

**Bouchercon Standing Committee
Anchorage, Alaska, USA
Friday, September 28, 2007**

Attendees were welcomed by Chair Dina Willner and she introduced the Standing Committee:

Al Abramson, Past Bouchercon Conference Chair, Madison, Wisconsin
Dana Stabenow and Dee Ford, Current Conference Chairs, Anchorage,
Alaska

Ruth Jordan and Judy Bobalik, Bcon 08, Baltimore

Jim Huang, Bcon 09, Indianapolis

Members-at-large Dina Willner (term ending 2007)

Sally Fellows (term ending 2008)

Not attending were representatives from Chicago (Bcon 05) and Toronto
(Bcon 04) and Sarah Weinman (term ending 2009)

Public Comment: Chris Aldrich congratulated Dana Stabenow and her committee for a great job putting on Bcon 07.

Report of current Bcon Chairs given by Dana Stabenow and Dee Ford. They said they had done a great deal of advertisement especially in Anchorage. They expected walk-ins on Saturday so did not have a definitive account of the number of attendees. They chose to open evening events to the public, charging a fee for them. They described the "Writers to the Bush" program and recommended that other conventions find ways to use authors when they come to their city. They also described the pre-conference workshops they had organized.

Reports of future Bouchercon Chairs:

Ruth Jordan said that as of the time she left for Anchorage, they had \$27,500 and 222 registrants. Guests of Honor are Lawrence Block (added), Laura Lippman, John Harvey (British GOH), Lifetime Awards to Barbara Peters and Robert Rosenwald (Poisoned Pen Press), and Thelma Proctor (Fan Guest of Honor). Mark Billingham will be Toastmaster.

Jim Huang reported for Indianapolis that the web site was up. They were planning pre-conference events involving the community. There would be an event at the Speedway and one at the Lilly Library which contains a collection of Arthur Conan Doyle papers, Anthony Boucher's papers as well as Ian Fleming's. This event will be limited to seventy-five people. He recommended people make their hotel reservations as early as possible (Hyatt Regency Hotel) because of the possibility of a pro football game. The committee is working with schools and libraries to see how best to use authors. The first 200 people will be able to register for \$150. The Guest of Honor will be Michael Connelly and Toastmaster S.J. Rozan. The Fan Guest of Honor is Katherine Kennison.

Amendments to the Standing Rules:

Rick Kovalcik presented a proposal to add a new standing rule:

Each conference committee shall budget an amount of money of at least one dollar per paid full adult membership to be used towards ongoing Bouchercon expenses (including but not limited to things such as Web Hosting and Development, Trademark Registration, Stationery, etc.) to be spent as directed by the Bouchercon Standing Committee.

This will be submitted at the Baltimore meeting for a vote.

There was a question about who would designate where the money goes and the assumption was it would be the current committee. There would be no enforcement for the rule other than moral authority.

Amendments to the By-Laws:

There were none.

Old Business:

Al Abramson reported that he had passed along the approximately \$110,000 that Madison had made. \$30,000 had gone to Anchorage, and \$30,000 would go to Baltimore and Indianapolis. Any bills for incorporation fees or other expenses should be submitted to him soon as he planned to close out the account quite quickly. About \$10,000 was committed to the web site and to underwrite the work of Beth Tindall on it.

Dee Ford reported progress on the incorporation process.

We have no bid for 2010 although Cathy Rose indicated that there might be some interest from Memphis. Ruth reported that St. Louis had met with her about the possibility of hosting it.

New Business:

Al suggested creating a Bouchercon library and urged that we explore the creation of a repository of programs and other papers. Jim Huang offered to approach the Lilly Library and see if they would be interested.

Dana Stabenow pointed out that the top writers were no longer attending Bouchercons and this was primarily due to the proliferation of self-published authors. It was time that the committee develop quality control, criteria to determine who is a legitimate author and who is not. This would be the only way to regain lost fans and authors. There must be an accepted list of publishers, not necessarily the same list MWA uses but one that ensures that self-published and vanity press authors would not be placed on panels and these criteria should be made public. Chair Willner appointed a subcommittee to develop criteria to present at the Baltimore meeting. Members of the subcommittee are Dina Willner, Sally Fellows, Doris Ann Norris, and Laurie R. King.

Chair Willner called for nominations for a new member of the Standing Committee to replace her. Sally nominated Pat Pedersen. Ruth nominated Jodi Bollendorf. Jodi was elected.

Dana Stabenow thanked Al Abrahams for making money available for Bcon 2007.

The committee thanked Dana and her committee for their very fine work.

The meeting was adjourned.