

BOUCHERCON 2026
VOTER GUIDE

BOUCHERCON 2026

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES

The terms of three of the current at-large directors of the Bouchercon Board will expire at the conclusion of the General Members Meeting in Calgary on Saturday, October 24, 2026. The following three nominees have submitted their names for consideration for election for three-year terms to fill those seats, were vetted by the Board Nominating Committee, were unanimously endorsed and approved by the Bouchercon National Board on August 15, 2026, and will be presented for election for three-year terms on the Bouchercon Board by the members at the General Members Meeting in Calgary on Saturday, October 24, 2026. If a proposed nominee receives an affirmative vote of a majority of members present and voting at the General Members Meeting, the nominee will be elected for a three-year term commencing immediately upon the conclusion of the General Members Meeting in Calgary.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Claire Booth

I am a former journalist who covered crime for newspapers in Missouri, Florida, the Seattle region, and the Bay Area. I now write crime fiction as well as hold down a day job as marketing manager for a medical-legal consulting firm. The eighth in my police procedural series, *Hidden Currents*, comes out in September.

I think my background would be an asset to the Bouchercon Board in several respects. My marketing skills can be used in connection with the national website or to help craft Board messaging and communications. In addition, I'm enthusiastic about increasing attendance, especially among younger people. The greatest growth potential will come from Gen Xers and Millennials, and attracting these age groups is key to maintaining the viability and vibrance of Bouchercon. I would love to work toward this goal and any others that support Bouchercon's continued success within the wonderful crime fiction community

Susan Cella

Hello, fellow readers and writers! I will always remember my first Bouchercon, Baltimore 2008. Attending by myself, I was both intimidated and excited. It was the start of a journey that has taken me to San Francisco, Cleveland, Albany, St. Petersburg, New Orleans, and every Bouchercon in between. I quickly realized that I'd found a community I felt a connection to, having been welcomed and included from the start.

I was first elected to the Bouchercon board in 2020 and soon transitioned to stepping in to fill the co-chair vacancy for the Nashville Bouchercon held in 2024. I was also part of the volunteer group working on the 2025 New Orleans event. It was eye-opening to say the least. The amount of effort that goes into putting on a Bouchercon is vast, spanning multiple years and hundreds of volunteer hours, and I will forever be in awe of the folks who've volunteered to take on this labor of love over the past 56 years. Every year a new group of volunteers steps up to continue the tradition and bring our community together to celebrate the genre. I must also recognize the volunteers who come back year after year to fill important roles, staying out of the spotlight yet giving their all.

I am currently an IT professional with 28 years of experience as well as an avid reader (since grade school!). I've earned multiple degrees over my lifetime, including an Associate's, two Bachelors, and an MBA. During my IT career I served on the board of my previous company's volunteer organization for 12 years, spending 3 of them as board president. I am currently a member of ITW, MWA and SinC.

I am running again for the Board because I believe that my experiences with past Bouchercons, the highs and lows, the celebrations and the unexpected, the hopes and lessons learned, could assist in keeping this tradition going, and evolving in an ever-changing world. I pledge to give back to a community that has given me so much by working to continue the Bouchercon traditions while helping the organization evolve and grow to be the best it can be.

Note: Susan is currently serving on the Bouchercon National Board as LOC representative for the Bouchercon 2024 Nashville Convention (currently the second preceding Bouchercon convention). The term on the National Board of the Nashville 2024 LOC representative will end at the conclusion of the 2026 Calgary Convention (upon the Nashville 2024 Convention becoming the third preceding Bouchercon convention). Susan was also elected to the Bouchercon Board for a three-year term as an elected at-large director in 2020.

Marc Williams

I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for a mystery writers' organization/fans because of my deep and longstanding passion for reading, collecting, and supporting mystery literature. I am an avid reader and collector of mystery writers, with admiration for authors such as James Lee Burke, S.S. Van Dine, S.A. Cosby, and many others who have shaped and continue to elevate the genre. I have greatly valued my experiences at Bouchercon, where I enjoy engaging with writers, fellow collectors, and fans, and contributing to a vibrant community built around shared enthusiasm for mystery fiction. Professionally, I bring meaningful governance experience, having served on the boards of an investment firm and an audit software company.

As a CPA, I offer strong financial oversight, risk management, and fiduciary discipline, as well as an emphasis on process improvement and design, which I would be eager to apply in the service of an organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating mystery writers and their legion of fans.

Note: Marc is currently serving on the Bouchercon National Board, having been appointed by the National Board to the Bouchercon Board on May 16, 2026, to fill a vacancy of an at-large seat having a term expiring at the 2026 General Members Meeting.

STANDING RULES AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

The Bouchercon Board voted unanimously on August 15, 2026, to propose an amendment to the Bouchercon Standing Rule 4.4. This amendment will be presented for discussion and voting at the General Members Meeting in Calgary on Saturday, October 24, 2026. If the proposed amendment receives a two-thirds' majority vote of General Members present and voting at the General Members Meeting, it is adopted.

The existing Standing Rule 4.4 reads as follows:

4.4 AUTHOR'S WORK ELIGIBILITY

- An author's published work should be relevant to the Crime/Mystery genre and published between January 1 and December 31 in the year immediately prior to the Bouchercon Convention at which the Anthony Award will be given;
- Regarding Best First Novel, authors who have previously published a novel in any other genre are not eligible.
- Authors published simultaneously in Hardcover and another format are only eligible in Best Hardback Novel

The Bouchercon Board proposes the following as a new Fourth Bullet to Standing Rule 4.4 Author's Work Eligibility:

- *To ensure authenticity and originality, prior to the public announcement of the list of Anthony Award nominees, the LOC shall notify all nominees of their nomination status and inform them that they have 15 days to confirm in writing to the LOC that a nominated work is free of AI-generated material. Failure to do so will be deemed an admission that the work is not free of AI-generated material, disqualifying the work for Anthony Award consideration.*

“AI-generated material” is defined as the following: Any text produced by using artificial intelligence systems, specifically generative AI systems. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence to brainstorm or conceive plot points and/or characters, write words, and edit and/or revise words.

This rule will be effective for any work published on or after January 1, 2027, and eligible for an Anthony Award after January 1, 2028.

Rationale

Bouchercon is an organization which celebrates and supports authors, books, and the written word. Works which are nominated for and receive Bouchercon’s Anthony Awards should be the original and authentic creation of the author, reflecting that author’s voice and vision. To ensure that, we will require nominees to certify in writing that their works are free of AI-generated material.

BOUCHERCON 2030

CONVENTION BID

The Bouchercon Board has timely received the following bid for the opportunity of holding a future Bouchercon convention in Seattle in 2030. The Bouchercon Board voted unanimously on August 15, 2026, to approve the following bid as satisfying the Bouchercon Bylaws, Standing Rules and the Code of Conduct/Anti-Harassment Policy. The following bid, having been so approved, now moves forward for presentation for discussion and voting by the members at the General Members Meeting in Calgary on Saturday, October 24, 2026. Convention bids are awarded and ratified by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at the General Members Meeting.



Seattle Bouchercon

Skedaddle to Seattle

August 28 – September 1, 2030



Vision for 2030

Seattle. The Emerald City. Like Oz, there is more to Seattle than meets the eye. A tale of two cities, gleaming monuments to progress and industry above, dark tunnels harkening to an intriguing past below. From the cavernous waters of Puget Sound to the deep forests of the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, the region is a dichotomy of beauty and angst, playing muse for the works of writers and musicians such as Earl Emerson, Jimi Hendrix, Robert Dugoni, Kurt Cobain, J.A. Jance, Jennifer Hillier, Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart, and even the king of noir, Dashiell Hammett, whose long, dark, and difficult winter spent in the region influenced so many of his stories.

Drizzly gray months nurture tall pines and creative minds. Canopies of trees give cover to wildlife, serial killers, and, perhaps, Sasquatch.

But in August, *the mountain is out* becomes the daily mantra. Sun shines on the rain-washed landscape and the city sparkles like the gem that inspired its nickname. The monorail transports passengers from the Space Needle—and other attractions such as the Chihuly Glass Museum, the Pacific Science Center, and the Museum of Pop Culture—to Westlake Center and the nearby Pike Place Market where visitors can be delighted by flying fish, fresh flowers and produce, and the world's first Starbucks®. Or maybe they'd like to walk a half-block to Kell's Irish Pub, formerly a mortuary and now considered Seattle's most haunted building.



A city built on a city, no visit to Seattle would be complete without a tour of its notorious underground. Following the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, what remained of the old city became a subterranean network of tunnels, providing clandestine passage for smugglers and those who wished to operate illicit businesses like gambling halls, opium dens, and brothels. This rich history, combined with its moody atmosphere, makes Seattle the perfect city to host the 2030 Bouchercon World Mystery Convention.

With its central location in the walkable downtown area close to restaurants and shopping, the Hyatt Regency has the upscale amenities and spacious convention center to host fans of crime fiction from around the country and around the world with ease and sophistication.

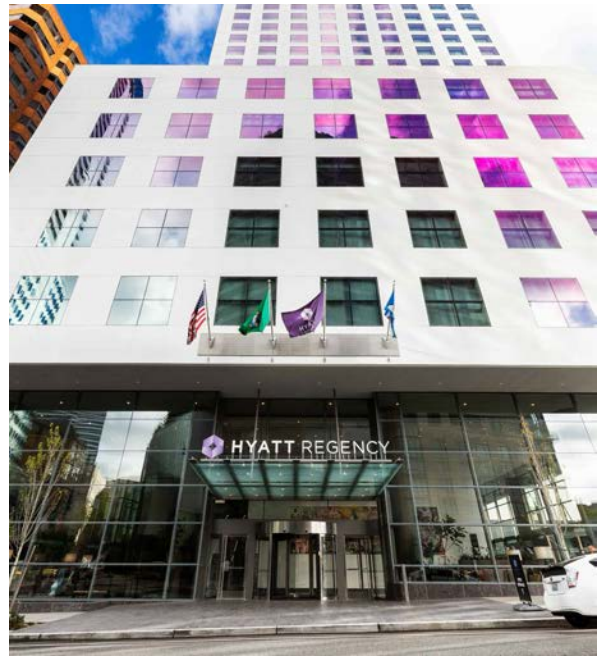
Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that this event will take place on the unceded, traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, whose ancestors have lived here and cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial. These communities are still here, and many indigenous people are strong and thriving. We honor the people, past and present, who belong to this place.

Location

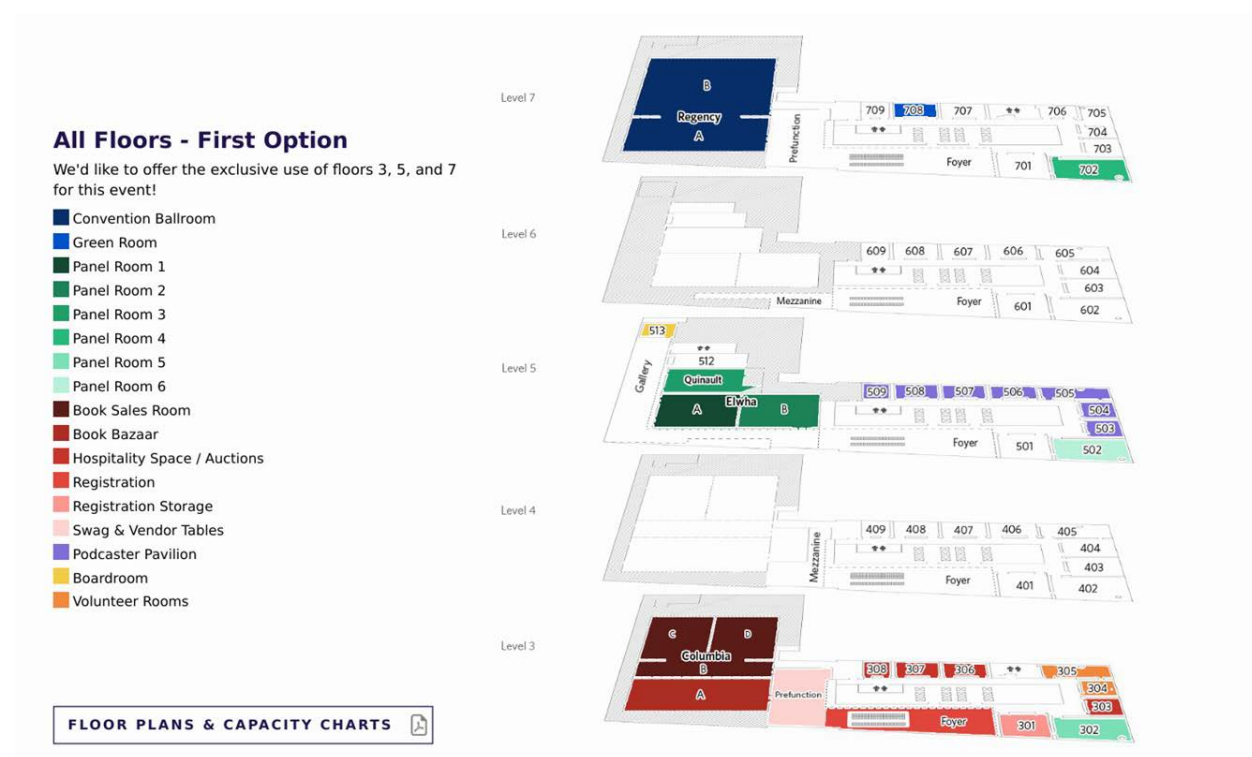
The largest and tallest hotel in the Pacific Northwest, the Hyatt Regency Seattle is a modern venue with versatile spaces making it perfect for Bouchercon's specific needs.

Easily connected to Seattle's accessible and varied public transit, the hotel is an excellent starting point to explore the rest of the city and what it has to offer. It also provides extensive and charming rooms and conference spaces to host the activities and events of Bouchercon.



Event Venue

The Hyatt has 1,260 rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows boasting views of the city, Lake Union, or Mt. Rainier with over 103,000 square feet of meeting space, a 24-hour fitness center, and an exclusive Regency Club. There are three on-site dining options including Andare Kitchen & Bar, Daniel's Broiler, and a 24-hour grab-and-go Market.



These are representative (draft) floor plans for Hyatt Regency. We'll be using Levels 3, 5, and 7 of the hotel's convention and meeting spaces. As part of the contract negotiation process, the LOC will finalize what conference levels/rooms will be allocated for Bouchercon 2030.

Room Block

Date	Day	Standard Room	Corner King	Regency Suite	Presidential Suite	Staff Room	Daily Contracted Guest Room Block
25 Aug 2030	Sunday	3	0	0	0	4	7
26 Aug 2030	Monday	130	5	0	0	15	150
27 Aug 2030	Tuesday	280	5	0	0	15	300
28 Aug 2030	Wednesday	726	5	3	1	15	750
29 Aug 2030	Thursday	926	5	3	1	15	950
30 Aug 2030	Friday	926	5	3	1	15	950
31 Aug 2030	Saturday	926	5	3	1	15	950
01 Sep 2030	Sunday	276	5	3	1	15	300
02 Sep 2030	Monday	76	5	3	1	15	100

Total Contracted Guest Room Block: 4,457

Guest Room Rate: \$229.00 per night *Current Taxes (Not Included) Equals 18%

Multiple overflow hotels are available within walking distance, if needed.

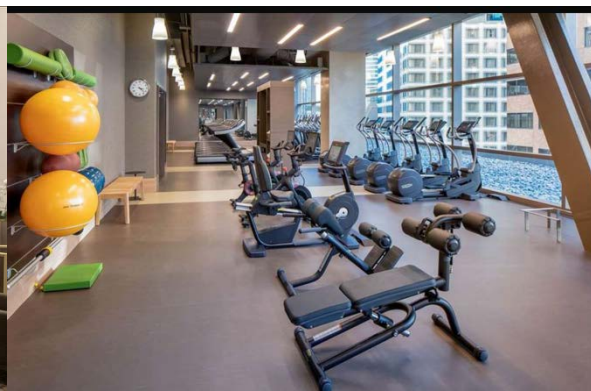
HOTEL ACCOLADES • First and only LEED Gold-Certified hotel in Seattle • Green Key Global “4 Green Key” Certification • AAA 3 Diamond Designation • Smart Meetings Platinum Choice Winner 2019-2022, 2024 • Smart Meetings 2023-2024 Best City Hotel • Tripadvisor Travelers’ Choice Awards Winner 2023 • Corporate & Incentive Travel Award of Excellence 2024 • US News & World Report Best Hotels in Seattle (#25) 2025

TRANSPORTATION

- Sea-Tac Intl Airport 14.8 miles/19 mins
- Link Light Rail from SEATAC – 0.3 miles/8 mins (Westlake Station .2 mile walk to hotel)

ACCESSIBILITY

- Hotel opened in December 2018 with accessibility in mind
- 45 Stories with 1,260 sleeping rooms
- All elevator banks go to all conference levels
- Each elevator bank has six elevators (three banks per floor)
- Escalators to every floor of conference
- Plenty of ADA sleeping rooms



Preliminary Budget

Estimated Income:

Registrations [based on 1,700 attendees]

\$325 Saver registration 1,020 (60%)	\$331,500
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(non-refundable)

\$375 Standard registration 680 (40%)	\$255,000
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(refundable with a cancellation fee)

Sponsorship/Advertising	\$50,000
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Total Income: \$636,500

Estimated Costs:

Convention Space/Food	\$271,100 minimum
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A/V	\$192,500
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Guests of Honor [7] Expenses	\$36,000
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Logo:	\$500
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Programs:	\$8,300
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Small 2,000	6x9	\$3,000
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Magazine 2,000	8.5x11	\$5,300
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Bags:	\$30,000
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2,000 @ \$10.96 [plus shipping and tax, plus 10% inflation]

Badges/Lanyards:	\$5,600
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Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

The local organizing committee draws from the experienced event planners who brought Left Coast Crime to the region in 2024 for the resoundingly successful Seattle Shakedown, as well as those who have helped put on ThrillerFest and various Mystery Writers of America (MWA) Northwest events.

With an eye toward bringing fresh blood to Bouchercon, your Seattle 2030 LOC is committed to providing broad and creative promotion, exciting guests of honor, interesting panel topics, enticing tours, convenient and high-quality accommodations and meeting spaces, a reliable bookseller, opportunities to connect, and an overall well-organized experience for attendees.



Leslie J. Hall - Co-Chair

Special Events/Venue/Merchandise/Programming Assistance

Leslie J. Hall is a meeting planner extraordinaire, having been event planner in her career as an administrative professional and on the planning committee for many local admin and writer's conferences, including merch and program co-chair for Left Coast Crime 2024. She is the author of the Kaitlyn Willis Road Signs Mysteries, an amateur sleuth series starring a Pacific NW code enforcement officer. She also writes crime short stories, women's fiction, and suspense. Leslie is the current VP of Puget Sound Sisters in Crime and the event assistant for MWA Northwest. She is a cheerleader for beginning writers through teaching, speaking, and manuscript review.

Brian Thornton - Co-chair
Programming Lord High Chamberlain
Anthony Award Coordination Major-Domo

Brian Thornton is the author of twelve books — most recently the three-novella collection *Suicide Blonde*. His short fiction has appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *The Big Click*, *Shred of Evidence*, the Akashic Books anthology *Seattle Noir*, and the late, lamented *BULLET UK*. Down & Out Books published his double-volume collection of crime fiction by some of the top authors in the genre and inspired by the music of jazz-rock legends Steely Dan (*Die Behind the Wheel* and *A Beast Without a Name*) in 2019. His stories “Bad Luck Streak in Dancing School,” “The Lotus Eaters,” and “The Catherine Wheel” recently appeared in the Anthony-nominated *Lawyers, Guns, and Money: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Music of Warren Zevon*, *A Bag of Dick's*, and *Murder, Neat: A Sleuthsayers Anthology*, respectively. He does all of his own stunts, loves the color blue and singing in the car with his wife and son, and lives in Seattle, where he has served numerous years as President of the Northwest Chapter for the Mystery Writers of America.



Laurie Rockenbeck
General Dogsbody/Anthology Coordinator

As a part-time private investigator with a background in journalism, Laurie Rockenbeck takes notes on human behavior and the darker side of humanity to fuel her fiction. Her novels feature Seattle's only trans male homicide detective and a pro-domme turned PI. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from UC-Riverside-Palm Desert. She managed the creation of *The Killing Rain* edited by Jim Thomsen for Left Coast Crime in 2023. When not writing, Laurie knits, sews, cooks, reads, and spends time with her family.





Jeff Ayers

Bookstore/Guests of Honor Liaison

Jeff co-authors the National Park thriller series for Minotaur under the name A.J. Landau and the Jigsaw Puzzle Mysteries for Crooked Lane as J.B. Abbott. He has interviewed hundreds of authors for magazines, newspapers, and podcasts, and reviewed books for *The Associated Press* and *Booklist*. He currently reviews suspense thrillers and mysteries for *Library Journal*, *Criminal Element*, and *firstCLUE*. His first book was

Voyages of Imagination: The Star Trek Fiction Companion for Simon and Schuster/Pocket Books. A retired public librarian and former co-executive director for ThrillerFest, he lives near Seattle, Washington.

Scotti Andrews

Finance Chair

Scotti Andrews is an award nominated mystery/horror/thriller writer of short stories and also a romance writer under a pen name. She has been the Treasurer or Secretary of the Northwest Chapter of Mystery Writers of America for over twenty years, was Finance Chair of Left Coast Crime 2024, is the hostess of Noir at the Bar Seattle, and has a background in nonprofit management and event planning.



Kate Jackson

Communications and publicity/Social Media lead Assistance with GOH

Kate (K.B.) Jackson is a two-time Agatha Award winner, three-time Anthony Award finalist, and two-time Silver Falchion nominated author of mysteries for kids and grownups, based in the Pacific Northwest. She's worked in event marketing for over twenty years, including for Seattle Lifestyles, Seattle Polo Party, JW World Resources, and Left Coast Crime Convention 2024. She's the current

Northwest chapter president for Mystery Writers of America and is also a member of Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, the Authors Guild, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Proposed Guests of Honor (Unconfirmed)

Guest of Honor: Attica Locke



Attica Locke is a *New York Times* best-selling author whose sixth novel *Guide Me Home*, the finale of her Edgar-Award winning Highway 59 trilogy, joins *Bluebird*, *Bluebird* and *Heaven, My Home* in September 2024. She is also the author of *Pleasantville*, winner of the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction and long-listed for the Bailey's Prize for Women's Fiction; *The Cutting Season*, winner of the Ernest Gaines Award for Literary Excellence; and her debut *Black Water Rising*, which was nominated for an Edgar Award, an NAACP Image Award, as well as a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and was short-listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction. A former fellow at the Sundance Institute's Feature Filmmaker's Lab, Locke is also a screenwriter and TV producer, with credits that include *Empire*, *When They See Us* and the Emmy-nominated *Little Fires Everywhere*, for which she won an NAACP Image award for television writing. She co-created and executive produced an adaptation of her sister Tembi Locke's memoir *From Scratch* for Netflix. She is currently in a multi-year development deal with Universal Television, working on adaptation of her Highway 59 series, among other shows. A native of Houston, Texas, Attica lives in Los Angeles, California, with her husband and daughter.

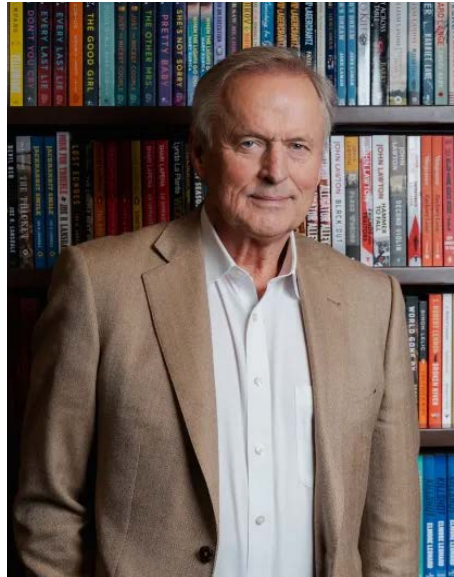
Toastmaster: Robert Dugoni



Robert Dugoni is the *New York Times* and #1 Amazon bestselling author of multiple series, including the Tracy Crosswhite police series, the Charles Jenkins espionage series, and the Keera Duggan legal thriller series and David Sloane legal thriller series. He has sold more than 12 million books worldwide. His stand-alone novel, *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*, was named a Newsweek Favorite Book of All Time and Suspense magazine's 2018 Book of the Year. Robert's narration received an AudioFile Earphones Award. Other best-selling novels include *A Killing on the Hill*, winner of the Silver Falchion award for best historical novel, *The World Played Chess*, the World War II blockbuster, *Hold Strong*, *The 7th Canon*, *Damage Control*, and *The Cyanide Canary*, a 2004 *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year.

Robert is the recipient of the Nancy Pearl Award for Fiction and the Friends of Mystery Spotted Owl Award for Best Novel Set in the Pacific Northwest. He's a two-time finalist for the International Thriller Award, the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction, the Silver Falchion Award for mystery, historical and legal thriller, and the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award. His books have been translated into more than thirty languages and sold in forty countries. Robert lives in the Seattle area.

Lifetime Achievement: John Grisham



John Grisham, born on February 8, 1955, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, is a renowned author and former attorney recognized for his captivating legal thrillers. Grisham's literary career began after his experience as a practicing lawyer inspired him to explore themes of justice and morality through fiction. Before he became a best-selling novelist, Grisham worked in various roles, including as a tax attorney and a Mississippi state legislator, where he served from the early 1980s until 1990. His first novel, *A Time to Kill*, sparked his writing journey, laying the foundation for his enduring success.

Grisham shot to fame with the publication of *The Firm* in 1991, which not only became a staple on The *New York Times* best-seller list but was also adapted into a successful film starring Tom Cruise. This pattern continued with other blockbuster adaptations from his novels, including *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, and *A Time to Kill*. With a commitment to writing at least one book annually, Grisham has penned numerous titles over the years, including *The Runaway Jury*, *Bleachers*, and *The Litigators*, while also exploring other genres like nonfiction and young adult literature.

In addition to his literary accomplishments, John Grisham has maintained a passion for baseball, contributing to his community by overseeing the construction of baseball fields and serving as a Little League commissioner. His philanthropic efforts also extend to various local initiatives, including support for the Oxford American magazine. Grisham's diverse body of work, both in literature and film, has solidified his status as a key figure in contemporary fiction, blending thrilling narratives with insightful commentary on the legal system.

International Guest of Honor: Tana French



Tana French is an Irish writer and actress, known for her psychological mystery novels. She has published multiple bestsellers and is often referred to as the “First Lady of Irish Crime.” French's literary career includes several bestselling novels, particularly her debut, *In the Woods*, published in 2007. This novel won multiple awards, including the Edgar and Anthony Awards for Best First Novel. French's novels are known for their character-driven narratives and atmospheric settings. She often explores themes of friendship, trauma, and the complexities of human relationships. Her writing style blends elements of police procedural and psychological thriller, making her stories both engaging and thought-provoking. She studied acting at Trinity College Dublin and has a background in theatre, film, and voiceover work. She is married and has two daughters, balancing her family life with her successful writing career.

Guest of Honor for Children's Literature: Alan Gratz



Alan Gratz is the bestselling author of more than twenty novels, graphic novels, and novellas for young readers. His 2017 novel *Refugee* has spent more than five years on the New York Times bestseller list, and is the winner of 14 state awards. Its other accolades include the Sydney Taylor Book Award, the National Jewish Book Award, the Cybils Middle Grade Fiction Award, a Charlotte Huck Award Honor, and a Malka Penn Award for Human Rights Honor. *Refugee* was also a Global Read Aloud Book for 2018.

Alan has traveled extensively to talk about his books, appearing at schools and book festivals in 39 states and a half-dozen countries, including Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, and Switzerland, and has been a Writer in Residence at Tokyo's American School in Japan, the James Thurber House in Columbus, Ohio, and the Jakarta Intercultural School in Indonesia.

Alan was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, home of the 1982 World's Fair. After a carefree but humid childhood, Alan attended the University of Tennessee, where he earned a College Scholars degree with a specialization in creative writing, and, later, a Master's degree in English education. A member of the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame, Alan now lives with his family in Portland, Oregon, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly, reading books.

Ghost of Honor: Stephen J. Cannell



Stephen J. Cannell (1941-2010) was a television producer, writer, novelist, actor and the founder of Cannell Entertainment.

Working around, over and through what he calls “jumbled input” from his until later in life undiagnosed dyslexia, the three-time Emmy award-winning writer/producer Cannell created or co-created more than 38 shows, including *The Rockford Files*, *The A-Team*, *21 Jump Street*, *The Commish* and *Wiseguy*.

Peter Roth, president, Warner Bros. Television, says, “He’s actually not only the most talented man that I’ve ever worked with, he’s frankly one of the most prolific writers. He has a facility as a writer unlike any I’ve ever met.”

In 1995, Cannell’s debut novel, *The Plan*, became a national bestseller. He followed that book’s success with more bestsellers.

In 1979, Cannell formed his own production company, Stephen J. Cannell Productions. Seven years later, he formed The Cannell Studios, which excelled in production (films, mini-series, commercials), merchandising, and first-run/off-network programming. Cannell was the recipient of the Mystery Writer’s Award in 1975 and the Monte Carlo Television Markets Showman of the Year Award in 2001.

Media Guest of Honor: Jane Cleland



In *Beat the Bots: An Author's Guide to Surviving and Thriving in the Age of AI*, Jane K. Cleland shares practical exercises to nurture imagination, spark original thinking, and resist creative conformity. Her other books on the craft of writing, *Mastering Suspense, Structure & Plot* and *Mastering Plot Twists* both won the Agatha Award.

Jane has also written fourteen novels in the multiple award-winning Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series (St. Martin's Minotaur, with short fiction published by *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*). The series has been optioned for film and TV.

In addition, Jane is a contributing editor for *Writer's Digest Magazine* and the chair of the Black Orchid Novella Award, presented by the Wolfe Pack in partnership with *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. Jane has served as President of the New York Chapter and Vice President of the Florida chapter of Mystery Writers of America and was on the national board.

Proposed Charity Partner



Since 1980, the Foundation has generated \$225 million in grants and endowments that help the Library expand its collections, offer innovative programs for people of all ages, and upgrade neighborhood libraries. Because of that support, donors provide the funding for roughly 1 in every 4 books in the Library's collection, and the Library is able to offer free programs and events that serve all ages and communities across Seattle. From the Bookmobile to education programs to new furniture at branches, generous individuals and community partners help the Library achieve its vision to inspire imagination and opportunity for everyone. In addition to its fundraising role, the Foundation helps advocate for the public funding necessary to ensure the Library can meet the needs of our Seattle neighbors.

The Foundation holds a 4-Star Rating with Charity Navigator and a GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest possible ratings for both accountability organizations.

Bouchercon Anthology

The 2030 Bouchercon LOC will work to create a high-quality anthology by the same team that produced *The Killing Rain* (anthology for Left Coast Crime 2024) with Jim Thomsen as the creative editor. The call for the anthology will be placed on the 2030 Bouchercon website with the official rules and guidelines with a suitable production schedule shortly after the website is live. We will adhere to the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) Contest Code of Ethics and make the judging process clear on the call page.

Book Room / Principal Bookseller

Consistent with previous Bouchercon conventions, the book room will include a principal retail bookseller (Ridgecrest Books) committed to having on hand an inventory of traditionally published/small and indie press-published authors attending the convention. Arrangements will also be made for self-published authors to consign their books. The Book Room will also include assorted other booksellers and other mystery-adjacent retailers.



Our mission is to be a friendly, neighborhood bookstore with a well-curated selection of diverse reads across all genres; to meet the literary needs of the community with our inventory and events; to provide unmatched customer service with a small staff of dedicated booksellers who can help to carve out literary paths for readers with our combined knowledge and expertise.

Our Services

We offer a range of services to enhance your reading experience, including special orders and personalized recommendations. Our knowledgeable staff are always happy to help you find your next favorite book.

Our Community

At Ridgecrest Books, we believe in the power of community. We regularly host author events, story times and other literary gatherings to bring book lovers together. Join our community and connect with fellow readers.

Proposed Tours and Events



Seattle Underground

The only way to tour the interconnecting tunnels of the world-famous Seattle Underground! A stroll through subterranean storefronts and sidewalks entombed when the city rebuilt on top of itself after the Great Fire of 1889. The guided walking tour begins in a historic bar, then spills into historic Pioneer Square — Seattle's birthplace — before plunging underground for an exclusive, time-capsule view of the buried city.

Noir at the Bar Seattle - Bouchercon edition!

Featuring Bouchercon authors reading from their works and hosted by LOC Committee Member and longtime NatB (at this point) Host Scotti Andrews, NatB Seattle Bouchercon will be held at the historic and haunted Kell's Irish Pub in Pike Place Market.



Seattle Historic Crimes Tour

Travel back in time to learn about Seattle's dark past from the Gold Rush era to the Prohibition years & the birth of Seattle speakeasies through the WWII years and up to the vice era of the 1970s and 80s.



Places to Explore on Your Own

Pike Place Market

The one and only! Full of unique shops, local arts and crafts, casual and fancy restaurants, the best mac n cheese anywhere, and fantastic people watching. Pet Rachel the Pig (and donate to the Pike Place Market Foundation), enjoy local musicians, taste food from around the world, admire the endless rows of fresh flowers, take photos against the gum wall (not too close!), and duck the flying fish!

Stroll Pioneer Square

The birthplace of Seattle and the center of its vice and prohibition eras. Streets of original brick buildings, historic bars (including Central Saloon with live music!), lovely restaurants and buzzing art galleries.

Various Walking Tours of Seattle:

Viator is an easy way to sign up for a walking tour in your interest. Foodie tours, history tours, ghostly tours—we have them all.

Water Taxi

Take the water taxi to West Seattle for good eats and a lovely waterfront walk and a breathtaking view of the downtown Seattle skyline.

Bainbridge Island

Take the Washington State Ferry to Bainbridge Island. Walk up the hill for shops, restaurants, and a bookstore.

Olympic Bar

Enjoy a cocktail at the beautiful historic Olympic Bar in the lobby of the Fairmont Olympic Hotel, just blocks away from the conference site. See if you can find the hidden doorway there to the Founders Room Speakeasy.



Places to Explore on Your Own

Walk the Waterfront

Walk through Pike Place Market and out the back. There is a lovely paved pathway with accessible options to bring you down to the waterfront for a whole new variety of shopping and eating options. Beautiful views, beautiful landscaping, and lots of public art to enjoy.

Visit the biggest Nordstrom store in the world

Founded here in Seattle in 1901, the Nordstrom flagship store is located at 5th and Pine, just a few blocks from the conference site.

Amazon Spheres

Grab a free banana and visit the original Amazon Spheres. Pretty park-like atmosphere, lots of places to sit and people watch, and a myriad of eateries and bars. The Amazon Spheres are a few blocks north of the conference site.

Museums:

Pacific Science Center

Seattle Art Museum

Chihuly Glass Museum

Frye Art Museum

Seattle Asian Art Museum

National Nordic Museum

Museum of Pop Culture (MoPop)

Museum of History and Industry (MoHAI)



Before or After Bouchercon

Hiking in the Cascades

Visit Washington Trails Association at wta.org for suggestions on hikes from a half mile to a full day. See waterfalls, wildlife, and some of the most stunning views in the world.

Snoqualmie Falls

Truly breathtaking, view the falls and visit the legendary Salish Lodge. The falls are about an hour drive from downtown Seattle.

“Twin Peaks” Tour

There are several tour companies offering tours of filming locations from the “Twin Peaks” TV series.

Take a ferry ride to Bainbridge Island

Live out those ferry scenes from “Gray’s Anatomy”! Thirty-five minutes each way and you don’t need a car. Just walk on the ferry from the terminal just west from the hotel. Enjoy the views and maybe catch a glimpse of orcas as you cross Puget Sound. You can walk up the hill from the ferry dock on Bainbridge to the small town of Winslow to shop boutique stores and enjoy craft restaurants. Be sure to stop by the Eagle Harbor Book Company! The return trip to Seattle on the ferry will grant you the best views of the Seattle skyline.

Mount Rainier National Park

Locals will declare fine weather by saying “the mountain is out.” The mountain is big and looks closer than it is. Plan a full day for the shortest of visits to this iconic mountain. Bus tours are an option instead of renting a car.

An Indigenous-Led Cultural Experience on The Salish Sea

Experience the beautiful Salish Sea as you learn about local Indigenous history, culture, and cuisine on this whale watching journey. Enjoy delicious bites from Native entrepreneurs, stories from local elders and knowledge keepers, stunning views, and the chance to spot whales, seals, and other wildlife.



The LOC accepts and wholeheartedly adopts The Bouchercon Code of Conduct and Anti-harassment Policy, as well as The Bouchercon Best Practices Manual. The LOC will require that each registrant agree to and accept the Bouchercon Code of Conduct and Anti-harassment Policy at the time of convention registration. We look forward to hosting crime fiction fans and authors in Seattle for Bouchercon 2030.

Bouchercon is the preeminent mystery conference for fans of *all* mystery genres. Skeddaddle to Seattle will seek input from attending authors for panel ideas and will develop panels incorporating all genres. We will also include a diverse representation of attending authors on panels.