why we believe this might be useful, outline a simple model of how this could work, and outline some considerations about that model. Our discussion is at an early stage and we have more questions than answers, so we request continuation to explore these issues and present a detailed proposal, alongside a pilot programme, at LAcon V.

2. Rationale

We use the term “synchronous”, in this report, to refer to ways of resolving WSFS business which require meetings that people must attend at a given time (whether physical in the case of the traditional World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) Business Meeting (BM) or virtual in the case of the WSFS BMs being run by Seattle 2025). In this sense, we use the word “asynchronous” to refer to ways of resolving WSFS business which do not require people to attend a meeting at a given time.

Asynchronous solutions to WSFS business enhance enfranchisement by reducing barriers to participation. Physical synchronous meetings disenfranchise people based on factors such as the means or ability to travel. Virtual synchronous meetings disenfranchise people based on factors such as work (some members will not be able to attend if meetings are during their work day/shift) or time zones (some members will not be able to attend meetings that occur during their night). Asynchronous solutions may disenfranchise based on technological capital, but not more so than a virtual synchronous solution. People without computers could, for example, access discussions through libraries and similar facilities, which is significantly less disenfranchising than a requirement for (inter)national travel. As such, asynchronous solutions are not perfect, but do have key advantages.

Additionally, asynchronous solutions to WSFS business reduce the amount of time taken, at the Worldcon, on WSFS business. This would allow members to experience more of the con. Also, members who have at-con responsibilities (e.g. staff and programme participants) would be more able to participate in WSFS business, enhancing enfranchisement. Finally, WSFS BM processes can be hard to follow in real-time for newcomers and those unable to attend regularly, and an asynchronous process allows members more time to understand these processes.

This subcommittee focused on how any asynchronous solution could work. There is no reason that the asynchronous solutions we are considering could not be blended with synchronous solutions. However, this is the remit of the process/scope subcommittee, and we do not explicitly consider that below.

3. Core proposal

We propose a method for resolving business asynchronously called WSFS Enhancement Proposals (WEPs). These are based on a similar process used to conduct business in the Python community, called Python Enhancement Proposals (PEPs), more information about which is available at <https://peps.python.org/pep-0001/>.

The core idea here is:

1. Proposals are documented by the proposers
2. Consenting and dissenting opinions are presented in writing (or other suitable long-distance, asynchronous communication methods, as members prefer), over some predetermined time frame

3. The proposal is voted on at the end of the time frame

There are key issues around this core idea that would need to be resolved before any pilot scheme could be implemented for WSFS. We enumerate those issues below.

Oversight

The process would need to be overseen by a standing committee in order that work can be done between Worldcons and not left to the Worldcons themselves to organise. It would be vital to ensure that such a committee held purely a logistical role and had no power to affect the process.

Recently, considerations of local law have affected WSFS BMs (for instance, Scottish law in Glasgow), and the jurisdiction in which the committee was legally based would need to be considered to avoid potential legal issues; however, having a standing committee and an asynchronous process could avoid chilling effects from Worldcons held in certain countries.

Time frame

Proposals could be submitted between Worldcons. Votes could happen coincident with the Worldcon itself, or could be divorced entirely and tied to some milestone after the proposal (e.g., 60 days between submission and voting). The latter would potentially allow WSFS business to be conducted more quickly and would make it easier to amend problematic proposals (see “Proposals” below).

Voters would be able to make arguments for or against a proposal through the timeframe between proposal and the opening of voting. This opportunity would be equal for those in favour and those against.

Voting would need to extend over some length of time, perhaps 7 days to avoid disenfranchising voters with too short a time period. We may also need to avoid certain times (e.g. during Worldcon itself, or religious/secular holidays).

Proposals could take effect from the end of the next Worldcon from the vote.

Voters

At most WSFS Business Meetings, the people who can vote are Attending Members of the Worldcon at which the Business Meeting is held. However, if votes are not held coincident with the Worldcon, it would make sense to open the franchise to members of the preceding and succeeding Worldcons.

Proposals

Allowing many low-quality proposals to be submitted could waste members’ time, and so some mechanism for vetoing proposals or deciding what gets to a vote might be needed. If proposals are simply listed on a webpage (for instance), it may be that low-quality

proposals just get ignored and voted against. Alternatively, we could have a preliminary stage where proposals must receive a certain number of upvotes before they progress to discussion.

Theoretically, proposers would be motivated to write succinct and appealing cases for the proposals they made, as long or confusing proposals are less likely to be appealing to the wider WSFS membership, less likely to be read, and therefore less likely to pass.

A code of conduct would be necessary for online discussions. We would need some method for moderating discussion, including the ability to ban disruptive or problematic users. If discussions require active moderation, it may be necessary to limit the times of year at which proposals can be submitted to limit the amount of required volunteer effort.

We would need a method for amending proposals. In a 60-day timeframe with multiple votes per Worldcon, if flaws in proposals were highlighted, proposers could withdraw and resubmit proposals to fix those flaws. Theoretically, proposers are motivated to fix flaws in order to increase the chance of a proposal succeeding. However, if votes happened once per year, this could be an unacceptably slow method of amendment, and we could need some method of calling for amendments.

Process v platform

Because of inevitable changes in available technology, we are aware of the need to be careful in how this reform is written into the WSFS Constitution. The constitutional language should focus on the process and avoid mandating any specific online platforms or technologies.

4. Next steps

We request a continuation of our subcommittee, or a dedicated asynchronous committee, to address the concerns and issues outlined above and codify a method for handling asynchronous WSFS business.

Such a method could be piloted between LAcon V and the 2027 Worldcon. The pilot could target a specific type of proposal: for instance, the various extensions to Hugo Awards eligibility that arise every year. Since these tend to focus on cases where distribution in the previous year was limited, they are a perfect test as they can be discussed in advance of the subsequent Worldcon. Decisions made in the pilot could then be confirmed by the 2027 Business Meeting as part of the debate on the effectiveness of the method.

Appendix B: Full Financial Reports

B.1 LoneStarCon 3 (San Antonio, USA - 2013)

No report was submitted by the deadline.

B.2 Sasquan (Spokane, USA - 2015)



Sasquan Financial Report as of July 10, 2024

Date	Description	Amount	Total
07/11/2024	2024 Balance		\$20,985.96
12/05/2024	SMOFCon scholarship to Cynthia Malinowski	\$500.00	\$20,485.96
06/02/2025	Remaining Balance		\$20,485.96

Sasquan wound down as an organization and disbursed its remaining funds to the parent organization, SWOC (a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the State of Washington), where these funds are being kept separate from SWOC's operating budget.

In September 2017, the SWOC board voted to create the Bobbie DuFault Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will be financed using these remaining surplus funds. This fund will be used to grant scholarships to fans who want to attend SMOFCon and other con-running conventions.

The criteria for requesting a scholarship to a specific convention are: 1. Never having attended that specific convention before, 2. Having served on a convention in a staff position, 3. Not being able to attend without the granting of a scholarship, 4. Sending a letter requesting a scholarship to the SWOC Board of Directors. These scholarships will be given out only one time to each person.

Although no ConComCon scholarships were awarded this past period (no ConComCon in 2025), a SMOFCon scholarship was funded.

Prepared by: Richard O'Shea, aricosh@earthlink.net.

Convention: Sasquan

Parent Organization: Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee ("SWOC")

Current Tax Status: a 501(c)(3) Organization

Address: SWOC; P.O. Box 75129; Seattle, WA 98175-0129

Website: <http://www.swoc.org>

Officers:

President:: Angela Jones

Vice President: Linda Deneroff

Treasurer: Richard O'Shea

Marah Searle-Kovacevic, Alexia Hebel – Members-at-large

B.3 MidAmeriCon II (Kansas City, USA - 2016)

No report was submitted by the deadline.

B.4 Worldcon 76 (San Jose, USA - 2018)

Financial Report
Worldcon 76
For the period of August 20, 2016 to May 31, 2025
(Life of the Convention)

INCOME	US Dollars
Attending Memberships	\$ 958,071.92
Supporting memberships	127,100.00
Dealers	95,480.00
Creator's Alley	2,057.35
Art Show Net Sales	22,456.72
Hotel Rebates	82,110.00
Mobies	10,897.50
Garage Sale	1,325.47
Sales to Members	5,197.08
Advertising	21,684.92
Donations	16,852.72
TAFF/DUFF donations	1,901.50
Alzheimer's Association	13,232.97
Sponsorships	48,150.00
PAF	74,906.20
MexicanX Donations	22,204.19
LGBTQ Donations	6,563.00
Tours	6,165.50
Credit Card rewards to cash	1,550.00
Extra Hugo Trophies Purchased	1,575.00
Interest	<u>1,310.41</u>
GROSS PROFIT	\$1,520,792.45
EXPENSE	
Tech	\$ 195,538.83
Exhibits	24,180.72
Member Services	129,108.48
Events	9,601.80
Chair's Office	209,773.21
Promotions & Publicity	29,352.88

Facilities	572,971.97
Operations	15,446.81
WSFS	24,412.55
Hospitality	44,337.80
Programming	14,663.96
Publications	69,018.52
Finance	164,504.78
CONVENTION EXPENSES	<u>\$1,502,912.31</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$ 17,880.14</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	46,506.27
Total Current Assets	46,506.27
Other Assets	<u>4,145.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 50,651.61</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	\$ 67,701.40
Equity	<u>-17,049.79</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$ 50,651.61</u>

Membership Count:

Attending (all types) 6,091
Supporting 1,810
Total Memberships 7,901

Prepared by: Cindy Scott <cindy@worldcon76.org>

Convention: Worldcon 76

Parent Organization: SFSFC Inc. (San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions Inc.)

Current Tax Status: a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in California

Address: PO Box 61363, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-1363 USA

Contact Email: info@worldcon76.org

Convention Website: www.worldcon76.org

Officers and Directors:

President: Kevin Roche
Vice President: Cindy Scott
Secretary: Kevin Standlee
Treasurer: Lisa Deutsch Harrigan
Sean Bassett
Sandra Childress

Christine Doyle
Bruce Farr
Cheryl Morgan
Randy Smith
Andy Trembly
Lani Wong-Bassett

David W. Clark, Director Emeritus
David W. Gallaher, Director Emeritus
Tom Whitmore, Director Emeritus

Notes:

Member Services expense increased for storage costs.

B.5 Dublin 2019: An Irish Worldcon (Dublin, Ireland - 2019)



Financial Statement as of 31 May 2025

Chair's Introduction May 2025

Dublin 2019 worked to help fans and fandom, as our funds diminished. We had requests, we made offers when needed to Cons and individuals, and we helped repeatedly, where we could. Dublin 2019 has now ceased to be an entity, per se, our accounts will soon be closed.

We welcomed the huge success that was Glasgow 2024 which Dublin 2019 supported in many ways, and we look forward with excitement to Dublin 2029, which has also received the support and good wishes of Dublin 2019, and we hope that Marguerite and Brian have great success.

Support for those who are marginalised, face difficulties, have accessibility requirements, are younger, are first Worldcon, or local fans is important, we need to welcome more fans to our events, as a strategy to build sustainability and a future. This is an existential matter, new people matched with positive recruitment, excitement for Science Fiction Fantasy and Horror and good management is vital to sustainability. Let's help people!

Fans should not be ashamed or frightened to directly ask the custodians of the funds from Worldcons past for support.

Ask them.

Dublin 2019 has tried to work towards egalitarianism and equitable solutions for fans who discreetly informed us of challenges, helping with bursaries, support, giving small tangible help that benefits the collective fandom community greatly. We were delighted to be able to help Eastercon Belfast Reconnect in 2025, support individuals with bursaries, support projects and undertakings with small amounts, and work down the funds in a sensible and considered fashion.

The accounts are now or will be soon closed, monies will or have have been disbursed, and so this will be the final report of Dublin 2019.

It has been the finest privilege to extend the legacy of Dublin 2019 in this wonderfully positive way.

Mise le meas

James Bacon
Chair of Dublin 2019.

Dublin 2019

31/05/2025

Income	EUR
Income to 30 June 2024	1,183,172.83
Income from 1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025	0
Total Income	1,183,172.83
Expenditure	EUR
Expenditure to 30 June 2024	-1,179,769.97
Finance	-302.86
2025 grants and community development	-3,100.00
Expenditure to 30 June 2024	-1,183,172.83
2025 Net (Income - Expenditure)	0

Contact email - jc.conrunner@gmail.com

B.6 CoNZealand (Wellington, New Zealand - 2020)

No report was submitted by the deadline.

B.7 Chengdu Worldcon (Chengdu, China - 2023)

No report was submitted by the deadline.

B.8 Glasgow 2024 (Glasgow, Scotland - 2024)

Note from the Secretary: The below report contains placeholders for information that was not available at the time of submission, such as specific URLs and email addresses. The report provides places to check at a future date when these details have been determined and made public.

This will be the Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures's process for distribution of funding. This process will be posted on our webpages, and the online form, and email address will be there also - these aspects were still being finalised at the point of submission for the Seattle 2025 Business Meeting agenda (4.6.25). However, we wished to inform the WSFS community of our intentions.

Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures: Funding Application Guidelines, Criteria, Requirements

Overview:

Please find below some guidelines for individuals and groups seeking support from Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures.

We have developed these to enhance transparency and build awareness around how funding can be applied for, against what criteria applications will be considered, and what we will require of successful applicants.

Our aim is to ensure clarity, fairness, and shared understanding in how decisions are made and resources are allocated—supporting accountability while making the process more accessible and inclusive for all involved.

Importantly, our actions and criteria are grounded in the core ethos of Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures: we strive to support welcoming, imaginative, and creative ventures. We are committed to kindness, accessibility, and celebrating difference. These values also include our rejection of exclusionary or elitist attitudes and our dedication to fostering a community of fans that values respect, compassion, and community care. This framework ensures that our funding decisions uphold the inclusive, thoughtful, and values-driven culture we are working to create.

Our disbursement of our remaining surplus funds also fulfils 2.9.3 of the World Science Fiction Constitution that, "Each selected convention Committee should dispose of surplus funds remaining after accounts are settled for its convention for the benefit of WSFS as a whole." In our approach we are aiming to support the whole ecosystem of the SFF community both present and future.

Guidelines:

Please read the guidelines and requirements carefully. If you have any questions, or need help filling in the form, please do not hesitate to ask by emailing: [\[EMAIL ADDRESS TBC\]](#)

If you are not sure if your request falls into any of the areas noted below **please do not self-exclude** but instead get in contact to enable us to help see if we can support it.

Purpose of the Fund: This fund exists to support projects, events, or initiatives that reflect our shared values of inclusivity, care, imagination, and the ongoing welcoming and development of people and projects within our fan community. We wish to support sustainability both of the SF community and of ventures which engage with the UN's sustainable development goals.

Funding priority will be given to U.K. and European related fan and con-running activity. Funding applications will be considered alongside our Code of Conduct, Anti-Trash or Sustainability policies.

Who Can Apply: We welcome applications from individuals, small groups, fan organisations, or grassroots collectives involved in fan activity who share our values. First-time applicants are especially encouraged.

What We Fund: Applications should outline creative, inclusive, or community-minded fan activities. This could include (but is not limited to):

- Events* or gatherings
- Bursaries to attend conventions or other related events focussed on convention running
- Publications or zines
- Workshops or outreach activities
- Accessibility improvements and initiatives
- Equipment or materials for inclusive fan activity

*Funding should add value to these events, but the event should be able to run without the funding source

This is not an exclusive list. We welcome your ideas.

How much we fund: Generally, applications will be considered up to the value of £2,500. This is a limit not a target. We may in certain circumstances be able to support applications of a higher value than this. If your application is of a higher value than this, we may be in touch to request additional information.

When can you apply: Applications are welcome at any time - and we will continue to accept applications until the funding resource is exhausted. Acknowledgement of receipt of an application will happen before a decision is made. We aim to have a turnaround for decisions within 28 days. Please be cognizant of this timeframe when making your application.

How to Apply: To apply, please submit the form, which is the equivalent of a **Light Touch Business Case**. The points to cover are:

- **Applicant Details:** Who you are, and any relevant background information.
- **Funding Requested:** Total amount and breakdown (e.g. £300 for venue hire, £150 for materials). Financial details only - no narrative.
- **Timelines and Deadlines:** The length of time you expect this initiative to take, and any specific deadlines within your plan we should be aware of.
- **Purpose of the Funds:** What will the money be used for? This speaks to the funding requested but provides a narrative as to how it will be used.
- **Beneficiaries:** Who will benefit (e.g. local fan group, underrepresented fans, newcomers)?
- **Impact:** What will this funding *enable* that otherwise wouldn't happen?
- **Alignment:** How does this support our guiding vision of inclusive, caring, imaginative engagement, sustainability, and development of fans and fan initiatives?

All applications should be submitted via this form: [\[Online Form Location TBC\]](#)

Assessment Criteria:

To understand how decisions are made we want to explain the criteria that we will consider. Each application will be reviewed using the following criteria:

1. **Previous Funding**
 - Has the applicant received funding from us before?
 - If yes, was that funding used appropriately and were outcomes clearly communicated?
2. **Alignment with Glasgow 2024's Values and Vision**
 - Does the proposal demonstrate a commitment to our core values of creating a diverse and welcoming community?

- Is the project inclusive, caring and imaginative and does it align with Glasgow 2024's policies? [Code of Conduct](#), [Anti-TRASH](#), [Sustainability policies](#)
 - Does it contribute to sustainability or the development of others?
- 3. Potential Impact**
- Who will benefit? How many people will benefit and in what ways?
 - Does the project have the potential to create long-term or ripple effects in the community?
- 4. Feasibility & Funding Level**
- Is the budget clear and reasonable?
 - Can we fully or partially support this request within our available resources?
- 5. Equity of Distribution**
- Are we supporting a diverse range of applicants and communities?

Requirements for Fund Recipients:

Glasgow 2024 is required in line with WSFS constitution (2.9) to report the use of any of its surplus funding. The level of detail we provide will still ensure the privacy of those applications i.e. "A grant was provided to help XX convention with their accessibility requirements".

If your application is successful, we require that you agree to the following:

- 1. Acknowledgement**
 - Please publicly acknowledge Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures as a supporter in any materials, posts, or announcements related to the funded activity.
- 2. Use of Funds**
 - Funds must be used only for the purposes outlined in the application.
 - If plans change, please notify us in advance. You will not necessarily be required to return the funding but we would want to be assured that the new plan still complies with our criteria and ethos of inclusivity.
- 3. Transparency**

For our own record keeping and ability to demonstrate the benefits gained by these funds we require each recipient to provide:

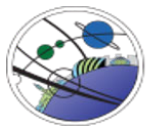
 - A short report or email update after the activity concludes (and where appropriate including photos, attendee feedback, or other relevant reflections).

4. **Unspent Funds**

- If there is any leftover funding this should be communicated with Glasgow 2024 fund administrators, who will decide the treatment of that underspend. These will likely include either:
 - Returned to Glasgow 2024 for redistribution, **or**
 - Donated to a recognised fan fund, **or**
 - Used to support future fan activity in the spirit of “passing it on” (with approval from the fund administrators).

If you have questions or want to discuss your idea before applying, please contact [\[EMAIL ADDRESS TBC\]](#)

We are here to help—and we’re excited to hear what you’re planning!



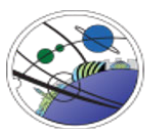
Glasgow 2024

Prepared On: 31/05/2025
Prepared By: Steve Cooper

Budget Income

GDP (Pounds Stirling)	To 31/Oct/2024	To 31/May/2025	To 31/July/2025	To Company Closure	Total Budget Amounts
Art, Dealers & Display					
Art Show					
Hanging Fees	£6,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,300.00
Art Show Commission	£10,747.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,747.00
Dealers					
Table Fees	£27,720.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£27,720.00
Events					
Ticket Sales					
Interstellar	£5,675.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,675.00
Sharmanka Tours	£575.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£575.00
Facilities					
Hotel Bookings					
Hotel Commission	£60,115.18	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£60,115.18
Guest Extra Nights	£704.87	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£704.87
Hospitality					
Party Night Charges	£2,800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,800.00
Civic Support					
Staff Weekend Support	£3,679.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,679.00
Convention Support	£77,500.00	£12,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£90,000.00
Members Reception	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
Finance & Registration					
Pass-Along					
Bid Pass-Along	£68,511.42	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£68,511.42
Discon III Pass-Along	£24,238.15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£24,238.15
Chicon 8 Pass-Along	£14,069.47	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£14,069.47
Chengdu Pass-Along	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sponsorship & Grants					
Commercial Sponsorship	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00

ConZealand Sponsorship	£23,985.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£23,985.00
Dublin 2019 Sponsorship	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
LA in 2026 Sponsorship	£1,116.75	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,116.75
General Community	£546.10	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£546.10
Banking					
Bank Interest	£2,662.43	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,662.43
Miscellaneous	£755.31	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£755.31
Membership					
Voting Fees	£35,126.43	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£35,126.43
Membership Income	£1,065,465.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,065,465.00
Members Services					
Accessibility					
Mobility Scooters	£4,160.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,160.00
Child Care					
Child Care Fees	£2,520.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,520.00
Promotions					
Special Projects					
Tartan Sales	£1,876.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,876.76
Gin 24 Sales	£6,319.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,319.00
Yarn Sales	£654.36	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£654.36
Merchandise					
Online Sales	£1,947.13	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,947.13
PreCon Desk Sales	£1,280.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,280.00
AtCon Desk Sales	£45,725.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£45,725.00
Publications					
Advertising Sales					
Non UK Advertising	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
UK Advertising	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,000.00
Total Income	£1,512,074.36	£12,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,524,574.36



Glasgow 2024

Prepared On: 31/05/2025
Prepared By: Steve Cooper

Budget Expenditure

GDP (Pounds Stirling)	To 31/Oct/2024	To 31/May/2025	To 31/July/2025	To Company Closure	Total Budget Amounts
Art, Dealers & Display					
Art Show					
Art Show Build	£5,544.34	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,544.34
Art Show Operations	£1,052.92	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,052.92
Dealers					
Dealer Refunds	£2,340.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,340.00
Displays					
Exhibits Content	£14,194.81	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£14,194.81
Gaming Zone	£3,456.04	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,456.04
Miscellaneous Expences	£1,357.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,357.60
Chairs Office					
Worldcon Activities					
2023 Hugo Losers	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
2024 Old Pharts	£800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£800.00
PostCon Thankyou					
2025 Eastercon (UK Fans)	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
Satellite (Scottish Fans)	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
European Fans Thank you	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Irish Fans Thank you	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
SmofCon (Smof Fans)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Seattle (Worldcon Fans)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Staff Support					
Staff PreCon Support	£3,061.56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,061.56
Staff AtCon Support	£2,490.27	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,490.27
Staff Expence Claims	£13,336.81	£1,550.68	£0.00	£1,600.00	£16,487.49
Staff PostCon Support	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Discretionary					
PreCon Grants	£7,300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,300.00
Bursary Contribution	£4,668.82	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,668.82
Chairs Expenses	£3,764.16	£1,711.95	£0.00	£2,500.00	£7,976.11

Legal Advice	£4,065.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,065.00
Convention Support					
Committee Secretariate					
In-Person Meetings	£6,191.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,191.00
Online Meetings	£983.52	£155.88	£0.00	£160.00	£1,299.40
AtCon Support	£1,679.69	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,679.69
Convention Secretariate					
In-Person Meetings	£18,185.75	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18,185.75
Smofcon Spending	£897.69	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£897.69
Events Division					
Performances					
Opening & Closing	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Opera	£24,412.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£24,412.00
Symphony	£29,493.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£29,493.00
Masquerade	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Hugo Awards	£24,363.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£24,363.20
Interstellar	£4,107.50	£3,820.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,927.50
Dances & Discos	£1,474.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,474.00
Other Performances	£14,194.91	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£14,494.91
Other Expenses					
Photography	£165.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£165.00
Licensing (PRS etc)	£1,107.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,107.60
Hugo Support	£2,055.32	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,055.32
DH Expenses	£627.97	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£627.97
Facilities					
Facilities Hire					
SEC	£402,600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£402,600.00
Crowne Plaza	£53,600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£53,600.00
Village Hotel	£10,926.80	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,926.80
Campanile Hotel	£3,250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,250.00
Facility Expenses					
SEC Security/Late Hours	£31,751.33	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£31,751.33
Members Reception	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
Hugo Losers Party	£6,819.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,819.00
Guest Accommodation	£27,026.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£27,026.76
Decorator					

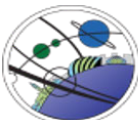
Camerons	£64,081.56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£64,081.56
Purchases	£5,063.99	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,063.99
Finance & Registration					
Accounts					
Company Creation	£1,689.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,689.60
Accounts to 30/Apr/23	£4,170.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,170.00
Accounts to 30/Oct/24	£0.00	£6,001.20	£0.00	£0.00	£6,001.20
Company Closure	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,250.00	£6,250.00
Charges					
Bank Charges	£1,469.00	£84.40	£17.00	£51.00	£1,621.40
Event Insurance	£2,779.36	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,779.36
Credit Card Charges	£34,960.61	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£34,960.61
Miscellaneous	£681.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£681.60
Finance Expences	£499.96	£42.95	£0.00	£0.00	£542.91
Registration					
CLYDE Development	£23,340.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£23,340.00
CLYDE Hosting	£7,422.00	£1,402.80	£400.80	£0.00	£9,225.60
Membership Badges	£16,481.53	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£16,481.53
Taxes					
NET Value Added Tax	£21,567.26	£740.31	£0.00	£0.00	£22,307.57
Corporation Tax	£18,782.97	£0.00	£0.00	£41,000.00	£59,782.97
IT & Online					
Online Services					
Mythic Beast Web Host	£1,748.28	£629.88	£140.00	£2,200.00	£4,718.16
AWS Email Support	£41.48	£9.34	£2.00	£48.00	£100.82
Other Software	£299.66	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£299.66
AtCon Services					
IT Tech Hire	£10,281.57	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,281.57
IT Tech Purchases	£233.89	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£233.89
Virtual Con Platforms	£18,608.96	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18,608.96
Logistics					
Transport & Storage					
Transport Expenses	£658.03	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£658.03
Storage Expenses	£1,352.08	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,352.08
AtCon Logistics					
MIMO	£2,234.40	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,234.40

Refuse before Refuse	£735.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£735.00
Sign Shop	£2,462.99	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,462.99
Convention Operations	£2,113.10	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,113.10
Audio/Video Tech					
AV Tech Hire	£116,553.97	£540.00	£0.00	£0.00	£117,093.97
AV Tech Purchases	£34,936.41	£357.15	£0.00	£0.00	£35,293.56
Members & Staff Service					
Members Services					
Child Care	£7,188.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,188.00
DBS Checks	£18.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£18.00
Member Support	£139.43	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£139.43
Safer Spaces	£349.63	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£349.63
Queue Entertainment	£487.41	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£487.41
Staff Services					
Groat Redemption	£17,564.89	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£17,564.89
Groat Production	£688.79	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£688.79
Staff Provisions	£1,687.50	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,687.50
Staff Rewards	£3,038.03	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,038.03
Convention Office	£7,043.65	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,043.65
Staff Expenses (Ribbon)	£4,082.30	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,082.30
Accessibility Services					
Mobility Scooters	£4,800.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,800.00
Auditory Services	£8,159.76	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,159.76
Accessibility Expenses	£280.13	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£280.13
Programme					
Programme Expenses					
AtCon Programme	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00
Online Programme	£85.45	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£85.45
Green Room	£1,688.58	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,688.58
Programme Operations	£1,994.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,994.00
Programme Frenzy	£1,269.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,269.00
Guest Expenses					
Guest Transport	£16,531.56	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£16,531.56
Guest Per Diem	£9,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£9,000.00
Guest Speakers	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Guest Expenses	£963.46	£202.76	£0.00	£0.00	£1,166.22

Promotions					
Convention Promotions					
Table Promotions	£1,896.19	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,896.19
Giveaway & Fan Bait	£704.31	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£704.31
UK Convention Events	£1,357.15	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,357.15
Other Con Events	£2,428.27	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,428.27
Online Activities					
Facebook Adverts	£1,165.01	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,165.01
Other Listings	£765.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£765.00
Glasgow Presents	£401.50	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£401.50
Video Editing Software	£57.16	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£57.16
Special Projects					
Gin 24 Expenses	£3,664.58	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,664.58
Tiara Productions	£502.47	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£502.47
April Fool Production	£270.02	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£270.02
Tartan Deposit	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Merchandise					
PreCon Table Merch	£807.80	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£807.80
AtCon Table Merch	£11,661.34	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,661.34
Advertising					
Fan Adverts	£758.44	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£758.44
Semi-Pro Adverts	£620.52	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£620.52
Pro Adverts	£3,595.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,595.00
Rail & Subway Ads	£3,874.80	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,874.80
Other Promotions					
Community Outreach	£729.23	£399.60	£0.00	£0.00	£1,128.83
Press Office	£443.30	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£443.30
Publications					
Publication Expences					
Adobe Licence	£945.37	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£945.37
Mailing	£65.75	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£65.75
Publication Production					
Souvenir Book	£15,252.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£15,252.20
Convention Guide	£542.21	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£542.21
Playbills etc	£2,641.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,641.00
WSFS					

General Expenses					
DH Expenses	£226.53	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£226.53
Town Halls	£8.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8.00
Business Meeting					
Agenda Printing	£690.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£690.00
Site Selection					
PO Box	£219.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£219.00
Count Software	£970.53	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£970.53
Hugo Awards					
Ballot Translation	£1,672.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,672.60
Pins & Certificates	£413.03	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£413.03
Packet Server	£154.46	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£154.46
Physical Awards	£7,899.69	£3,961.04	£0.00	£0.00	£11,860.73
Award Shipping	£1,679.28	£1,031.83	£0.00	£0.00	£2,711.11
Mark Protection					
MPC Dues (\$8,828)	£0.00	£7,309.66	£0.00	£0.00	£7,309.66
Total Expenditure	£1,292,034.94	£34,251.43	£559.80	£64,809.00	£1,391,655.17

Estimated Total Surplus	£220,039.42	-£21,751.43	-£559.80	-£64,809.00	£132,919.19
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 <h1>Glasgow 2024</h1>				Prepared On: Prepared By:	31/05/2025 Steve Cooper
Post Con Surplus Distribution					
GDP (Pounds Stirling)	To 31/Oct/2024	To 31/May/2025	To 31/July/2025	To Company Closure	Total Budget Amounts
Pass-Along					
Worldcon Pass-Along					
2025 Worldcon	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
2026 Worldcon	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
2027 Worldcon (In Trust)	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
UK Pass-Along					
2025 Eastercon	£0.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
2026 Eastercon	£0.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
2027 Eastercon	£0.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
Satellite 2026	£0.00	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00

Grants and Sponsorship					
2025 Hardship Fund	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
Total Surplus Allocated and Remaining Surplus	£60,000.00	£19,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£79,000.00
					£53,750.00

Calculated Bank Balance	£160,039.42	-£40,751.43	£0.00	£0.00	£119,287.99
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 <h1>Glasgow 2024</h1>			Prepared On:	31/05/2025
			Prepared By:	Steve Cooper

Final Registrations

Adult Attending			Comments
Full Attending Adults	3,480	£550,730.00	Includes 584 Converted Friends & 352 voters
Scottish Attending Adults	616	£73,510.00	Includes 68 Friend Automatic & 18 voters
First Worldcon Attending	1,390	£196,610.00	Includes 16 Friend Automatic & 14 voters
Historically Underrepresent	212	£29,500.00	Includes 4 Friend Automatic & 2 voters
Complimentary 5-Day	106	£0.00	
Guest Membership	32	£0.00	
Hall Passes	98	£5,880.00	
Non-Adult Attending			Comments
Full Young Adult	234	£27,815.00	Includes 10 Converted YA Friends & 1 voter
Scottish Young Adult	47	£4,330.00	
Under 16 Attending	195	£9,765.00	Includes 1 YA Friend Automatic
Online Attending			Comments
WSFS Members	420	£31,095.00	
Non Members	167	£7,920.00	
Other Members			Comments
WSFS Only Members	2,397	£87,750.00	Includes 447 Unconverted voters out of 834
Day Tickets			Comments
Adult Day Tickets	873	£39,745.00	
Complimentary Days	625	£0.00	Includes Hugo Recipients & Programme
Under 16 Day Tickets	41	£815.00	
Total Registrations	10,933	£1,065,465.00	
WSFS Members / MPC	8,828	\$8,828.00	

Prepared By: Stephen Cooper (Treasurer)

Approved By: Esther MacCallum Stewart (Chair)
Marguerite Smith (Deputy Chair)
Meg MacDonald (Deputy Chair)

Organisation: Glasgow 2024 Ltd (SC729610)
A Private Limited Company Since 14-Apr-2022
V.A.T No. 423 5593 94

Contacts: Address: 1/1, 125 Crow Road, Glasgow, G117SJ
Email: treasurer@glasgow2024.org

Company Board:

E. MacCallum-Stewart	S Cooper
M. Smith	A. Lawson
M. Meenan	J. Bacon
V. Docherty	C Davidson
M. Davidson	

B.9 Buffalo NASFiC 2024 (Buffalo, USA - 2024)



Financial Report
NASFiC 16 - Buffalo
Jul 22, 2022 – February 28, 2025
\$ USD

FINAL

Income

4000.00 · Membership Revenue	
4001.00 · Bid Surplus	1,443.80
4002.00 · Voting Revenue	<u>4,092.98</u>
Total Pre-Vote Memberships	5,536.78
4010.00 · Basic Memberships	
4010.01 · Supporting	1,550.00
4010.02 · Adult Attending	37,902.82
4010.03 · YA Attending	337.18
4010.04 · Child Attending	140.00
4010.10 · Virtual Membership	690.00
4010.30 · Dealer Membership	1,425.00
4010.50 – One Day Passes	1,630.00
4010.60 – Memberships – Other	<u>1,090.00</u>
Total 4010.00 · Basic Memberships	44,765.00
Total 4000.00 · Membership Revenue	50,301.78
4020.00 · Art Show Revenue	2,299.17
4030.00 · Dealers Room Revenue	5,415.00
4040.00 · Publication Advertising	1,510.00
4041.00 · Merchandise Sales	1,699.22
4041.01 · Fire Sale	445.96
4070.00 · Grants & Sponsorships	
4070.01 · Chicon 8 Grant	4,000.00
4070.02 · Chengdu Sponsorship	5,000.00
4070.04 · Visitors Bureau Grant	10,000.00
4070.05 · ALAMO Grant	<u>1,991.40</u>
Total 4070.00 · Grants & Sponsorships	20,991.40
4071.00 · Donations	885.05
4080.00 · Facility Comps	<u>5,316.04</u>

Total Income	88,640.56
50000 · Cost of Goods Sold	223.05
Expense	
5100.00 · Chair	
5120.00 · Emergency Contingency	1.46
5130.00 · Reimbursements (Staff & Volunteers)	<u>5,855.00</u>
Total 5100.00 Chair Expenses	5,856.46
5200.00 · Treasurer	
5210.00 · Incorporation & 501©(3)	609.95
5211.00 · Taxes	51.75
5220.00 · Fees	
5221.00 · PayPal & Square Fees	2,177.59
5222.00 · Exchange Rate Expenses	3.84
5102.01 · Bank Fees	<u>28.00</u>
Total 5220.00 · Fees	2,209.43
5230.00 · Insurance & Legal Costs	1,501.60
5250.00 · Post Office Bo+1.46	182.00
5260.00 · Mark Protection Committee	161.25
5270.00 · Music Licensing (ASCAP, BMI)	354.00
5280.00 · Postage	<u>43.10</u>
Total 5200.00 Treasurer Expenses	5,113.08
5300.00 · Events	
5320.00 · Masquerade	376.28
5330.00 · Entertainment (Burlesque)	1,500.00
5340.00 · Dance	300.00
5360.00 · Frank R. Paul Awards	<u>324.00</u>
Total 5300.00 · Events Expenses	2,500.28
5400.00 · Exhibits	
5410.00 · Art Show Printers & Supplies	143.14
5420.00 · Art Shipping	792.97
5421.00 · Artist GoH Shipping	881.55
5431.00 · Art Show Special Events License	70.00
5450.00 · Power	874.00
5470.00 · Storage	<u>441.74</u>
Total 5400.00 · Exhibits Expenses	3,203.40
5500.00 · Facilities	
5510.00 · Hotel Function Space	7,549.68
5511.00 · Hotel Food & Beverage	5,000.00
5512.00 · Hotel Rooms (Hospitality Suite)	1,630.01
5520.00 · Convention Center Exhibit Space	11,350.00

5521.00 · Convention Center Security	3,874.50
5540.00 · Other Facilities	1,736.84
5555.00 · Logistics (Ops)	2,252.20
5560.00 · MIMO	<u>900.15</u>
Total 5500.00 · Facilities Expenses	34,293.38
5600.00 · Guest Liaison	
5610.00 · GoH Gifts	479.01
5610.00 · GoH Tea	208.88
5612.00 · Airport Pickups	264.15
5620.00 · Guests of Honor	
5620.01 · GoH Rooms	5,190.48
5621.01 GoH #1 Travel	1,000.00
5621.02 GoH #1 Per Diem	250.00
5622.01 GoH #2 Travel	344.96
5622.02 GoH #2 Per Diem	250.00
5623.01 GoH #3 Travel	1,558.96
5623.02 GoH #3 Per Diem	500.00
5624.01 GoH #4 Travel	167.49
5624.02 GoH #4 Per Diem	<u>500.00</u>
5600· Guests of Honor Total	<u>9,761.89</u>
Total 5600.00 · Guest Liaison Expenses	10,713.93
5700.00 · Hospitality	
5720.00 · All-Staff Meeting	215.36
5730.00 · Food, Drink, Supplies	2,910.71
5740.00 · Wednesday PM Meeting	550.00
5760.00 · Tips	<u>30.00</u>
Total 5700.00 · Hospitality Expenses	3,706.07
5900.00 · Member Services	
5910.00 · Badges	1,653.26
5912.00 · Registration Computers/Printers	75.57
5914.00 · Web Hosting, DNS, SSL, etc.	450.65
5915.00 · Mailchimp	165.85
5920.00 · Con Office	697.93
5931.00 · Accessibility Supplies	122.87
593300 · ADA Ramp	1541.40
5940.00 · Ribbon & Rosettes	<u>640.84</u>
Total 5900.00 Member Services Expenses	5,348.37
6000.00 · Programming	
6015.00 · Table Tents	28.90
6025.00 · Participant Packages	35.20
6060.00 · Children's Programming	<u>690.77</u>
Total 6000.00 Programming	754.87
6100.00 · Publications/Marketing	

6110.00 · Souvenir Book	1,527.35
6120.00 · Pocket Program	96.00
6121.00 · Daily Newsletter	100.36
6131.00 · Shipping of Souvenir Book	215.96
6135.00 · Sign Shop	137.86
6140.00 · Laser Printer Purchase	269.99
6141.00 · Pre-Con for Large Signage	104.29
6143.00 · Copier Paper	116.32
6150.00 · Marketing/Advertising	
6151.00 · Parties at Conventions	1,130.17
6152.02 · Fan Tables	535.00
6155.00 · Flyers, Print Promotion	345.13
6156.00 · Social Media	<u>165.81</u>
Total 6150.00 Marketing/Advertising	<u>2,176.11</u>
Total 6100.00 Publications/Marketing Expenses	4,744.24
6200.00 · Technical Services	
6210.00 · Main Room A/V	1,157.41
6230.00 · Tech Truck Rental	<u>1,045.31</u>
Total 6200.00 Technical Services	2,302.72
6300.00 · Virtual	
6315.00 · Virtual Tech	<u>148.37</u>
Total 6300.00 Virtual	148.37
Total Expenses	78,685.17
Net Income	9,955.39

Bank Balance as of February 28, 2025

Key Bank	9,955.39
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Granted to be used for Upstate New York conventions.

Membership Count

Membership	Count
Attending	568
Supporting	32
Virtual	45
One Day	57
Grand Total	702

Prepared by: William D. Vernon, Treasurer

Approved by: Wayne Brown, Chair

Convention: Buffalo NASFiC 2024

Business Entity: Upstate New York Science Fiction & Fantasy Alliance, Inc.

Current Tax Status: a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in New York

Address: 142 Merrimac Street, Buffalo, NY 14214

Contact email: Treasurer@buffalonasfic2024.org

Convention Website: www.buffalonasfic2024.org

Officers and Members:

President: Wayne Brown

Secretary: David Ennis

Treasurer: William Vernon

Director: Debi Chowdhury

Chair Administrator: Alexia Hebel

B.10 Seattle in 2025 (Seattle, USA - 2025)



Financial Report
Worldcon 83 - Seattle
Jul 17, 2021 – May 20, 2025

Financial Activity (\$ USD)

Revenue

4000.00 Membership Revenue	
4001.00 Pre-Vote	
4001.01 Seattle in 2025 Bid Income	\$42,603.40
4001.02 Voting Fees from Chengdu Worldcon 2023	\$9,419.25
Total 4001.00 Pre-Vote	\$52,022.65
4010.00 Basic Memberships	
4010.01 WSFS Memberships	\$273,475.00
4010.02 Friend of Worldcon Supplement	\$68,130.00
4011.00 Adult Attending Supplements (25+)	
4011.01 Adult Attending Supplement \$125 (10/20/23-03/14/24)	\$87,600.00
4011.02 Adult Attending Supplement \$150 (03/15/24-10/20/24)	\$138,935.00
4011.03 Adult Attending Supplement \$180 (10/21/24-01/02/25)	\$92,356.00
4011.04 Adult Attending Supplement \$200 (01/02/25-03/31/25)	\$117,840.00
4011.05 Adult Attending Supplement - \$230 (03/01/25-04/30/25)	\$90,630.00
4011.06 Adult Attending Supplement - \$250 (05/01/25-08/18/25)	\$26,250.00
4011.99 Adult Attending Supplement \$125 Reduced Rate	\$112,265.00
Total 4011.00 Adult Attending Supplements (25+)	\$665,876.00
4012.00 Young Adult Attending Supplements \$50 (18-24)	\$4,825.00
4013.00 Teen Attending Supplements \$25 (13-17)	\$1,455.00
4014.00 Virtual Supplement \$35	\$13,615.00
4018.00 Dealer Supplement	\$875.00
4019.98 Coupon Discounts	-\$5,117.40
4019.99 Installment Plans Owed	-\$4,720.74
Total 4010.00 Basic Memberships	\$1,018,412.86
4020.00 Day Passes	

4020.01 Wed 8/13	\$60.00
4020.02 Thur 8/14	\$100.00
4020.03 Fri 8/15	\$180.00
4020.04 Sat 8/16	\$250.00
4020.05 Sun 8/17	\$190.00
Total 4020.00 Day Passes	\$780.00
Total 4000.00 Membership Revenue	\$1,071,215.51
4100.00 WSFS Revenue	
4101.00 Hugo Award	
4101.02 Hugo Nomination Pins	\$40.00
Total 4101.00 Hugo Award	\$40.00
Total 4100.00 WSFS Revenue	\$40.00
4150.00 Facility Comps	
4153.00 Czech Republic Paid Rooms	\$4,792.49
Total 4150.00 Facility Comps	\$4,792.49
4200.00 Exhibits Revenue	
4201.00 Dealers Room Revenue	
4201.01 Dealers Room - Corner Booths	\$600.00
4201.02 Dealers Room - Tables	\$910.00
4201.03 Dealers Room - Booths	\$450.00
4201.04 Dealers Room - Power	\$400.00
Total 4201.00 Dealers Room Revenue	\$2,360.00
4202.00 Art Show Revenue	
4202.01 Art Show - Panel & Table	\$3,360.00
Total 4202.00 Art Show Revenue	\$3,360.00
Total 4200.00 Exhibits Revenue	\$5,720.00
4350.00 Publications Revenue	
4351.00 Souvenir Book	
4351.01 Souvenir Book Pro Ads	\$4,650.00
4351.02 Souvenir Book Semi-Pro Ads	\$1,175.00
4351.03 Souvenir Book Fan Ads	\$4,560.00
Total 4351.00 Souvenir Book	\$10,385.00
Total 4350.00 Publications Revenue	\$10,385.00
4800.00 Chair Revenue	
4801.00 Interest Income	\$523.59
4802.00 Pass-Alongs	
4802.01 Chicon 8 2022	\$18,000.00
4802.02 Chengdu Worldcon 2023	\$60,000.00
4802.03 Glasgow 2024	\$24,731.84
Total 4802.00 Pass-Alongs	\$102,731.84
4804.00 Grants	
4804.01 Grant #1 Scalzi Foundation	\$5,000.00
4804.02 SF Conzealand	\$15,000.00

Total 4804.00 Grants	\$20,000.00
4806.00 Donations	
4806.01 Seattle 2025 Worldcon Community Fund Income	\$42,552.69
4806.02 Member Donations	\$2,210.00
Total 4806.00 Donations	\$44,762.69
4809.00 Sales to Members	\$110.00
4809.01 Sales to Members Merchandise	\$90.61
4809.02 Bid Swag	\$1,013.44
4809.04 Spoonflower Commission	\$215.79
Total 4809.00 Sales to Members	\$1,429.84
Total 4800.00 Chair Revenue	\$169,447.96
Total Revenue	\$1,261,600.96
Expenditures	
5100.00 Chair	
5101.00 Seattle in 2025 Bid Expenses	\$5,012.41
5102.00 Corporate Expenses	
5102.01 Incorporation and Fees	\$75.00
5102.02 Taxes	\$5,723.01
Total 5102.00 Corporate Expenses	\$5,798.01
5103.00 Chair's Fund	
5103.01 Friends of Worldcon Lounge	\$20,000.00
5103.02 DH Lunch Meetings at Con	\$10,000.00
5103.05 Health Supplies	\$10,200.45
5103.06 Chair's Discretionary Spend	\$442.51
Total 5103.00 Chair's Fund	\$40,642.96
5105.00 Hugo Nominee Gifts	\$1,450.99
5107.00 Sales to Members Cost of Goods	\$4,762.09
Total 5100.00 Chair	\$57,666.46
5160.00 Promotions/Marketing	
5162.00 Advertising (outgoing)	\$981.92
5164.00 Conventions and Open Events	\$3,815.19
5167.00 Promo Materials and Mailing	\$1,318.49
5168.00 Flyers	\$488.61
5169.00 Business Cards	\$107.70
Total 5160.00 Promotions/Marketing	\$6,711.91
5200.00 Finance	
5201.00 Comptroller/Budget	
5201.01 Financial Software (QB)	\$237.00
Total 5201.00 Comptroller/Budget	\$237.00
5230.00 Treasury Expenses	
5230.01 Square Transaction Fees	\$35,742.92
5230.02 PayPal Transaction Fees	\$1,279.11
5230.03 Wise.com Transaction Fees	\$120.76

5230.10 Bank Fees	\$50.00
5230.11 Bank Check Printing	\$82.60
Total 5230.00 Treasury Expenses	\$37,275.39
Total 5200.00 Finance	\$37,512.39
5300.00 Facilities	
5310.00 Decorator Expenses	
5314.00 Decorator Furnishing Rental	
5314.01 Furniture Rental	\$278.99
Total 5314.00 Decorator Furnishing Rental	\$278.99
Total 5310.00 Decorator Expenses	\$278.99
5350.00 Facilities All Other	
5351.00 Hotel Liaison Expenses	
5351.06 FnB Sheraton	\$45,762.50
5351.07 Hotel Rooms for Facilities	\$24,237.50
Total 5351.00 Hotel Liaison Expenses	\$70,000.00
5352.00 Exhibit Hall Expenses	
5352.01 Convention Center Rental	\$93,463.00
Total 5352.00 Exhibit Hall Expenses	\$93,463.00
Total 5350.00 Facilities All Other	\$163,463.00
Total 5300.00 Facilities	\$163,741.99
5400.00 Tech	
5410.00 Event Staging	
5411.00 Main Stage	
5411.04 Main Stage Audio-Visual	\$20,241.07
5411.06 Main Stage Operators	\$6,125.68
Total 5411.00 Main Stage	\$26,366.75
5413.00 Second Stage	
5413.04 Second Stage Audio-Visual	\$22,512.32
5413.05 Second Stage Operators	\$6,125.69
Total 5413.00 Second Stage	\$28,638.01
5440.00 Program (Tech)	
5440.03 Program (Tech) Audio Visual	\$8,068.48
Total 5440.00 Program (Tech)	\$8,068.48
5450.00 Other Specified Spaces Tech	
5450.01 Other Specified Spaces Tech Set-up and Overheads	\$4,769.53
Total 5450.00 Other Specified Spaces Tech	\$4,769.53
Total 5410.00 Event Staging	\$67,842.77
5600.00 IT Support Expenses	
5603.00 IT Infrastructure Expenses	
5603.04 Hugo Voting Servers	\$644.84
Total 5603.00 IT Infrastructure Expenses	\$644.84
5604.00 Precon Software	
5604.03 Email Management	\$1,790.53

5604.04 ConTroll Software Reg	\$200.00
Total 5604.00 Precon Software	\$1,990.53
Total 5600.00 IT Support Expenses	\$2,635.37
Total 5400.00 Tech	\$70,478.14
6000.00 Staff Services	
6002.00 Meeting Planning	\$2,147.60
6008.00 Postage	\$16.20
6009.00 PO Box	\$180.00
Total 6000.00 Staff Services	\$2,343.80
6100.00 Member Services	
6123.00 Community Fund Payouts	\$18,605.00
Total 6100.00 Member Services	\$18,605.00
6200.00 Convention Services	
6207.00 Logistics (includes MIMO)	
6207.05 High Visibility Vests	\$556.89
Total 6207.00 Logistics (includes MIMO)	\$556.89
Total 6200.00 Convention Services	\$556.89
6400.00 Publications	
6407.00 Website	\$369.10
6408.00 Guidebook Software	\$2,521.00
Total 6400.00 Publications	\$2,890.10
6500.00 WSFS	
6501.00 Hugo Awards	
6501.01 Rocket	\$7,086.54
6501.02 Rocket Pass Thru	\$7,086.54
6501.03 Base	\$6,032.81
6501.05 Nominee Pins	\$682.50
6501.08 Consultants for Awards Topics	\$3,000.00
Total 6501.00 Hugo Awards	\$23,888.39
Total 6500.00 WSFS	\$23,888.39
6600.00 Exhibits	
6601.00 Artshow	
6601.01 Artshow Build,Hooks etc.	\$1,150.83
Total 6601.00 Artshow	\$1,150.83
6603.00 Fixed Displays	
6603.06 Other #3	\$486.09
Total 6603.00 Fixed Displays	\$486.09
Total 6600.00 Exhibits	\$1,636.92
6700.00 Program	
6710.00 Guest Expenses	
6714.00 GOH Donato Giancola	
6714.03 Travel - Donato Giancola	\$1,193.92
Total 6714.00 GOH Donato Giancola	\$1,193.92

6715.00 GOH Bridget Landry	
6715.03 Travel - Bridget Landry	\$733.20
Total 6715.00 GOH Bridget Landry	\$733.20
Total 6710.00 Guest Expenses	\$1,927.12
Total 6700.00 Program	\$1,927.12
Total Expenditures	\$387,959.11
Net Operating Revenue	\$873,641.85
Net Revenue	\$873,641.85

Bank Balances

BECU Main Fund	\$231,418.06
BECU Savings	\$200,087.13
BECU Community Fund	\$33,572.69
CD #1	\$200,000.00
CD #2	\$200,000.00
Total Cash on Hand	\$865,077.88

Membership Counts

Friend of Worldcon Supplements	155
Adult Attending Supplements	3260
Adult Attending Supplements - Reduced Rate	938
Young Adult Attending Supplements	100
Teen Attending Supplements	57
Child Attending Memberships	75
Dealer Memberships	2
Access Caregivers	2
Comped Panelists	4
GOH Memberships	12
Total Attending (Warm Bodies)	4605

Virtual Membership Supplements	381
Virtual Comped	2
Total Virtual	383

WSFS Membership 2023 Site Selections	191
WSFS Memberships	5650
Comped Panelists	4
GOH WSFS	11
Total WSFS	5856

Prepared by: Eric Weber, Treasurer
Approved by: Kathy Bond, Chair
Convention: Seattle in 2025
Business Entity: Seattle Genre Alliance

Current Tax Status: a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in Washington
Address: 117 Frontage Rd. N, Suite B1, Pacific, WA 98047
Contact email: treasurer@seattlein2025.org
Convention Website: seattlein2025.org

Board Members:

Kathy Bond
Alan Bond
Sunny Jim Morgan
Kevin Black

B.11 LACon V (Los Angeles, USA - 2026)

No report was submitted by the deadline.