

BOUCHERCON

2011 GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

St. Louis, September 17, 2011, 11:00 AM

Chaired by Al Abramson

Introduction of National Board Members Present: Al Abramson

Al Abramson (Chair of Bouchercon 2013, Albany)

Chris Aldrich

Mike Bursaw, Treasurer, & Jim Huang (Co-Chairs of Bouchercon 2009, Indianapolis)

Steele Curry

George Easter, Secretary

Rae Helmsworth (Chair of Bouchercon 2010 San Francisco)

David Magayna

Marjory Mogg (Chair of Bouchercon 2012, Cleveland)

John Purcell

B.G. Ritts

Janet Rogerson

Mary Jane Sheffet

Ingrid Willis (Chair of Bouchercon 2014, Long Beach)

And Bouchercon's legal advisor, Moni Draper (absent) – who has been a great help in obtaining National's event and the LOCs' insurance coverage and making all of National's tax filings.

Plus, Donus Roberts is absent but is being inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame this week.

Chair Report: Al Abramson

The Bouchercon community notes with sorrow the passing of: Len Moffatt, an early Bouchercon organizer; Charles Burton, Board member and Treasurer; and David Thompson, co-chair of this year's event.

During the past year, the Board completed a number of administrative tasks, including establishing incorporating a national non-profit Bouchercon entity, Bouchercon, Inc., based in Indiana, which will allow Local Organizing Committees to function as subsidiaries, and securing general liability and convention cancellation insurance coverage for the national Board and Local Organizing Committees. In addition, the Board established a policy of passing a seed money grant of \$12,000, funds permitting, to each Local Organizing Committee awarded a bid to host a future convention.

Anybody having records or memorabilia of early Bouchercons is requested to please submit them to Al Abramson, Mike Bursaw or any other member of the Board as one of the Board's current projects is to create a "Bouchercon history". The Board has established an archive of Anthony Boucher papers at the Lilly Library in Indiana along with a \$7,000 grant to organize the papers. The papers have been catalogued.

On Sunday morning at 7:30 in the lobby, Board members will be available to answer questions from anyone considering a bid to host a future Bouchercon or who has another matter for to raise with the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the Minutes of the 2010 Bouchercon General Members Meeting was made.

Seconded.

The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Bursaw

Bouchercon, Inc. now has its own bank account, which is used primarily to pass seed money on to future events.

Directors and officers liability insurance has been obtained.

The national Board has no debts or liabilities.

Seed money passed on to Bouchercon Local Organizing Committees in the past year was \$12,000.

Bouchercon Convention Reports:

a. Report of San Francisco Bouchercon: Rae Helmsworth

Everyone owes Al Abramson a huge debt for all he has done for future Bouchercons
The San Francisco Bouchercon had 1,384 full registrations, including 426 brand new participants

Total revenues = \$343,000

\$20,791 was left over after all expenses were paid

The convention raised \$5,000 for charities.

b. Report of St Louis Bouchercon: Jon Jordan (who joined the meeting to give this report)

The St. Louis Bouchercon had between 1,550 and 1,600 registrations.

The live auction raised \$17,000 for charity

Bowling tournament was a great success

Thanks to volunteers on Jon's committee.

Upcoming Bouchercon Convention Reports:

2012 Bouchercon in Cleveland, Ohio

October 4-7

Guests of Honor: Elizabeth George, Robin Cook, Mary Higgins Clark, Len Roberts, Simon Wood (Toastmaster)

Hotel: Marriott Renaissance

Hotel rate \$129

Overflow hotels: Marriott Downtown at Key Center & Ritz Carlton

\$150 early-bird registration fee until Jan 1, 2012, then \$175

2013 Bouchercon in Albany, New York

Plans are progressing for the 2013 Bouchercon, "a New York State of Mind", to be held September 19-22 in Albany, New York. The Guests of Honor include Toastmaster Steve Hamilton, Fan Guests Chris Aldrich and Lynn Kaczmarek, American Guest Tess Gerritsen, International Guest P.C. Doherty, and Lifetime Achievement Sue Grafton. The programming will be in the Empire State Plaza or the adjacent Egg, and there are room blocs with at least six hotels ranging from \$119-155 per night. Early-bird registration fee of only \$125. Everyone signing up early receives a special hat.

2014 Bouchercon in Long Beach, California
November 13-16.

Guests of Honor: J.A. Jance, Edward Marston, Jeffrey Deaver, John Connolly (Toastmaster). Fan Guest of Honor: Al Abramson

Website goes online Wednesday

3 hotels in a triangle. Main convention hotel is Hyatt Regency for \$149 a night
Will have a student day on Friday.

*Bylaws and **Standing Rules Changes

*The Bylaw changes first approved at last year's General Members Meeting in San Francisco are posted on national's Website at <http://www.bouchercon.info/bylaws.html>
A second approval is required at this meeting. These changes primarily cleared up some language regarding the existing practices.

A motion was made for the second approval of the changes to the Bylaws
Seconded
The motion was approved

**The proposed changes to the Standing Rules are as follows:

- 1) Starting by February 28th and continuing until at least April 30th, the current Local Organizing Committee shall solicit candidates for Anthony Award nominations from full-time registrants of its event and those of the immediately preceding event, including Guests of Honor. Those registering for day passes would not automatically receive a candidate ballot, although the current Local Organizing Committee could choose to include them. "Guest of" memberships, memberships in the name of corporations and memberships in the name of fictitious persons are not allowed candidate ballots. A person is allowed only one candidate ballot even if they are registered under their real name and one or more pen names, or are registered for both events.
- 2) "Candidate" shall be defined as: a) in the case of published work, should be relevant to the Crime Fiction/Mystery genre and published between January 1 and December 31 in the year immediately prior to the Bouchercon at which the Anthony Award will be given; b) in all other categories, work occurring or continuing in the year immediately prior to the Bouchercon at which the Anthony Award will be given.
- 3) Each person filling out a candidate ballot may cast up to five choices in any Award category, all five of which shall have equal weight; repetitive choices in the same category shall be counted as one vote.
- 4) The Local Organizing Committee shall count the votes cast for each category; the five candidates receiving the most votes shall be Anthony Award nominees.

5) If there is a tie between the fifth place and subsequent places, all the tied nominees shall be listed, except that the Local Organizing Committee may delete the fifth-place nomination and subsequent ties if they have received less than five percent of the candidate ballots cast in that category.

6) The Local Organizing Committee shall announce the Anthony Award nominees no later than 60 days prior to the convention. They shall be announced at least once to the membership of the current convention prior to the event.

7) In the event of a conflict in the application of this subsection, the conflict shall be resolved by the decision of the current Local Organizing Committee Chair, or his/her designate, which decision shall be final.

A motion was made to approve the changes to the Standing Rules

Seconded

The motion was approved

2015 Bouchercon Bids

The details for the bid presentations made by Columbus, Ohio and Raleigh, North Carolina are contained in the Appendix 1 and 2.

A vote was held on the two 2015 Bids from Columbus, Ohio and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Raleigh, North Carolina was awarded the bid based on receiving the most votes.

Election of New Board Members

Necessary to fill three Board seats.

It will be the duty of new committee Board members to make sure future Bouchercons run by the rules and bylaws and that they participate in projects sponsored by the National Bouchercon board.

Nominations were made for:

Steele Curry

David Magayna

John Purcell

All three nominations were seconded

There were no other nominations

A motion was made to elect all three nominees

Seconded

All three nominees were elected

Other Business

Bad business climate – it was suggested that early-bird fees should be offered for a longer period of time for conventions several years far out. That is a decision to be made by each Local Organizing Committee.

Steele made a motion to express appreciation to Al Abramson for the outstanding job he did as Chair of the Board.

Seconded.

The motion was approved by acclamation.

The Meeting adjourned.

April 13, 2012

APPENDIX 1:

2015 Bouchercon Bid Presented at the September 17, 2012 GMM
Columbus, Ohio

Crime Comes to Columbus!

Here is the Columbus bid for hosting Bouchercon 2015; I took to heart the conversations we had last year after the Business Meeting and I am looking forward to working with you again on questions and suggestions for our bid.

I want to address one item at this point – guests. Last year my guests were in the meeting with me, and afterwards apologized that they had not been “good enough” to win the bid for Columbus. I do not ever want a possible guest of mine to go through that again. I do have guests confirmed (Authors: two American, one British; also fan and Toastmaster) although I have not confirmed a lifetime achievement guest.

The lifetime achievement guest will be confirmed 2 years out from the Columbus Bouchercon. The nature of a lifetime achievement means that there is a possibility of that a person chosen today might not be living or healthy in 2015. The Columbus committee has their ideas on who this guest should be, but I would like input from the Board as a whole as to who they think should be honored. In fact, I think it would be helpful to future bids to have such a list available. It doesn't mean that the Board would be forcing a committee to use that list, but in my opinion, it would be a valuable resource. Lifetime Achievement is an important opportunity for our community as a whole, therefore a positive and creative way for the Board to help the local committees. My personal philosophy is that conventions and convention ideas are not final until closing ceremonies and passing it on to the next convention, but then it begins all over again with a new committee and new ideas. Our job is to keep Bouchercon new, vital, and ever delightful.

Included here is the information about rooms and facility space from the hotels. I have also included my working outline; it has the convention committee outline along with a brief view of the programming. The function space (all 73,000 square feet) are in a separate document. For reference, the Regency Ballroom, on the third floor of the Columbus Hyatt, is larger than the room used in Indianapolis so there is ample space!

Please, let me know if you have any questions, or need more information. I have local clubs and a local committee that is very excited at the prospect of a Bouchercon in Columbus.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Williams

HOTEL INFORMATION:

There are three downtown hotels lined up; the Hyatt at the headquarter hotel and the Crowne Plaza and Drury Inn & Suites for additional sleeping rooms. The Hyatt and Drury are next door to one another with the Crowne Plaza right across the street.

HYATT REGENCY COLUMBUS

ARRIVAL: September 28, 2015

DEPARTURE: October 5, 2015

Room Block: 650 rooms / \$ 139 flat fixed, 1 – 4 people (plus tax)

Facility space: 73,000 square feet

CROWNE PLAZA

ARRIVAL: September 28, 2015

DEPARTURE: October 5, 2015

Room Block: 200 rooms / \$ 129 flat fixed, 1 – 4 people (plus tax)

DRURY INN & SUITES

ARRIVAL: September 7, 2015 or September 28, 2015

DEPARTURE: September 14, 2015 or October 5, 2015

Room Block: 160 rooms / \$ 139 single or double \$149 triple or quad (plus tax)

On site self parking is \$12 per night per car (in-out privileges are included)

Convention Committee Membership Directory and Program Ideas

Chair – Kim Williams

Vice Chair – Jen Drake

Treasurer – Cathy Rork (with the convention) & James Cloyes, CPA (for final paperwork)

Anthony Awards

o Nominations & Voting processes: We want to talk with the San Francisco and St. Louis committees to find out how the email process worked, and what recommendations they have for improving it. We will continue to use a paper system for those who want it.

o The Anthony Awards – we are planning a brunch first, then opening the event to all attendees to attend the actual award presentation.

o Nominee wranglers – Gloria Stover

Guest of Honor Liaison – Jen Drake

Accessibility – Cori Callicotte

Registration – Carrie Franklin

Programming – Carrie Franklin

o This might seem like an odd combination, but the Registration system is linked to the Programming system and it is actually easier for Carrie to have access to input for both. This system also allows us to go “live” with our program grid between 6 and 8 weeks before the convention (subject to changes that are just bound to happen once it’s published, but those changes are then reflected “live” within 10 minutes of being made.)

o We are also working with Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers and Sisters in Crime (3 local chapters are working with us).

o Continuing the “Continuous Conversation”

- o Continuing YA programming
 - o Children's Programming (90% certain that this is a go for the entire convention, a "Kid Space" discussing keeping it open during banquets and early evenings for those children who have already been fed by their parents. Sandy Kowloski, a retired teacher and Girl Scout Leader, has been working to develop this idea.
 - o Murder Mystery Dinner – Cori Callicotte
 - o Art Show – we honor cover art, so why not bring some together and give it some space? I think that a retrospective of cover art would be a marvelous addition to Bouchercon.
 - o Youth Event – We are working with Central & Southern Ohio Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators – they are an awesome group (much like Sisters in Crime).
 - o Panels by experts (such as a County Coroner, "What determines a murder?") The Ohio State Coroners Association is also working with us; as is the Cincinnati office of the FBI.
- Anthony Awards Brunch on Sunday.

Hospitality Suite

- o Breakfast Hospitality – Sisters in Crime
 - o "Tea Time" Magazine is willing to host a series of afternoon teas in the Hospitality Suite
 - o We will have soda and snacks available every day from 7:00am until 9:00 or 10:00pm)
- Dealers' Room – Jim Engle
Auction Coordinator
Volunteers
Program Book & Advertising – Shell Franklin
Website – Shell Franklin

The Columbus Committee is dedicated to looking at "Crime Comes to Columbus!" from many different angles, and I am looking forward to feedback and suggestions from both the Standing Committee and the attendees of Bouchercon.

I have not filled in the entire Committee directory because I want to include those who will want to volunteer as Columbus is chosen and develops its convention. Also, because Programming is determined upon who will be attending the convention, so it is an on-going and creative process.

I have included a map of the Hyatt function space below.

Facility Space:

COLUMBUS-SPECIFIC ISSUES:

MEETING SPACE: Some detail how you plan to use space for specific functions, such as panel rooms, bookroom, signing area, and plenary and social events. The Bookroom would probably be in the Union Rooms, and the signing area could be at the end of the Bookroom (I liked that setup in Indy). Those rooms are on the second floor on the layouts I sent to you.

The Regency Ballroom (on the third floor) is great for banquet and award functions, large panel room, or a book give-away event. It's a beautiful room of 12,000 square feet that is useful for almost any large function. Last fall at World Fantasy, I used it for the Mass Autographing (a traditional event for that convention) and it worked perfectly. The Art Show could be in a couple of the Delaware rooms, or in the Fairfield room. It depends how that project grows; it could be small enough to be in just one room.

Panels would be in the majority of the space, having rooms as either double or single rooms (air walls are wonderful) allows flexibility in panel subject and size. It also allows us to dedicate a room for panels that require AV (projector & screen).

The Youth / Young Adult panels would probably be on the first floor - then there could be room for students to actually attend the convention, have fun, and contribute. It would also be set off from the main programming so that those who do not want to be involved with "kids" certainly would not be imposed upon.

One room that doesn't show on the floor plans is the Peppercorn Duck Club, and unused restaurant. There are table and chairs in it (as in the breakfast area last year in San Francisco). We plan on using it not only for breakfast (coffee & bagels, sweet rolls, etc., but also for soda and snacks all day long (and coffee and tea all day long). This is something we do with Marcon and it works wonderfully; being able to recharge by getting a drink (soda or coffee) and snack (chips, or granola bars, or fruit & veggies). Sometimes we have "milk & cookie time" with stories (author readings). It's a great, bright space (floor to ceiling windows) and great for casual socializing.

Speaking of Socializing: I plan to have a very large reception either on Thursday or Friday evening. If Thursday, it could be a "welcome" reception, if Friday, then we could have it by the Art Show (always - depending on how response to it goes).

COMMITTEE: First, why are these people volunteering so much of themselves for Bouchercon? This required a full picnic to discuss; and at first my committee was a bit put off by the question. We began with the global "Why do we do any convention?" "Why do we do the jobs we do at the con?" "How do we choose which convention we want to do?" Now, you don't want all the answers to all those questions (and more)?

Person in charge of consuite: enjoys giving parties, doesn't have enough money to hostess events of this size on her own, so she does a marvelous job of making people welcome (and feeding them very well). She has actually organized a small, on-line writers' group.

Programming person (Carrie): loves reading, going to conventions, and considers programming to be a large jigsaw puzzle. With programming she gets "the ideas first" from authors, editors, and publishers, then gets to help flush them out for the convention. She is very good at this (by the way, she is the same person who was on last year's bid committee and about whom Casey Daniels sent that statement). Carrie has worked on several different conventions and enjoys each genre for its own unique aspects.

Most of us: enjoy welcoming people to our home town, are proud of the hospitality we have to offer, and love reading mysteries. In fact, hosting a convention takes our noses out of books, but we consider it well worth it!

And second, what plans does the committee have for learning what makes a Bouchercon different from other events? A couple of plans for this. One, I have been to several Bouchercon's now, and do have an understanding of it. I would want to some of my committee to help in the next several Bouchercons (before 2015). I have never met a convention that couldn't use some extra volunteers. As for experience in meeting expectations, Columbus just hosted a World Fantasy Convention, and it was a solid success. Meeting Bouchercon expectations is something that each Bouchercon chair is expected to do, and I think my committee will help me do a truly solid Bouchercon. Having Sisters in Crime controlling the programming isn't a negative (clearly they're well-experienced with the crime fiction world, which is vital), but just as if MWA or ThrillerWriters would be controlling programming, some Board members would want a clear understanding that authors who are not members of that organization would walk away as satisfied as those who are (in the spirit of the Big Tent philosophy). Very

important: Sisters in Crime is NOT controlling the programming, my master programmer – Carrie – is controlling the programming and will make darn sure the program is balanced in both content and participants. Sisters in Crime will be contributing, just as MWA or Thriller Writers would be contributing, not controlling! I am sorry if my bid had you thinking otherwise. Carrie is the same person who received the compliments from Casey Daniels that I sent in to you .

PROGRAMMING PLANS: There isn't a lot of information in the bid; it would be great if you could flesh out this area with some detail that shows more what kind of Bouchercon you plan to put on. I remember this from last year, and have it ready for the oral presentation at the meeting. We will continue the "Continuous Conversation"

Airport is 7 miles to hotel. Shuttle and taxi services.

Mystery Bookstore: Foul Play

APPENDIX 2:

2015 Bouchercon Bid Presented at the September 17, 2012 GMM
Raleigh, North Carolina

Bouchercon 2015 Proposal for Raleigh, North Carolina

Proposed Convention Dates

October 8-11, 2015

Organizing Committee

Stacey Cochran, Chair

Al Abramson, "Volunteers" Chair

Ali Karim, Programming Chair

Jon Jordan, "Publishers" Liaison

Mike Bursaw, Dealer's Room

Ken Campbell, legal; Linda Rohrbough, public relations;

Barbara Dolny-Bombar, marketing; John Leicht, marketing;

Pat Cassese, Janice A. Farringer, Howard Wasserman;

LaTan Roland Murphy; Sherrie Wilkolaski; Suzie Gichora;

J. Spinazzola; Vanessa Guirguis; Richard Bylina; Kimberly Gibson 2

HOTEL SUMMARY

The following is our secured room block and convention hotel rates. The main convention hotel and meeting space is the Sheraton downtown Raleigh. The Marriott is our primary overflow hotel and is located fifty feet from the Sheraton. Al Abramson and I have toured the meeting space in the Sheraton and Marriott. Our dealer's room and the bulk of our daily programming will be held in the Sheraton. The Marriott offers a generous spotlight room for our opening ceremonies, GoH events, and Anthony Awards Ceremony.

Hotel	10/5/18	10/6/15	10/7/15	10/8/15	10/9/15	10/10/15	10/11/15
Clarion	0	0	0	0	150	150	0
Marriott	0	0	225	225	300	300	25

Sheraton	10	10	250	250	300	300	75
TOTAL	10	10	475	475	750	750	100

Hotel	Rate
Clarion	\$109.00
Marriott	\$145.00
Sheraton	\$149.00

Includes Monday and Tuesday nights at same rate.

I. MEETING FACILITIES: Our primary meeting space will be the Sheraton downtown Raleigh. (See map below)

A. Sheraton Meeting Space (15,000 square feet)

The 5,080 sq. ft. Hanover Ballroom will serve jointly as the bookroom and signing room.

With the signing space set up on the right (as seen in map), we can use the large "Open" area and hallway for long signing lines

Oak Forest „A" seats 300 theater style. Panel room.

Oak Forest „B" seats 300 theater style. Panel room.

Governor"s Room seats 200 theater style. Panel room.

President"s Boardroom seats 75 theater style. Panel room.

Registration will take place in the Ballroom Prefunction space

B. Marriott Meeting Space (15,000 square feet)

Largest meeting room is State Ballroom with maximum meeting space of 8,184 sq ft and maximum seating capacity of 1,000. We are planning to use this ballroom for

Opening Ceremonies, GoH Spotlight events, and Anthony Awards Ceremony

Additionally, we have reserved six more meeting space rooms, including the University A, B, and C, which seats 244 theater-style. Panel room.

Congressional A & B, which seats 150 theater style. Panel room.

C. Clarion State Capitol

The Clarion State Capitol is one of our overflow hotels and offers a banquet facility on its top floor complete with panoramic views of Raleigh. This facility would be ideal for the PWA banquet, Sisters in Crime, etc.

II. PROGRAMMING PLANS

Theme: We would like to theme the Raleigh BCon as "Murder Under the Oaks: A Southern-style Bouchercon." Raleigh is the City of Oaks, and North Carolina has one of the highest numbers of bestselling and award-winning writers of any state in the country.

While we certainly will balance genders for Guests of Honor and programming, we would like to make use of Raleigh"s "Southern" and "State Capital" statuses in developing our convention theme.

Registration Fees: \$125 until August 31, 2014; \$150 through December 31, 2014; \$175 from January 1, 2015 to convention dates

Panel Structure: In the spirit of supporting and nurturing lesser-known writers (which we believe is one of the functions of Bouchercon and what Anthony Boucher would want), we believe in giving panel spots to as many folks as possible. Therefore, a Raleigh Bouchercon panel structure will be robust. The Sheraton"s meeting space will serve the panels with better known writers, and the Marriott"s space will serve those with less name recognition. The only exception will be that we will use the Marriott"s main ballroom for Opening Ceremonies, GoH spotlight events, and the Anthony Awards.

Anthony Awards: I would like to make the Anthony Awards Ceremony a Saturday-night free-to-all-attendees event with an hour social beforehand with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. We would use the E & F space (at the back) as an open-floor social area with cash bars and hors d'oeuvres and would arrange theater seating for 800 in the A, B, C, & D ballroom space.

Opening Ceremonies: I would like to do the Opening Ceremonies the same as Anthony Awards with a 60-minute social beforehand in E & F and theater seating for 800 set up in A-D.

Plenary Programming: Some ideas for plenary programming events (all of which are within walking distance):

Tour of Raleigh Police Department with WRAL-TV Crime Reporter and true crime author Amanda Lamb to discuss prominent murder investigations

State Capitol Tours

Governor's Mansion Tour

Carriage rides

Ghost tours

Tour of Senate and Congressional Meeting Spaces at State Legislative Office Building

Museum of Natural Science, Tour

Museum of North Carolina History, Tour

Comments

1) I agree to conduct our event, if awarded, in compliance with the letter and spirit of the bylaws and rules. In particular, I state here in writing that I plan to operate our local committee under the national Bouchercon umbrella. I agree that Bouchercon is a volunteer organization, and leaders of the Local Organizing Committee cannot receive money, directly or indirectly, for their work; I agree that any money taken in for Bouchercon may not be used for other organizations, and that all money in excess of the funds needed to conduct our event will be returned to the national to support future Bouchercons.

2) I agree that, since the national will be protecting our event with cancellation insurance, I grant the national an option to find someone to take over our local event if I have to cancel, and that the national shall have authority to conduct the event in the event of such a cancellation.

3) I agree that I will conduct our event as a "big tent," and as far as possible balance genders and subgenres so as broad a segment of the crime fiction community as possible feels welcomed and respected.

4) We have checked and made certain that no other major events will be competing with our event in Raleigh at the proposed dates.

Major bookstore: Quail-Ridge Books

Airport is about 15 miles from hotel.

Chair: writer for 15 years. Has attended three Bouchercons. TV host who has interviewed several crime writers.