Site selection lead time goes to two years

By a nearly 2-to-1 margin, the lead time for Worldcon site selection will be reduced from three years to two years beginning in 2006.

Under the changes, there will be no Worldcon site selection at the 2005 Worldcon at Interaction. (However there will be a vote for the 2007 NASFiC at Interaction if Nippon wins the 2007 Worldcon this weekend.) The next site selection will take place at L.A.con IV in 2006 for the 2008 Worldcon.

Members of Interaction will be allowed to vote in the 2008 Worldcon site selection even if they are not members of L.A.con IV.

The final vote for the change was 112 in favor and 59 against.

The change from two-year to three-year lead time was passed in 1985, and the first three-year lead-vote was done in 1986.

Supporters of the change included several Worldcon chairs who said it was difficult to keep committees and volunteers together for three years and that the extra year created more problems than benefits. Opposers felt that the additional year is sometimes necessary for planning and organizational purposes.

Other business items passed along from Tocon 3 for final consideration were adopted without objection and also take effect at the end of Noreason 4. New constitutitional items were all passed on first vote and will be passed along to Interaction next year for second consideration and adoption. (See Issue 5a for the complete list of amendments.)

Ben Yalow, Kevin Standlee and Tim Illingworth were all re-elected by acclamation to three-year terms on the Mark Protection Committee. The Committee will meet right after the end of Sunday's WSFS Business Meeting.

People interested in serving on the Hugo Eligibility Rest Of The World (HEROW) Committee or the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee should see WSFS Business Meeting Chair Donald E. Eastlake III before tomorrow's Business Meeting (10 am in Hynes 210).

The meeting was adjourned in memory of George Flynn (Secretary In Memoriam), who passed away last Sunday.

Chesley Awards Presented

The Chesley Awards were presented Friday evening by the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA). The awards are named for the great astronomical artist, Chesley Bonestell, and were first presented by ASFA in 1985 to recognize individual works and achievements in scence fiction and fantasy art during a given year.

Best Cover Illustration, Hardback Book: Donato Giancola, for City by Clifford D. Simak

Best Cover Illustration, Paperback Book: Todd Lockwood, for Tangled Webs by Elaine Cunningham

Best Cover Illustration, Magazine: Bob Eggleton, for Fantasy & Science Fiction (July 2003)

Best Interior Illustration: Todd Lockwood, for “Crossing Into Empire” (Realms Of Fantasy, June 2003)

Best Gaming-Related Illustration: Todd Lockwood, for “Draconomicon,” a D&D accessory (WOTC)

Best Product Illustration: Dean Morrissey, for “Anna of the Celts” Fine Art Print, Greenwich Workshop

Best Art Director: Irene Gallo, for Tor Books

Best Three Dimensional Art: Gary Lippincott, for “Jack” (bronze)

Best Monochrome Work, Unpublished: Gary Lippincott, for “Autumn Fairies” (watercolor and pencil)

Best Color Work, Unpublished: Michael Whelan, for “She” (acrylic)

Award for Contribution to ASFA: Teresa Patterson, for work for ASFA above and beyond officer duties

Science Fiction South Africa Party

Please join us Saturday at 8 pm in the Sheraton party block (see the Party Board for place). Come try some delicious South African chocolates, sweets (candy) and other exotic treats, while meeting South African fans. Learn more about our club, which has been around since the late 1960s. Get free button-pins. Check out copies of our fanzine. We love making contact with other fans. New friendships and connections are what fandom and Worldcons are all about, and we would love to meet you and share our little piece of the “world” in Worldcon. We also have an exhibit about our club in the Exhibit hall and sample fanzines for browsing in the fanzine lounge.

Writing and Publishing Erotica

A Special Interest Group to discuss writing, publishing, and reading all flavors of erotica will be held today at 4 pm in Liberty A. Learn how to find markets, what catches an editor’s interest, and general gossip and war stories from the smut front. Everyone welcome. Chocolate provided for inspiration.
DUFF/TAFF Afternoon Tea

The TAFF and DUFF delegates—James Bacon and Norman Cates — will be feted today at a special afternoon tea, from 4 - 6 pm, in the Fanzine Lounge. Come whet your appetite for the Hugos!

Last Chance To Vote For 2007 Site Selection

Today is your last chance to become a supporting member of the 2007 Worldcon at the cheapest rate, while helping choose the location for that convention. Polling is open from 10 am until 6 pm today in the Concourse, Hynes Hall C.

Enter the Masquerade!

The Noreascon 4 Masquerade will be held on Sunday at 8:30 pm in the Auditorium on the second floor of the Hynes. Entries will be accepted until Noon on Sunday. If you want to enter the longest-running event in Worldcon history, stop by the Masquerade Registration Desk, next to the Costume Exhibits in the ConCourse (Hall C, also on the second floor of the Hynes).

Acceptors of the Retro Hugos

Alas, the winners of the 1953 Retrospective Hugo couldn’t all be present last night. Here is the list of those who accepted the awards on their behalf.

Fan Writer: Bob Tucker, accepted by Keith Stokes

Fanzine: Slant, Walter Willes, ed.; James White, art ed., accepted by Joe Siclari

Professional Artist: Chesley Bonestell, accepted by Ron Miller

Professional Editor: John W. Campbell, Jr., accepted by Mark Gordon

Dramatic Presentation: The War of the Worlds, accepted by Craig Miller

Related Book: Conquest of the Moon by Werner von Braun, Fred L. Whipple and Willy Ley, accepted by Patrick Mollor

Short Story: “The Nine Billion Names of God” by Arthur C. Clarke, accepted by Elaine Brennan and Mark Gordon

Novelette: “Earthman Come Home” by James Blish, accepted by Ben Blish-Williams

Novella: “A Case of Conscience” by James Blish, accepted by Ben Blish-Williams

Novel: Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, acceptor unknown

Winners of the Saturday, September 4 Volunteer Raffles

Noon Raffle

Staff: Jeff Orth of Kansas City

Gopher: Travis Landenwitsch of Washington, PA

Prime Seating for The Hugo Awards

Staff: Rock Robertson

Gopher: David Misener of Oakville, Ontario, Canada

Gopher: Anna Hiller of Lexington, MA

Please pick up your Prime Seating Certificate at the Volunteers Office.

Special Gift Certificate

Gopher: Susanne Blom of Milwaukee, WI

Please pick up your certificate from the Volunteers Office.

Prizes! Yet another benefit of volunteering to work at Noreascon 4.

Fan Videos Viewing

Come join us from 5:30–6:30 pm today in Hynes 208 for a selection of some of the year’s best fan videos, in SF and fantasy fandoms ranging from Star Trek to LOTR to Firefly, passing some more obscure fannish sources like Odyssey 5, The Last Unicorn, Miracles, and others along the way. (And if you’re an anime fan, you don’t want to miss “Tainted Donuts.”)

Restaurant Reviews

Trident Books & Café

Newbury. Reviewed by Mark Wise.

This all-day breakfast & books is a geek haven. The food is delicious, the coffee is strong and the wireless is free. I could move in and start reading. (Beats the heck out of Bon Marché.)

Jaffa

One Block away on Gloucester Street. Reviewed by Mark Wise.

This is a nice, small Mediterranean café with great traditional foods. The pita is warm and the baba ghanouj is garlicky. What else do you need?

Boston Beer Works

112 Canal Street, very near North Station on the Green Line. Reviewed by Rebecca A. Smith.

Being there for an early dinner around 5 pm, it wasn’t crowded and service was prompt. They have a large selection of beers brewed on-site and even a cider involving unusual flavors like pumpkin and watermelon. We hadn’t exactly come for the food, but were pleasantly surprised to find the hamburgers ample and tasty (if a little dry – ask for extra mayo), the fries plentiful and tasty (they have a variety of ways to spice them) and the pizza is pretty good too.

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Skywalk closes early

The skywalk to the Marriott will close at 1:45 a.m. instead of the previously announced 2 am.

Fosfax Dinner Party

The Fosfax Dinner Party will meet Saturday at 5:45 pm at the Fanzine Lounge next to the Mended Drum. We will be going to the Cheesecake Factory.

Beaker People Libation Front Unite!

The Beaker People Libation Front will be meeting in the bar of the Sheraton Hotel Saturday at 6 pm to help eliminate Boston’s bheer surplus.

Hogwarts Seeks Faculty and Staff

Volunteers needed to play non-player character roles in Harry Potter and the Lost Labyrinth. Come to Children’s Programming at 2 pm on Sunday!

The Libertarian Futurist Society Award Winners

The Libertarian Futurist Society announced the winners of this year’s Prometheus Awards. F. Paul Wilson won the Best Novel Award for his novel, Sim. The Prometheus Hall of Fame Award went to Vernor Vinge for his short story, “The Ungoverned.”

Vernor Vinge has won the Prometheus Best Novel Award twice before, but this is his first Hall of Fame Award. He was not able to attend, and long-time fan and friend David Friedman accepted the award in his behalf.

The Prometheus Awards for honor outstanding science fiction and fantasy that that explores the possibility of a free future, champions human rights (including personal and economic liberty), dramatizes the perennial conflict between individuals and coercive governments, or critiques the tragic consequences of abuse of power—especially by the state.

The Prometheus Best Novel Award was established in 1979. Presented annually at the World Science Fiction Convention since 1982, the Prometheus Award includes a gold coin and a plaque for the winner.

The Hall of Fame Award was established in 1983 and focuses on older, classic fiction, including novels, novellas, short stories, poems, and plays.

More information on the awards and the Society may be found at www.lfs.org.