

Quo Vadis, Worldcon?

From Worldcon Runners' Guide

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Incorporation

One of the biggest ongoing controversies is over whether WSFS, the Worldcon's sponsoring organization, should be incorporated. Robert Sacks has put together one possible scenario for how incorporation could work, though he attaches the disclaimer that his scenario is specifically done "without stating an opinion whether WSFS Inc. is desirable."

The rest of this section consists of Sacks' scenario, and is intended primarily as food for thought. The different aspects of the proposal indicate problem areas that would have to be addressed. The editors and reviewers of this guide make no judgment pro or con on the merits of individual aspects of the proposal.

One possible scenario for incorporation

There should be a governing board of directors which will:

1. Select future Worldcons according to the rules in the constitution proposed below.
2. Handle by itself or through a committee, Mark Protection
3. Hugo balloting (without prejudice to the right of the convention committee to introduce a special category or to give a special non-Hugo award)
4. Appoint the officers of the Business Meeting and such permanent officers as a secretary and treasurer
5. Handle other business as may be necessary or may be requested from time to time by the Business Meeting

Composition of the Board of Directors

Elected Members

1. 9 persons elected by the Business Meeting in staggered 3 year terms, no more than 3 from any single zone
2. 6 persons elected by the membership of the convention for staggered 3 year terms (the Board will announce filing deadlines; the election will be conducted in conjunction with Hugo Balloting).

Appointed Members

1. 1 person appointed by each of the past 2 and all future selected Worldcon committees
2. 1 person appointed by each of SFWA and ASFA
3. up to 3 ex officio members elected by the Board

Site Selection Rules

1. There will be 5 regions: Eastern, Central, Western (as at present), Europe, and the rest of the world.
2. Each region will hold a Worldcon not more frequent than once every 3 years, nor less frequent than once every 10 years.
3. No site may host a Worldcon more frequent than once every 5 years.
4. No committee may conduct a Worldcon more frequent than once every 8 years, where 2 committees will be deemed the same if any of the following conditions are met:
 - a. They are appointed by the same or successor corporations.
 - b. They have in common 1 person as any of the following: chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chairman or co-chairman, executive vice-chairman.
 - c. They have in common 1/3 of either smallest governing or coordinating body, usually known as Board, Committee, Inner Committee, Executive Committee, Division Heads Committee, of Office of the Chairman, usually including the Officers and Division heads of the convention.
5. Any bid with 1000 natural persons as members, each paying the \$20 voting fee (comprising a minimum treasury of \$20,000), meeting the facilities requirement, must be scheduled for the Worldcon. Any other bid to be considered must present a treasury of at least \$15,000 or an amount to cover their facilities binder in the first year if more than \$15,000, and meet the facilities requirement.

Facilities Requirement

1. Sleeping rooms for the expected (non-commuting) attendance.
2. Main hall large enough to hold 1/3 of the convention for opening and closing ceremonies, Hugo Awards, Masquerade, and Guest of Honor speeches.
3. Additional programming space to hold the lesser of 1/3 of the convention or 2500 people.
4. Dealers space of at least 80 sq. ft. / dealer table / 50 expected attendees, and equivalent space for the art show.

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