

**MINUTES**  
**BOUCHERCON GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING**  
**CLEVELAND**

Saturday, October 6, 2012 at 8:00 A.M.

**Chaired by Bouchercon, Inc. co-chairs Steele Curry and Mike Bursaw**

**1. Welcome & Introduction of Board Members**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by: Randy Macpherson

Seconded by Chris Aldrich

Motion carried

**3. Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2011 General Members Meeting**

Motion by: David Magayna

Seconded by: B. G. Ritts

Motion carried

**4. Co-Chairs Report (Steele Curry and Mike Bursaw)**

The National Board was very active during the past year. The most significant activity was the creation of a Best Practices Manual for future LOCs (Local Organizing Committees). The Manual will remain a work in progress as input from each future Bouchercon will be added.

Other accomplishments:

- a. creation of a contract between National and each local LOC for each annual Bouchercon event.
- b. the hiring of a not-for-profit Accountant in Indiana. Each year requires a lot of filings so this hiring became a necessity.
- c. Sarbanes Oxley compliance has been an issue and the Board has approved actions to comply with that law so as not to jeopardize the National Board's not-for-profit status.
- d. A survey created by Chris Aldrich that will be sent to all attendees of this year's Bouchercon. The results of the survey will provide the board with critical feedback as what went well and not-so-well at this year's Bouchercon. Where it is deemed prudent, the Best Practices Manual will be modified.

**5. Treasurer's Report.** \$22,000 in checking and savings. The National Board has forwarded \$12,000, as seed money for start-up costs, to each of the next four LOCs. The National Board has helped to get adequate insurance to lessen the liability of the local LOCs – liability and cancellation insurance for future Bouchercons.

**6. Past and Current Bouchercon Reports:**

- a) 2011 St. Louis – report by Al Abramson for Jon Jordan. Had 1350 members. Operations resulted in a negative \$20,000 was result. No seed money will be returned to the National Board. The lesson learned was to book more than 450 hotel rooms. Many people wanted to come but couldn't find a room in the convention hotel. <<<board members, please verify this section>>>

- b) 2012 Cleveland – report by Marjorie Mogg, Chair. Almost 1500 members. 35 day passes for yesterday. Expect more today. Will stop at 100 day passes for Saturday. Thanks for everyone’s support. Over 1000 people attended the Opening Ceremonies at The Rock n’Roll Hall of Fame.

**7. Upcoming Convention Reports:**

- c) 2013 Albany: Al Abramson – Chair. September 19-22, 2013. Sue Grafton will be the Lifetime Achievement honoree. The American Guest of Honor will be Tess Gerritsen. P.C. Doherty will be the International Guest of Honor. Steve Hamilton has been asked to be the Toastmaster. Chris Aldrich and Lynn Kaczmarek are Fan Guests of Honor. There are wonderful convention facilities for the convention. There are five hotels booked to house Bouchercon attendees. There are three hotels in the \$119 price range . Two others are in the \$155 price range. Great committees are in place. Shuttles will run from hotels to the convention center where the conventional activities will transpire.
- d) 2014 Long Beach: Ingrid Willis – Chair. November 13-16, 2014. Simon Wood is Toastmaster. Al Abramson is Fan Guest of Honor. J.A. Jance, Edward Marston, and Jeffery Deaver are other Guests of Honor. There will be an outreach of authors to local schools. Goal: at least one author per school.
- e) 2015 Raleigh: Stacey Cochran – Chair. October 8 – 11, 2015. Kathy Reichs and Tom Franklin are American Guests of Honor. Lori Armstrong & Sean Doolittle will be the Toastmasters. Two hotels in downtown will house Bouchercon attendees, with most of the members staying in the Sheraton. Ali Karim is the program chair. At this time the LOC needs more volunteers.

**8. 2017 Bouchercon Bid Presentation. See attached Exhibit A**

Co-Chairs: Janet Costello and Helen Nelson – both were involved with Bouchercon 2004.

Question: where is the convention hotel in relation to 2004 Bouchercon hotel? Two subway stops away. All convention events of will be on one floor.

Motion to approve the 2017 Toronto Bid made by: Al Abramson

Seconded by: Chris Aldrich

The motion is carried.

**9. Proposed Changes to Standing Rules**

All full-time members of Bouchercon shall allowed access to the Anthony Awards presentation.

If the presentation is attached to a separate-fee event (such as a dinner or brunch), all such members shall be allowed free entrance before or after the fee event (as appropriate) to see the Awards being presented.

Question: Will there be adequate space to accommodate banquetees and non-banquetees at such an event?

Answer: yes. That can be effectively planned in advance so as to not be a fire marshall issue.

Motion to accept this change to the Standing Rules made by: Helen Nelson

Seconded by: Janet Costello

Motion carried

The wording of the term “General Business Meeting” be replaced by “General Members Meeting” in Clauses I D., I E., and III C. to be consistent with its use elsewhere in the Rules and Bylaws.

A motion to accept this change of the Standing Rules was made by: Randy Macpherson

Seconded by: Ingrid Willis

Motion carried

**10. Election of New Board Members** for various terms to be determined later

Four names were proposed to fill the four vacancies on the National Board as At-Large Members

Ali Karim, Jeff Siger, Don Longmuir, Janet Rudolph

A motion to appoint the four above-named individuals to be Members at Large was made by Randy Macpherson

Seconded: B.G. Ritts

Motion carried.

**11. Other Matters.**

Thanks to those who are leaving the Board and/or are stepping down as Co-Chairs of the National Board.

The terms of Jim Huang and Mike Bursaw, co-chairs of the 2009 Indianapolis Bouchercon, have expired with this Bouchercon

George Easter served for three years as an At Large member and as Secretary to the Board

Donus Roberts and Janet Rogerson served for two years as At Large members

Steele Curry served for one year as an At Large member.

Comment: Al Abramson hopes to come up with a Anthony form for the physical award that could be used each year for that award.

Three years ago we took a dramatic turn and began to actually operate as a Board. We set out with a long list of things to accomplish and we are happy to report that almost all of our goals have been reached.

**Meeting adjourned.**

## Exhibit A

# Bid Proposal For Bouchercon 2017 PASSPORT TO MURDER

**October 12 – 15, 2017**  
**Sheraton Centre, Toronto Ontario**

### **Aims:**

- To hold a wonderful and unique Bouchercon!
- Celebrate and promote the diversity in our community
- Celebrate and promote the coming generations of mystery readers and writers
- Introduce and promote local (i.e. Canadian) authors

### **Guests of Honour:**

**Canadian Guest of Honour:** Louise Penny

**B'Con4Kids Guest of Honour:** Chris Grabenstein

**Toastmasters:** Twist Phelan, Gary Phillips

**American Guest of Honour:** TBD

**International Guest of Honour:** TBD

**Lifetime achievement:** TBD

**Fan Guest of Honour:** TBD

IF budget permits toward the end we may add in one or two "local legends"

We plan to stagger the announcement of all Guests of Honour beyond the initial four, in order to maximize our publicity efforts and to accommodate changing trends in reading.

### **Hotel and Convention Facility:**

Sheraton Centre, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto Ontario

- Room rate: \$169.00 per night + tax ; free internet if we fill 80% of our room block (there are also rates for club level rooms and suites). Rate is available from Saturday, October 7, 2017 to Wednesday, October 18, 2017.
- Our room block is 750 rooms a night on the peak nights, with a total block of 3000. Rooms booked on shoulder dates will accrue to the block. Rooms will be available to book 15 months ahead and on November 1, 2016 we will be able to review the room commitment and adjust it if necessary.
- 60% of rooms will be double/doubles, 40% kings
- Hotel will be completely refurbished by July 2015 (due to Pan Am Games)
- Over 60,000 square feet of meeting space on one level (allowing attendance of 2000+); additional space on a second level for registration and one meeting room.
- Over 5000 square feet available for dealer room
- Customs brokers can assist in assuring that the facility will allow exhibits from outside Canada
- Walking distance from many Toronto attractions including the Eaton Centre, Hockey Hall of Fame, CN Tower, Rogers Centre, museums, art galleries, opera house, theatre and entertainment district, shopping
- Linked to Toronto's underground Path system – a 28 Km (17 Mile) and growing system of underground tunnels lined with shops, restaurants and food courts, connecting downtown Toronto buildings. (Yes – we'll include a map in everyone's book bag.)

## Registration:

- \$150.00 to start. (Can \$) – from today until at least Jan 1, 2015
- We hope to hold it to \$175.00 at maximum (Can \$) but MAY have to have a higher registration fee to accommodate Canadian Government TAX requirements.
- \$100.00 (Can \$) for 18 and under.
- We are pricing in Canadian dollars due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates. We need to have reliable numbers in order to plan and budget.

## Local Organizing Committee:

**Co-Chairs:** Janet Costello\*, Helen Nelson\*

**Dealer Room:** Don Longmuir\*, Jennifer Longmuir\*

**Programming:** Sarah Byrne, Janet Costello\*, Austin Lugar

**Treasurer:** Alan Dryden

**Bcon4Kids:** Chris Grabenstein, Sophia Keast, Helen Nelson\*

**GOH Liaison:** Al Abramson

**Others:** Cathy Astolfo\*\*, Melodie Campbell, Lynda Clarke\*, Vicki Delany, Karen Dryden, Jeannette Harrison, Joan Jansen\*, Leonore Johnston\*, Rayna Jolley\*, Jude Keast\*, Jan Oddie\*, Garry Ryan\*\*, Jo-Ann Stepien\*

\*Bouchercon 2004 Committee

\*\*Past President Crime Writers of Canada

## Who are we?

### Janet Costello:

Is currently the editor *Crime Scene*, the newsletter of the Toronto Chapter of Sisters in Crime, and editor of the soon to be released anthology *The Whole She-Bang*. She coordinated the charity auctions at Bouchercon 2004, worked on the registration committee and has volunteered at subsequent Bouchercons and Bloody Words. In her day job Janet works as an insurance underwriter for commercial vehicles.

### Helen Nelson:

Is currently the president of the Toronto Chapter of Sisters in Crime and will have two short stories published in the upcoming Anthology *The Whole She-Bang*. Helen co-chaired the Registration Committee, was the web-mistress, and organized the back office for Bouchercon 2004. She has volunteered from time to time at subsequent Bouchercons and Bloody Words. She is an IT project manager and IT consultant, and will be retired by the time of Bouchercon 2017.

Both Helen and Janet are life-long readers, who primarily define themselves that way in spite of recent forays into the world of writing/editing!

### Our committee:

Our committee is/will be a combination of Bouchercon veterans from Toronto, other centers in North America and Australia, plus newcomers to the Bouchercon family. Our youngest member is 10. Our oldest? No one is saying. We include one member of the Bouchercon Board (and would like to add more and, although we also thought we'd like to be able to offer some of them a well earned rest, we wouldn't turn anyone away who wants to help!). Almost 50% of our members were part of the Bouchercon 2004 committee who worked on registration, graphics, the website, volunteer coordination, publicity, charity auctions, publisher liaison and programming. We have several leading members of the Toronto Sisters in Crime Executive and of the executive of the Crime Writers of Canada. Our day jobs include: primary school student, retired, not-for-profit administrator, project manager, insurance, writer, graphic artist, web designer, labourer, law clerk, accountant, book dealer and more!

We are five years out from Bouchercon, so most tasks have not been assigned. However, we are quite aware of the scope of the work involved, and will organize ourselves accordingly to make sure we get it done! The Toronto area has a vibrant mystery community and we have every confidence that we can find a volunteer for any task required!

Upon acceptance of our bid, we will attempt to revive the not-for-profit status we had for Bouchercon 2004 or, should it be required, we will reincorporate as a not-for-profit entity.

### **Our view of Bouchercon:**

- “Fan Convention” – not a writer’s conference
- It is a celebration of the books we love and the mystery community
- been run for 43 years by volunteers
  - no one is paid
  - Janet and Helen will write the first cheques (that’s our perk!)
  - We view it as an opportunity to give back to a community that has given us so much – we expect the same of all our volunteers.
- The conference is directed at readers
- But as far as writers are concerned
  - Treat all with respect regardless of race or gender
  - Treat all sub-genres with respect
  - Treat all publication methods with respect – traditional, e-pub, self-pub (but it will be the readers who will determine your panel placement! No matter how you are published, if readers aren’t buying and reading your book, you may not get assigned to a panel, let alone be placed on one with John Grisham or Steven King)

### **Some initial ideas**

- Bcon4Kids: A separate program for children of all ages, run in parallel with the main programming events – reaching out to the schools.
- Input from younger readers into programming
- Opening reception: we hope to have sponsorship from local mystery organizations
- Traditional Bouchercon events – Anthony Awards, panels, auctions, hospitality suite, GOH interviews
- Young writers’ workshop?
- Book bazaar?
- Craft room?
- Local Bouchercon events starting as early as a year prior to Bouchercon, hopefully sponsored with CWC, SinC, Bootmakers etc., including outreach to schools.
- A track for a day of books to movies/TV, complete with showings?
- Offsite events? Walks? Museums? Theatres?
- Sherlock Holmes Collection at Toronto Reference library tour(s)?
- Local Canadian committees to maximize attendance from Canadian Regions?
- Niagara Falls/Wine Country tour (if interest is there, for the day prior to Bouchercon)
- In August we will hold an initial brainstorming session to add other ideas to the list!