

Recommended Reading

From Worldcon Runners' Guide

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Recommended Reading

Magazines

The magazines listed below are "controlled circulation" magazines that are available free to "qualified subscribers." Write them and ask for a subscription application.

Meeting News

<address> PO Box 5355
Pittsfield, MA 01203-9898
</address>

Successful Meetings

<address> 633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017
</address>

Books

Janis, Irving L. Victims of Groupthink, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1972, 277 pp. (paper and cloth editions).

Groupthink is "the psychological drive for consensus at any cost that suppresses dissent and appraisal of alternatives in cohesive decision-making groups."

Fan Boards of Directors are particularly susceptible to groupthink, as they are often driven by a desire to "do the right thing" and not make waves with people they will have to live with for several years of board meetings. This is made worse when the Board consists in large part of fans who have never had to deal with decision-making in the corporate world.

Janis' book contains a good deal of case histories from varied sources (including JFK's handling of the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis) and is must reading for anyone who is on a Worldcon board of directors.

Winston, Joan. The Making of the Trek Conventions.

Fanzines

George Scithers' Con-Committee Chairman's Guide

This classic fanzine was (to the editor's knowledge) the first attempt at a comprehensive "how to run a Worldcon" manual. It was based on the experience in running the 21st Worldcon (Washington D.C., 1963), and was put together by George Scithers, Dick Eney, F.M. and Elinor Busby, Howard Devore, Earl Kemp, Bob Pavlat, and Bill Evans. Though this is long out of print, it's still a fascinating look at how Worldcons have and haven't changed. On the one hand, Worldcons are much larger and more complex now; on the other hand the basic nature of fans hasn't changed a whole lot.

The Con Committee's Guide

Written by Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss. This was published in 1984 and is a more contemporary look at the how-to's in running a convention. The 40-page document is not comprehensive, but has good stuff on the departments that it does cover. Copies may still be available from him at: Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038.

Portions of Filthy's guide have been incorporated into this Guide (with permission.) Thanks, Filthy!

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(<http://www.noreascon.org/users/sflovers/u1/wcrg/toc.html>) | crg@sflovers.org
(<mailto:crg@sflovers.org>)

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