MEETING OF MARK PROTECTION COMMITTEE
<u>August 14, 2025</u>

MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

The final meeting of the 2024-2025 Mark Protection Committee ("MPC") was called to order in the Issaquah Room of the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle, Washington (and on Zoom), on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 10:53., Pacific Daylight Time. The MPC is the only permanent body of the World Science Fiction Society ("WSFS"), created by authority of the WSFS Constitution. Membership in the MPC also constitutes membership in the board of directors of Worldcon Intellectual Property ("WIP"), a California nonprofit corporation.

Present were Alan Bond (appointed by Seattle until 2027), Judy Bemis (elected until 2026), Joni Brill Dashoff (elected until 2026), Linda Deneroff (elected until 2027), Donald E. Eastlake III (elected until 2027), Olav Rokne (elected until 2027), Linda Ross-Mansfield (appointed by Pemmi-Con until 2025), Randall Shepherd (appointed by Los Angeles Worldcon until 2028), Kevin Standlee (whose term expired after this meeting and did not run again), and Mike Willmoth (elected until 2026), as well as Bruce Farr as ex officio (nonvoting) member and Treasurer.

Absent were Nicholas Whyte (whose term expired after this meeting and was re-elected), David Ennis (appointed by Buffalo NASFiC until 2026), and Alissa Wales (appointed by Glasgow until 2026).

Ben Yalow (whose term was to expire at the end of this meeting) resigned from the MPC prior to this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The four items of business before the meeting were:

- Bylaws
- License Agreement with Future Worldcons
- India Worldcon
- Our Australian Trademarks

1) Our bylaws are complicated, but Don believed most of the proposed changes were pretty straight-forward. We had an attorney review them and there were no particular problems except for the provision about purpose in our bylaws where there may be a conflict between it and our Articles of Incorporation. Don noted Nichols's suggestion to punt this discussion until our next meeting when the new members of the MPC come on board. Alan then suggested that at some point we consolidate some of our contracts through WIP to in order to meet the requirements of our bylaws. Alan also suggested increasing the role of the WSFS Marketing Committee and consolidating some services like virtual convention services into that entity.

Kevin suggested holding a long subsequent meeting over Zoom because everyone will want input, and perhaps the new MPC will hold monthly virtual meetings.

Votes on the proposed amendments to our bylaws were tabled to the next meeting.

2) Don noted that our new Licensing Agreement, drafted by the License Agreement Advisory Board to WIP, is pretty stable and said he would send it to MPC after this meeting concluded. However, he felt that might not be enough time for everyone to look at it and be prepared to vote on it by next meeting.

3) We recently received word of a possible violation of our Worldcon trademark by a Worldcon Proctology group that has met in India since around 2016. In the past we had an attorney send

them a letter, but since we don't meet in India and they don't meet outside of India, we tend to ignore this violation. Should we ever hold a Worldcon in India, we would deal with it at that time. If we have the funds, at some future date we can consider following up on this, but, as Linda D. noted, no one is going to confuse a science fiction convention with a proctology convention. While there are law firms in India that can represent us, Linda R-M said that the Indian legal system is difficult to deal with.

Olav added that that there is a Hugo Award winner who is a high-profile lawyer in India—Gautam Bhatia—and he might assist us if we want to pursue this. However, the Indian convention can't touch us and we can't touch them, and we'll let next year's MPC handle this if they so wish. Alan said he believed that there might be a science fiction Worldcon in India within the next 20 years. In any event, we do not currently have the funds to pursue this.

4) We have successfully registered WORLDCON as a trademark in Australia. We are still negotiating with Hugo Boss regarding trademarking HUGO AWARD there. The Australian Hugo Boss attorneys appear to be more bureaucratic than their European counterparts, and want a written agreement, whereas in Europe we managed to come to a verbal agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Olav noted that photographer Kelsi Bauer (who has photographed the Hugo Award ceremonies in the past and will probably do so again in the next few years) had asked about creating a new background for these photographs. The current background has some rockets coming out of someone's head, and Ms. Bauer would like to tilt the rocket logo so that it's less suggestive. Joni suggested putting the logo to the side, but backdrops generally consist of multiple copies of the logo, so that wouldn't work. Olav presented a mockup to the MPC. Linda D. pointed out that the rocket is a registered mark and tilting it might be a violation of our mark. Alan proposed forming a committee to study the issue, but Linda D. suggested that we first ask our attorney if this would violate our logo trademark.

By acclamation, the MPC thanked Kevin Standlee for his service on the MPC for many years. He said he would be happy to continue to work on the WSFS marketing committee.

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At the virtual Business Meeting held in July, Nicholas Whyte was re-elected to the MPC, and his term will expire in 2028; Alan Bond and Chris Rose were newly elected to the MPC, and their terms, too, will expire in 2028. Since Alan was elected, Seattle will have to appoint a new MPC representative.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.