

MINUTES FOR BOUCHERCON GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING

LONG BEACH

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2014 AT 12:30 PM

1. **Welcome.** Chair Dave Magayna welcomed to the meeting.
2. **The Board Members** were introduced: Al Abramson, Stacey Cochran, Janet Costello, Heather Graham Pozzessere, Kim Hammond, Ali Karim, Don Longmuir, David Magayna, Erin Mitchell, Marjory Mogg, Helen Nelson, Connie Perry, John Purcell, B. G. Ritts, Janet Rudolph, Jeffrey Siger, Stan Ulrich, and Ingrid Willis
3. **The Minutes of September 30, 2013 GMM** were distributed. Al Abramson moved to approve the minutes. John Purcell seconded. All were in favor and the motion was carried.
4. **The Chair Report.** Dave Magayna explained that ten years ago there were three At Large members on the board. At that time the Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) took a lot of risks personally. It was an uneasy scenario. Today we have nine At Large members and the LOC chairs for a total of nineteen board members. (See Note One) A seed money system has been established, to give \$12,000 to an LOC for some marketing and to establish their systems. National insurance is in place. We have a much more stable environment. Last year we had a full complement of Bouchercons for the next five years. We have an International Contract to accommodate LOCs outside of the U.S.A. A History and Awards committee has been established.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** Mike Bursaw advised that all our bills are paid and we have \$100,000 in the bank.
6. **Bouchercon Convention Reports.**
 - a. Albany 2013. Al Abramson reported that they had 1,250 full time attendees. They paid back their \$12,000 seed money and they also passed \$42,000 to the Bouchercon Board.
 - b. Long Beach 2014. Ingrid Willis reported she had over 1,600 full time attendees and at least 100 day passes. She's hoping they'll have a total of 2,000 attendees. The conference is flowing well and everyone is having a good time.
7. **Upcoming Convention Reports.**
 - a. 2015 Raleigh. Stacey Cochran advised that 219 attendees have paid so far. Target attendees are 1,500. They've sold about twenty more so far this weekend. Receipts to date are \$35,000 and expenses are \$25,000. More than half of the Sheraton hotel rooms are booked. (See Note Two) \$149 per night at the Sheraton and \$145 a night at the Marriott. They are having monthly volunteer meetings. They are filling out their satellite events. His guests of honor are:
 - i. *Lifetime Achievement:* Margaret Maron
 - ii. *American Guests of Honor:* Kathy Reichs & Tom Franklin
 - iii. *International Guests of Honor:* Zoë Sharp & Allan Guthrie
 - iv. *Toastmasters:* Lori Armstrong & Sean Doolittle
 - v. *Special Local Guests:* Sarah Shaber & Ron Rash
 - b. 2016 New Orleans. Heather Graham advised that 50-60 attendees have paid so far. Her Regonline is up. They are negotiating with an historic hotel, and they're looking at venues for the opening ceremonies. These could include a WWII museum or a mystery cooking event. Their main hotel is \$139 a night. Lots of restaurants and there will be a dedicated bar. The guests of honor are:

- i. *American Guest of Honor*: Harlan Coben
 - ii. *International Guest of Honor*: Mo Hayder
 - iii. *Local Legend*: Julie Smith
 - iv. *Lifetime Achievement*: David Morrell
 - v. *Fan Guests of Honor*: Jon & Ruth Jordan
 - vi. *Toastmaster*: Harley Jane Kozak
 - c. 2017 Toronto. Helen Nelson advised that fifty attendees have paid. The Sheraton is \$169 Cdn a night. The guests of honour are:
 - i. *Canadian Guest of Honour*: Louise Penny
 - ii. *American Guest of Honour*: Megan Abbott
 - iii. *International Guest of Honour*: Christopher Brookmyre
 - iv. *B'Con4Kids Guest of Honour*: Chris Grabenstein
 - v. *Fan Guest of Honour*: Margaret Cannon
 - vi. *Toastmasters*: Twist Phelan & Gary Phillips
 - d. 2018 St. Petersburg. Erin Mitchell advised that 36 people have registered so far. There is a strong local interest. The Hilton is \$149 a night, Guests of honor are:
 - i. *American Guests of Honor*: Karin Slaughter & Sean Chercover *International*
 - ii. *Guests of Honor*: Sara Blaedel & Mark Billingham
 - iii. *Toastmaster*: Lisa Unger
 - iv. *Florida Guest of Honor*: Tim Dorsey
 - v. *Lifetime Achievement*: Ian Rankin
 - vi. *Fan Guests of Honor*: Judy Bobalik & Ayo Onatade
 - vii. *Ghost of Honor*: John D. MacDonald
8. **Election of New Board Members.** Jeffrey Siger handled the election of board members. Three board positions for Members At Large were open. There were names presented from the board for nomination and one nomination from the floor.
- a. Mike Bursaw was nominated by Al Abramson and seconded by Marjory Mogg
 - b. Debi Chowdhury was nominated by Ali Karim and seconded by Janet Costello
 - c. Don Longmuir was nominated by Cindy Tambourine and seconded by Ingrid Willis
 - d. Dave Magayna was nominated by Jeffrey Siger and seconded by Don Longmuir
- Ballots were passed out. Completed ballots were collected and counted while the meeting continued. The results were:
- i) Mike Bursaw – 53 votes
 - ii) Don Longmuir – 50 votes
 - iii) Dave Magayna – 38 votes
 - iv) Debi Chowdhury – 21 votes
- Mike Bursaw, Don Longmuir and Dave Magayna were elected.
9. **Proposed Rules Consideration.** Al Abramson moved that the Proposed Standing Rules (located in the Long Beach programme book p. 66-68) be adopted. This was seconded by Jeffrey Siger. All were in favor and they were passed.
10. **Committee Reports.**
- a. Technology Committee. Helen Nelson advised the committee has seven members: Helen, B.G., Erin, Ingrid, Jeffrey, Dave and Heather. They met several times in the last year. They have considered the Bouchercon website, and Facebook and Twitter accounts. They are leaning to consolidation. The website needs improvement; it has internal needs. Email, registration, and board meetings need to be from the same source. The committee is gathering the requirements, and they are working on a new website.

- b. History and Awards Committee. Janet Rudolph advised the committee members are: Janet R., Stacey, Don, Dave, B. G. and Jeffrey. She shared they have recorded some interviews of long-time members of the Bouchercon community, and they are working out where to put their data. They are scanning old programme books. The design of the David Thompson Memorial Special Service Award has been completed. They are collecting audio recordings from panels. One complete set of the panels for Long Beach will be given to the Board. Al Abramson has offered a physical repository for the items collected.
 - c. Mentoring Committee. Kim Hammond advised that the 2019 Bouchercon will be the 50th Bouchercon. She encouraged attendance at the So You Want to Have a Bouchercon panel in the Shoreline Room.
11. There was no **Unfinished Business**.
 12. **New Business**. Jamie Freveletti recommended that Bouchercon have a statement about diversity and that we are an all-inclusive convention. It was pointed out that on p. 67 of the just approved Proposed Standing Rules, #7, outlined that LOCs must include “a methodology for fairly incorporating all aspects of the crime fiction genre in the Annual Event and selecting authors for panels.” It was also noted that we have a best practices guide that provides more on this goal. The contract signed by LOCs includes that they are expected to have a big tent approach. The meeting time allotment was nearing an end. It was agreed that a few board members would discuss with Jamie the legal meanings of the current statements outside of the General Members Meeting.
 13. **Adjournment**. Helen Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ali Karim seconded. All in favour and the meeting was adjourned.

Note One: This count has only Erin Mitchell considered for St. Petersburg, as a board member for St. Petersburg. It is not yet determined if Jon and Ruth Jordan will be sitting on the board for St. Petersburg.

Note Two: Stacey provided these exact numbers at the meeting: 1,203 hotel rooms available. 775 are booked. He later clarified that 1,203 is the total room nights at the Sheraton.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Costello