

World Science Fiction Society

Resolutions and Rulings of Continuing Effect

This list is compiled annually by the WSFS Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee, as required by Standing Rule 7.7(1). The committee uses a definition of “likely to continue to have effect for more than a year” as “continuing.” Items appearing with a “BM” in them were motions passed by the Business Meeting while items with a “CH” in them are rulings or opinions of the Chair. Items prefixed “MPC” are resolutions passed by the WSFS Mark Protection Committee. The Mark Protection Committee is a standing committee of WSFS and has its own officers and membership. Where MPC resolutions occur, the officers and membership of the Mark Protection Committee have been listed.

2021 Business Meeting, Washington, DC 79th World Science Fiction Convention DisCon III

Donald E. Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Kent Bloom, Deputy Presiding Officer
Janice Murray, Secretary
Linda Deneroff, Assistant Secretary
Todd Dashoff, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer
Kevin Standlee, Assistant Videographer
Martin Pyne, Floor Manager

BM-2021-01

It is the sense of the WSFS Business Meeting that any site selection ballot that does not contain a Membership Number, Name, Signature, and Address that meets the country of origin’s requirements should be counted as “No Preference.”

CH-2021-02

The presiding officer ruled that a motion to amend a motion is not a speech against the motion. (Appealed and sustained.)

2020 Business Meeting, Wellington, New Zealand
78th World Science Fiction Convention
CoNZealand

Kent Bloom, Presiding Officer
Darusha Wehm, Emergency Holographic Presiding Officer
Cliff Dunn, Deputy Presiding Officer
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Robert McIntosh, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer
Kevin Standlee, Assistant Videographer
Norman Cates and Joel Bryan, Emergency Holographic Videographers
Janice Murphy, Steward

No Resolutions or Rulings of Continuing Effect were made at CoNZealand.

2019 Business Meeting, Dublin, Ireland
77th World Science Fiction Convention
Dublin 2019, An Irish Worldcon

Jesi Lipp, Presiding Officer
Kevin Standlee, Deputy Presiding Officer
Donald E. Eastlake III, Parliamentarian
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Alex Acks, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer
Terry Neill, Anne Davenport & Jo Van Ekeren, Sergeants at Arms
Jared Dashoff, Logistics Liaison

CH-2019-01

The presiding officer ruled that there is nothing in the Standing Rules, Rules of Continuing Effect or Constitution that disallows handouts. There is nothing that makes them debate and, therefore, they are not subject to the rules governing debate.
(Appealed and sustained.)

**2018 Business Meeting, San Jose, California
76th World Science Fiction Convention, Worldcon 76**

Tim Illingworth, Presiding Officer
Jesi Lipp, Deputy Presiding Officer
Donald E. Eastlake III, Parliamentarian
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Paul Dormer, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer
Scott Sanford, Kevin Standlee, Assistants
Terry Neill, Sergeant-at-Arms
Janice Mars, Anne Davenport, Asst. Sergeants at Arms

CH-2018-01

A motion to Suspend the Rules and make a Standing Rule amendment effective immediately was ruled out of order because the effect of doing so would have been to move a deadline applicable to the current Business Meeting into the past.

CH-2018-02

A motion made at the Preliminary Business Meeting to Suspend the Rules and Refer a constitutional amendment to a committee to report to the following year's Worldcon Business Meeting was ruled out of order because doing so would infringe upon the rights of absentees who would reasonably expect that the PBM could kill motions for the current Worldcon, but not refer them to the following Worldcon's Business Meeting. (Appealed and sustained)

CH-2018-03

A motion to direct the Mark Protection Committee to take an action not directly related to the protection or registration of a WSFS service mark or other intellectual property was ruled out of order.

2017 Business Meeting, Helsinki, Finland
75th World Science Fiction Convention, Worldcon 75

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Donald E. Eastlake III, Parliamentarian
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Paul Dormer, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer

BM-2017-01

- Since the rights of Attending Members are explicitly defined (per Constitution Clause 1.5.3) in relation to those of Supporting Members, Supporting members can have no lesser rights to generally distributed publications than Attending members.
- The right of Supporting Members to receive all generally distributed publications (Constitution Clause 1.5.2) must therefore be interpreted as including the same format options (e.g., physical or electronic copy) as are offered to Attending members.
- “Generally distributed publications” should as a minimum be considered to include Progress Reports and the Souvenir Program Book.
- All Members should be able to explicitly specify their preference for receiving printed or electronic pre-con publications (e.g., Progress Reports), in the event that these publications are offered in both formats
- Supporting Members should be able to explicitly specify their preference for receiving a printed Souvenir Program Book
- Worldcons may charge additional fees to Members who choose to receive printed publications, to recover the associated costs. Any such fees should be clearly set out as part of the convention’s bid filing.

CH-2017-01

A ruling by the chair that the convention program guide (pocket program) is one of the printed publications (i.e., “generally distributed publications” in section 1.5.2) was overturned by the meeting.

**2016 Business Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri
74th World Science Fiction Convention, MidAmeriCon II**

Jared Dashoff, Presiding Officer
Tim Illingworth, Deputy Presiding Officer
Donald E. Eastlake III, Parliamentarian
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Lisa Hertel, Timekeeper
Warren Buff, Sergeant at Arms
Colette Fozard, Sergeant at Arms
Michael “MrShirt” McConnell, Sergeant at Arms
Lisa Hayes, Videographer
Kevin Standlee, Asst. Videographer

CH-2016-01

The presiding officer ruled that under the “Nominee Diversity” amendment, we will only tell nominees that multiple works of theirs have been named as finalists, but we won’t tell them that other works of theirs will pop up if they withdraw something.

BM-2016-01

The Business Meeting approved a resolution that the best way to achieve delaying ratification of a proposed amendment would be to

- (a) pass a greater a greater amendment to the item awaiting ratification, if appropriate, or
- (b) add a pair of sunrise and sunset clauses prior to ratification.

These would take the form:

Provided that this amendment shall not come into effect until the close of the 20XX Business Meeting, and

Provided that unless this amendment is re-ratified by the 20XX Business Meeting, this amendment shall be repealed, and

Provided, further, that the question of re-ratification shall be automatically placed on the agenda of the 20XX Business Meeting, with any constitutional amendments awaiting ratification.

2015 Business Meeting, Spokane, Washington
73rd World Science Fiction Convention, Sasquan

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Jared Dashoff, Deputy Presiding Officer
Donald E. Eastlake III, Parliamentarian
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Jesi Pershing, Timekeeper
Joyce Reynolds-Ward, Sergeant at Arms
John McDonald, "Frog" Jones, Asst. Sergeants at Arms
Lisa Hayes, Videographer

CH-2015-01

The information required to be released regarding the Hugo Award vote tallies defined in the Constitution is a minimum, not a maximum, and the Worldcon Committee and Hugo Administration Subcommittee appointed by that committee may, at their sole discretion, release more information than is required by the Constitution. (Appealed and sustained.)

CH-2015-02

When the version of a Constitutional amendment pending ratification appearing in the meeting agenda differs from the version certified by the previous year's Business Meeting officers, the version certified by the previous year's officers takes precedence. (Appealed and sustained.)

CH-2015-03

WSFS Constitution Section 1.5.8 (prohibiting Worldcons from selling memberships with WSFS voting rights for less than the cost of a Supporting membership) has no effect on CH-1990-01 ("there are no age limits on membership in the society"). While a Worldcon may establish discounted memberships that do not include WSFS voting rights, any person of any age holding a class of membership that includes voting rights may exercise those rights.

CH-2015-04

A proposal that would have referred to "the Hugo Subcommittee" was ruled out of order on the grounds that while the Constitution allows the Worldcon Committee to create a Hugo Administration Subcommittee and irrevocably delegate the authority to administer that year's Hugo Awards to that Subcommittee, the Constitution does not require the Worldcon Committee to do so, and therefore any rules relating to actions of a Hugo Administration Subcommittee must be phrased as addressing the Worldcon Committee responsible for those Hugo Awards.

2014 Business Meeting, London, England
72nd World Science Fiction Convention, Loncon 3

Donald E. Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Jill Eastlake, Timekeeper
Jesi Pershing, Assistant Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer

BM-2014-01

The WSFS Business Meeting of the 72nd World Science Fiction Convention recommends that the Mark Protection Committee establish a Worldcon Intellectual Property Trust (“WIPT”) to act as a legal entity for holding title to WSFS’s service marks, such entity to be under the control of the Mark Protection Committee.¹

¹ (2021) The MPC subsequently formed Worldcon Intellectual Property (WIP), a California non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, for this purpose. The word “trust” has a specific legal meaning and cannot be used in a corporate name for this purpose.

2013 Business Meeting, San Antonio, Texas
71st World Science Fiction Convention, LoneStarCon 3

Donald E. Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Seth Breibart, Timekeeper
Theresa Renner, Sergeant at Arms
Lisa Hayes, Videographer
Kent Bloom, Deputy Presiding Officer

CH-2013-01

~~Requests to Withdraw a Motion after the deadline for submitting new business require unanimous consent.~~

[This has been superseded by Standing Rule 2.1.]

CH-2013-02

Motions to extend Hugo Award eligibility, whether for specific works or blanket extensions of classes of works, can be applied to Retrospective Hugo Awards.

CH-2013-03

Business Meeting Committee members may be of any age.
[See [CH-1990-1](#).]

BM-2013-01

In administering [Constitution Section 6.5](#), a ballot should be counted if it has a vote for either the tentative winner or the run-off candidate or for both.

BM-2013-02

The WSFS Business Meeting of the 71st World Science Fiction Convention endorses the activities of the Worldcon Heritage Organization, a non-profit corporation, in its purposes of acquiring, maintaining, storing, and displaying items of interest to the World Science Fiction Society as being for the benefit of WSFS as a whole, and encourages Worldcon committees with surplus to donate some of that surplus to the Worldcon Heritage Organization.

2012 Business Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
70th World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon 7

Donald E. Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Tim Miller, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer

No Resolutions or Rulings of Continuing Effect were made at Chicon 7.

**2011 Business Meeting, Reno, Nevada
69th World Science Fiction Convention, Renovation**

Kent Bloom, Presiding Officer
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Warren Buff, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer

BM-2011-01

The Mark Protection Committee may not adopt membership eligibility requirements for itself or any of its subcommittees that are more stringent than those imposed by the WSFS Constitution.

CH-2011-01

The Chair ruled a resolution imposing a restriction upon the Mark Protection Committee and ordering the Mark Protection Committee to rescind a resolution regarding the committee's subcommittees was out of order on the grounds that "a single BM does not have the authority to countermand the MPC's complete authority under the WSFS Constitution to determine and select its officers and agents." This ruling was appealed and overturned, and the resolution (BM-2011-01) was adopted.

**2010 Business Meeting, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
68th World Science Fiction Convention, AussieCon 4**

Kent Bloom, Presiding Officer
Don A. Timm, Secretary
Robert MacIntosh, Timekeeper

CH-2010-01

~~If the Business Meeting was unable because of zone residency restrictions to elect a member for an open seat on the WSFS Mark Protection Committee, the seat remains open for that year and will be filled by election the following year, as there is no provision to appoint members to fill vacancies in seats that are to be filled by election.~~

[*Inconsistent with [Constitution Section 1.8.3-1.8.4.](#)*]

CH-2010-02

If a person is a member of multiple Worldcons whose members are simultaneously eligible to nominate for the current Hugo Awards, that person may cast only one set of nominations regardless of how many memberships that person holds.

MPC-2010-01

~~Members of the Mark Protection Committee and any of its subcommittees must agree to decline nomination for a Hugo Award presented in a year following a year in which that person served in whole or in part.~~

[*This resolution was rescinded by resolution of the MPC at the 2011 Worldcon after the adoption of [BM-2011-01.](#)*]

MPC-2010-02

The Chairman of the Mark Protection Committee shall be ex officio a member of all subcommittees of the MPC.

MPC-2010-03

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee authorizes Victorian Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. to act as Agent for the MPC in Australia, to investigate options for protecting WSFS's service marks in Australia, and to report to the MPC e-list when practical to do so.

MPC-2010-04

The WSFS Mark Protection Committee authorizes CanSMOF Inc. to act as Agent for the MPC in Canada, to investigate options for protecting WSFS's service marks in Canada, and to report to the MPC e-list when practical to do so.

2009 Business Meeting, Montreal, Quebec 67th World Science Fiction Convention, Anticipation

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Tim Illingworth, Deputy Presiding Officer
Linda Deneroff, Secretary
Jared Dashoff, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Official Videographer

CH-2009-01

In response to the question, “How broadly does WSFS define ‘works originally published outside the U.S.’,” the Chair replied that this is left to the Hugo Administrators.

CH-2009-02

While an Objection to Consideration was pending, a member asked the Chair a technical question about the effect of a proposal. The Chair declined to answer the technical question because an OTC must be resolved without debate or discussion of any sort on the underlying proposal.

CH-2009-03

In response to a question asking if members could vote in advance or by proxy on an issue, the Chair explained that no proxies or other forms of remote voting are permitted at the Business Meeting. Members must be present in person at the Meeting at the time a motion’s vote is called in order to vote on that issue.

CH-2009-04

A constitutional amendment was proposed that would have postponed the effective date of the amendment until three years following its ratification but would also require the business meeting three years hence re-ratify the amendment. This was ruled to be in order as it was adding a special provision to the amendment, consistent with other amendments that have special delayed-action provisions or requirements for a subsequent Business Meeting to revisit the proposal. The chair further ruled that if the subsequent Business Meeting wanted to make changes to an amendment with such a “Sword of Damocles” provision, only changes that narrowed the original proposal’s scope would be permissible.

CH-2009-05

A constitutional amendment was adopted that included a provision that it would automatically “sunset” unless re-ratified in a specific future year. The Chair ruled that re-ratification of the amendment would not be automatically on the agenda of that future Business Meeting, although any member could make such a motion.

BM-2009-01

WSFS convention committees (Worldcons and NASFiCs) are encouraged to be more proactive in marketing their conventions, including having a prominent and positive presence at Dragon*Con, Comic-Con International, and other major events of a

similar nature such as the Chicago and New York Comic Cons; and for non North American Worldcons, similar events where there is potential to attract new book readers to Worldcon.

WSFS convention committees are encouraged to market their conventions to younger book readers who may not be aware of the existence of their conventions by organizing book giveaways and other targeted marketing within their local area.

BM-2009-02

The Business Meeting recommends that future WSFS conventions sell discounted memberships to younger persons.

2008 Business Meeting, Denver, Colorado
66th World Science Fiction Convention, Denvention 3

Donald E Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Kevin Standlee, Deputy Presiding Officer
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Jared Dashoff, Timekeeper
Lisa Hayes, Videographer

CH-2008-01

Recordings of the Business Meeting taken in accordance with [Standing Rule 1.6](#) may be freely distributed without restriction.

CH-2008-02

A motion to Stop Recording ([Standing Rule 5.9](#)) applies only to the individual meeting at which it passes. The motion lapses at the end of that meeting and the next meeting (usually held the following day) starts in open session with recording permitted.

CH-2008-03

The final clause of [Constitution Section 3.11.4](#) (“but not including any candidate receiving fewer than five (5) votes”) applies to the entire sentence (both “fifteen highest vote-getters” and “any other candidate receiving a number of votes equal to at least five percent (5%) of the nomination ballots”).

CH-2008-04

The wording of [Constitution Section 3.11.4](#) does not prohibit the publication of candidates receiving fewer than five votes, but does not require a committee to include such candidates in their required report. Such publication is neither mandatory nor prohibited.

BM-2008-01

WSFS grants permission to the Worldcon Runners’ Guide Editorial Committee to make non-exclusive use of the existing committee materials in its ongoing work.

2007 Business Meeting, Yokohama, Japan
65th World Science Fiction Convention, Nippon2007

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Donald E Eastlake III, Deputy Presiding Officer/Timekeeper
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Lisa Hayes, William J Keaton, John P. Maizels, Tech Support

CH-2007-01

When committees present financial reports, members may ask questions related to those financial reports; however, committees are not obliged to answer such questions.

CH-2007-02

If a Worldcon has a reportable surplus and transfers that surplus to another committee within the same corporate entity, the committee receiving the transfer must continue to report on this surplus as part of the committee's [Constitution Section 2.9](#) obligation.

BM-2007-01

The Business Meeting instructed the Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee to remind all seated Worldcon committees at regular intervals of the existence of the Long List Committee and of a standard list of past Worldcons and Hugo Awards, and that Worldcon committees are encouraged to obtain these lists from the Long List Committee for use in their publications.

2006 Business Meeting, Anaheim, California 64th World Science Fiction Convention, L.A.con IV

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Donald E Eastlake III, Deputy Presiding Officer
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Deb Geisler, Timekeeper
Bill Parker, William Keaton, Tech Support
Glenn Glazer, Sandra Childress, Microphone Runners

CH-2006-01

Short videos published on internet sites such as youtube.com are valid means of “presenting” or publishing a work as defined in the WSFS Constitution.

CH-2006-02

The motion for the Previous Question is in order after debate time expires, on the grounds that it has an effect beyond that of ending debate (it shuts off the making of lower-ranking subsidiary motions), and that the intent of [Standing Rule 5.5](#) is to avoid wasting debate time, not to prohibit a motion that shuts off subsidiary motions.

CH-2006-03

A provision of a constitutional amendment that allows for the amendment’s repeal in a single year under limited circumstances is in order. Adding such a provision to a constitutional amendment at the ratification stage is in order and does not constitute an increase in the amendment’s scope.

CH-2006-04

A resolution taking a stance on the decision to “demote” Pluto from the list of “true planets” was ruled to be in order. A point of order that the motion was *ultra vires* was referred to the assembly by the Chair and ruled not well taken by a vote of the meeting.

BM-2006-01

The Business Meeting requests that future Worldcon Committees encourage persons casting Hugo Award nominating ballots for Best Professional Artist be more proactive in citing current work by the nominated artists by doing the following:

1. Include sufficient space on the Hugo Nominating Ballot for Best Professional Artist for a nominator to submit at least one reference to a work by each nominated artist. Failure to provide such references shall not invalidate a nomination.

2. When the Worldcon Committee notifies nominees of their nomination, request that each artist provide references to three (3) or more pieces of artwork that the nominated artist believes best represents his or her work first published that year, along with permission to cite those works on the convention's web site and/or final Award ballot. Failure to provide such references or permission shall not invalidate a nomination.
3. Make references to such pieces cited in item (2) above available on the convention's web site and/or on the final Award ballot. Failure to provide such references shall not invalidate the final Award ballot.

2005 Business Meeting, Glasgow, Scotland
63rdWorld Science Fiction Convention, Interaction

Tim Illingworth, Presiding Officer
Donald E Eastlake III, Deputy Presiding Officer
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Gary Feldbaum, Timekeeper

CH-2005-01

Standing Rules that are associated with constitutional amendments do not come into effect until the associated Constitutional Amendments are ratified.

CH-2005-02

When a constitutional amendment is up for ratification it is in order to replace that amendment by a resolution of the Business Meeting, and such substitution automatically defeats the ratification of the constitutional amendment.

BM-2005-01

The Business Meeting requests that Hugo Administrators publicize the list of works published by Best Editor nominees. The Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee is directed to remind each year's Hugo Administrator of this request in a timely manner.

**2004 Business Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
62nd World Science Fiction Convention, Noreascon 4**

Donald E Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Tim Illingworth, Deputy Presiding Officer
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Alexis Layton, Timekeeper
Spencer J Love, Lisa Hayes, Tech Support

CH-2004-01

The Chair ruled that debate time suggestions longer than the expected length of the business meeting were frivolous and out of order.²

² (2021) The Standing Rules now provide for an upper limit of 30 minutes.

2003 Business Meeting, Toronto, Ontario
61st World Science Fiction Convention, Torcon 3

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Donald E Eastlake III, Deputy Presiding Officer
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Clint Budd, Timekeeper
William J Keaton, Glenn Glazer, Tech Support

CH-2003-1

The Chair ruled that the Business Meeting does not have direct jurisdiction over the Campbell Award.

CH-2003-2

The Chair ruled that conventions should report on any unspent funds from seed money for cons.

CH-2003-3

The Chair ruled that a motion to refer a report to the 1939 Worldcon Business Meeting was frivolous and dilatory as creating indefinite time loops is a bad idea.

**2002 Business Meeting, San José, California
60th World Science Fiction Convention, ConJose**

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Kent Bloom, Deputy Presiding Officer
Patrick McMurray (Standing in for Cheryl Morgan), Secretary
Seth Breidbart, Timekeeper
Paul Kraus, Tim Szczesuil, William J Keaton, Tech Support

BM-2002-1

Future Worldcon financial reports submitted after that Worldcon is over should only contain reportable balances, not income unattributable to that Worldcon such as interest or other activities.

CH-2002-1

The Chair ruled that a Preliminary Business Meeting can pass a resolution expressing an opinion as to the future legality of a foreshadowed motion that cannot be legally introduced at the Preliminary Business Meeting. (Appealed and sustained.) The Chair further ruled that such a resolution would not be legally binding upon the Chair.

CH-2002-2

The Chair ruled that a blanket eligibility extension applies to dramatic presentations as well as written works. The word “published” as used in the Hugo Awards definitions should be interpreted in its technical sense under copyright law.

CH-2002-3

[Deleted as incompatible with Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.]

CH-2002-4

The Chair ruled that amendments to the Constitution become part of the Constitution at the moment of ratification, although they generally do not take effect until later; therefore, they are subject to amendment as any other part of the Constitution.

2001 Business Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
59th World Science Fiction Convention, The Millenium Philcon

Donald E. Eastlake III, Chairman
Kevin Standlee, Parliamentarian & Deputy Presiding Officer
Bridget Boyle, Timekeeper
'Zanne Labonville, Emergency Holographic Timekeeper
Cheryl Morgan, Secretary

BM-2001-1

Resolved, The NP&FS is directed to remind each future Worldcon, early and often, that the WSFS Business Meeting believes that membership badges be readable, with members' names printed in no less than 24-point type.

BM-2001-2

Resolved, to establish a committee to study the history of Worldcons and to produce a standard list of Worldcon and Hugo Award historical information, with Bruce Pelz as chair, and the chair authorized to appoint additional members.

CH-2001-1

The Chair ruled that the Business Meeting could create standing committees *of the Business Meeting* by standing rule, but could create standing committees of WSFS only by constitutional amendment.

CH-2001-2

The Chair ruled that it is right and proper for the Business Meeting to ask to know how excess funds remaining after a Worldcon are disbursed. It is not sufficient for the Worldcon to simply report that the funds have been transferred to another body for disbursement.

CH-2001-3

The Chairman ruled that the Standing Rules can only cover the conduct of the Business Meeting and may not be used to impose requirements upon Worldcons.

**2000 Business Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
58th World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon 2000.**

Donald E. Eastlake III, Chairman
Kevin Standlee, Parliamentarian & Deputy Presiding Officer
'Zanne Labonville, Timekeeper
Robert Sacks (standing in for Patrick McMurray), Secretary
Cheryl Morgan, Emergency Holographic Secretary

BM-2000-1

Resolved, that the proper formatting of the WSFS Constitution is as follows:

1. The WSFS Constitution is divided into a number of Articles, which are numbered in Arabic numerals, thus: 1, 2, 3, 4,
2. Each Article is divided into a number of Sections, which are numbered with their Article and Section number in Legal format in Arabic numerals, thus: 1.1, 1.2, Each Section has a title relevant to its contents.
3. Each Section may be divided into subsections, which are numbered with their Article, Section and subsection number in Legal format in Arabic numerals, thus: 1.5.1, 1.5.2, Subsections do not have titles.
4. Enumerated lists of items are numbered with their sequence number in Arabic numerals enclosed in parentheses, thus: (1), (2),
5. Constitution Sections should be arranged in approximately chronological order within articles, as should subsections within Sections, and items within lists.

BM-2000-2

Resolved, to encourage Worldcons who tape their sessions to make copies available to the Worldcon history exhibit.

CH-2000-1

The Chairman ruled that the definition of a "signature" (as per the Hugo voting rules) was a matter for individual Hugo Award committees.

1999 Business Meeting, Melbourne, Australia
57th World Science Fiction Convention, Aussiecon Three

Jack Herman, Chairman
'Zanne Labonville, Timekeeper
Patrick McMurray, Secretary

No Resolutions or Rulings of Continuing Effect were made at Aussiecon III.

1998 Business Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
56th World Science Fiction Convention, BucConer

Tim Illingworth, Chairman
Don Eastlake, Deputy Presiding Officer
Kevin Standlee (standing in for Kathy Westhead), Timekeeper
Patrick McMurray, Secretary
Robbie Bourget, Master-at-Arms

CH-1998-1

The Chairman ruled that it was in order to nominate sitting [appointed] members of the Mark Protection Committee for election to the Mark Protection Committee.

1997 Business Meeting, San Antonio, Texas
55th World Science Fiction Convention, LoneStarCon 2

Donald E. Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
Kevin Standlee, Secretary
'Zanne Labonville, Timekeeper

CH-1997-1

The Chair ruled that the Business Meeting could create “recognized publications” (as contemplated in the motion being debated) by resolution.

1996 Business Meeting, Anaheim, California
54th World Science Fiction Convention, L.A.con III

Donald E. Eastlake III, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Kevin Standlee, Parliamentarian and Deputy Presiding Officer
'Zanne Labonville, Timekeeper.

No Resolutions or Rulings of continuing Effect were made at L.A.Con III.

1995 Business Meeting, Glasgow, Scotland

53rd World Science Fiction Convention, Intersection

Kevin Standlee, Presiding Officer
Tim Illingworth, Deputy Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Gary Feldbaum, Timekeeper

BM-1995-1

It is the sense of WSFS that it is inappropriate for a Worldcon Committee to gather additional demographic data on the site-selection and/or the Hugo Award ballots beyond that which is required by the WSFS Constitution, or useful for the efficient administration of the balloting.

CH-1995-1

Balloting is necessary, unless the rules are suspended, even if the number of Mark Protection Committee nominees is the same as the number of seats to fill, since write-ins are allowed.

CH-1995-2

It is out of order, unless the rules are suspended, to change an existing working group to a committee.

CH-1995-3

It is out of order to amend a motion so as to simply undo an amendment previous[ly] adopted at the same session; however, the motion to Reconsider may be available.

CH-1995-4

In response to an inquiry as to the meaning of “published in advance” in rules related to the Business Meeting published in advance by the Worldcon Committee, the Chair ruled that such rules would have to be printed with the official documents, and not included by reference, although a reference could be made to an existing parliamentary manual.

CH-1995-5

The Chair ruled that the Standing Rules do bind the Worldcon Committee.

CH-1995-6

Persons casting site-selection ballots by mail may change their vote as long as practical until the tallying begins.³

³ (2021) It was pointed out at the 1996 Business Meeting that CH-1995-6 meant it was appropriate to allow a change, not that it was required.

**1994 Business Meeting, Winnipeg, Manitoba
52ndWorld Science Fiction Convention, ConAdian**

Donald Eastlake, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Kevin Standlee, Parliamentarian
Rick Katze, Timekeeper

BM-1994-1

WSFS Electronic Archives

Resolved, the Committee on Motions of Continuing Effect is hereby requested to maintain a list of sites that volunteer to keep public electronic archives of WSFS-related material. Worldcons are requested to transmit to such sites a copy of the current WSFS Constitution, Standing Rules, Business Passed On, and Business Meeting Minutes whenever new versions are available for distribution. The Committee on Motions of Continuing Effect is also requested to transmit to those same sites a copy of its report on such motions and any other reports deemed appropriate for general distribution. Materials made available electronically are not to contain personal information such as mail address or phone number without the express consent of the individual whose information is to be contained therein.⁴

BM-1994-2

Resolved, that WSFS strongly encourages prospective Hugo categories to be tested before being submitted to the WSFS Business Meeting.

⁴ (2021) This responsibility was subsequently transferred to the Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee after the NP&FSC was created as a standing committee of the Business Meeting.

1993 Business Meeting, San Francisco, California
51st World Science Fiction Convention, ConFrancisco

John Lorentz, Presiding Officer
David Levine, Secretary
Kevin Standlee, Parliamentarian
Rick Katze / Jeff Canfield, Timekeepers

CH-1993-1

[Incorporated in Standing Rule 4.3.]

CH-1993-2

A motion to take the vote on an Objection to Consideration by written ballot was ruled to be in order.

CH-1993-3

A motion which referred to the place of residence of a named individual was ruled to be in order.

CH-1993-4

A suggestion of 50 years as the debate limit for a motion was ruled to be dilatory.⁵

CH-1993-5

The Chair ruled that a Constitutional provision beginning with the word “Provided” and affecting only one year would automatically disappear from the Constitution after that year.

⁵ (2021) The Standing Rules now provide for an upper limit of 30 minutes.

1992 Business Meeting, Orlando, Florida

50th World Science Fiction Convention, MagiCon

Bruce Pelz, Presiding Officer
Ben Yalow, Parliamentarian
George Flynn, Secretary
Kevin Standlee, Timekeeper

BM-1992-1

The Mark Protection Committee is directed to investigate the possibility of protecting the Hugo rocket symbol and, if in its judgement the protection is worthwhile, to begin the process of protecting it.

BM-1992-2

The Mark Protection Committee is directed to use its judgement in selecting which marks to protect in which countries to achieve maximum protection with available resources.

BM-1992-3

The Mark Protection Committee is authorized to negotiate royalties for commercial use of WSFS marks.

BM-1992-4

It was the sense of the meeting that all (unofficial) site-selection results should be posted as soon as they are known. It was noted that future Worldcons could not be bound in this respect.

CH-1992-1

Ruled that if “None of the Above” wins the NASFiC balloting and the decision goes to the Business Meeting, the Business Meeting cannot choose “None of the Above”.⁶

CH-1992-2

Ruled in connection with use of the WSFS marks that

- (1) use by Worldcon and bidding committees is not commercial use,
- (2) a blurb of “Hugo Winner” on a book’s cover would not count as commercial use but a book like *The Hugo Award Winners* would be, and
- (3) T-shirts produced for a Worldcon by an outside vendor would be commercial use.

⁶ (2021) The Constitution now provides that if “None of the Above” wins, there is no NASFiC that year.

1991 Business Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
49th World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon V

Ross Pavlac, Presiding Officer
Bruce Pelz, Assistant Presiding Officer
Yale F. Edeiken, Parliamentarian
Theresa Renner, Staff Sergeant-at-Arms
Richard S. Russell, Secretary
Kevin Standlee, Timekeeper

BM-1991-1

(right after the Vote Count from Hell) *Resolved*, That the Business Meeting recommends that all future Worldcons adopt the practice of validating site-selection ballots as they are received, rather than after site-selection balloting closes.

CH-1991-1

Ruled that an Objection to Consideration is still in order, after debate on the time set for a motion, if debate has not touched on the substance of the motion.

CH-1991-2

After a tie vote which did not include the podium staff, an attempt was made to add the podium staff votes. A point of order was raised that all who wish to vote must do so at the same time (except that the chair should generally refrain from voting but may then add their single vote if it affects the outcome). This point of order was found to be well taken.

CH-1991-3

An objection was raised that the chair should not try to influence the vote while voting is taking place. The chair agreed.

**1990 Business Meeting, The Hague, The Netherlands
48th World Science Fiction Convention, ConFiction**

Bruce Pelz, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Ben Yalow, Parliamentarian
Rick Katze, Timekeeper

CH-1990-1

A point of order was raised against a motion because the seconder was eleven years old. The chair ruled that the point of order was not well taken as there are no age limits on membership in the society.

1989 Business Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
47th World Science Fiction Convention, Noreascon 3

Donald Eastlake, Presiding Officer
Bruce Pelz, Deputy Presiding Officer
Kent Bloom, Secretary
Rick Katze, Timekeeper
Theresa Renner, Sergeant-at-Arms

CH-1989-1

The chair ruled that any amendment to the Constitution imposing additional financial reporting requirements would not apply to a Worldcon held before the requirement went into effect.

**1988 Business Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana
46th World Science Fiction Convention, Nolacon II**

Bruce E. Pelz, Presiding Officer
Elayne F. Pelz, Secretary
Ben Yalow, Parliamentarian

BM-1988-1

Every Worldcon Committee is requested to include the following additional notice in each of its publications: The World Science Fiction Society and the World Science Fiction Convention are not related to "World SF, The International Association of Science Fiction Professionals."

BM-1988-2

The Business Meeting endorses the proposal that a Worldcon Procedures Guide be created, as discussed in *The Mad 3 Party*.

1987 Business Meeting, Brighton, England
45th World Science Fiction Convention, Conspiracy '87

Tim Stannard, Presiding Officer
Tim Illingworth, Secretary
Ben Yalow, Parliamentarian

CH-1987-1

The chair ruled that a quorum need not be present to hear reports.

1986 Business Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia
44th World Science Fiction Convention, ConFederation

Bruce E. Pelz, Presiding Officer
Elayne F. Pelz, Secretary
Ben Yalow, Parliamentarian

BM-1986-1

[Superseded by [BM-1988-1.](#)]

BM-1986-2

All Worldcon and NASFiC Committees are encouraged to financially support the Mark Registration and Protection Committee.

1985 Business Meeting, Melbourne, Victoria
43rd World Science Fiction Convention, Aussiecon Two

Jack Herman, Presiding Officer
Kent Bloom, Secretary
Donald Eastlake, Parliamentarian

BM-1985-1

It is the sense of the Business Meeting that the name of “World SF, The International Association of Science Fiction Professionals”, does not infringe on any proper trademark of WSFS.

BM-1985-2

A Committee (to be convened by George Flynn) is requested to (i) compile and maintain a list of resolutions adopted by the Business Meeting which are still in effect, (ii) send copies of this list to each Worldcon, and (iii) make copies available to members of the Society on request.

NOTE: As originally proposed, the Standing Committee was to perform this task. Mr Flynn had not agreed to do this, and the task was taken on by Mr Eastlake.

CH-1985-1

The chair directed that the Mark Registration and Protection Committee should respond to requests for lists of Hugo winners provided that the use of service marks is noted.

1984 Business Meeting, Anaheim, California
42nd World Science Fiction Convention, L.A.con II

Ross Pavlac, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
George Scithers, Parliamentarian
Bob Hillis, Timekeeper

BM-1984-1

The Mark Registration and Protection Committee should be directed concerning pursuit of registration for particular marks only by resolution of the Business Meeting.

BM-1984-2

(a) The current Worldcon Committee should be neutral between committees bidding for future Worldcons. It should not request or accept money or supplies from any one bidding committee without making equivalent opportunity available to any competing committee(s).

(b) This resolution shall not preclude any individual member of a Worldcon Committee from offering his or her services, funds, or supplies to a bidding committee.

(c) This resolution shall not preclude the current Worldcon Committee from accepting the services of a bidding committee or its members, nor shall it preclude a bidding committee from offering services or merchandise to members of a Worldcon.

CH-1984-1

[Action performed.]

CH-1984-2

[Action performed.]

CH-1984-3

A motion to refer a site-selection rotation zone plan to the United Nations was ruled out of order.

CH-1984-4

[Incorporated in the *Constitution, Section 4.6.*]

1983 Business Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
41st World Science Fiction Convention, ConStellation

Kent Bloom, Presiding Officer
Mary Morman, Secretary

CH-1983-1

A Constitutional amendment was up for ratification which divided a Hugo category into two new categories. A motion was made to delete one of the new categories. The chair ruled that this was permissible at the ratification stage and that further ratification the following year would not be needed if the change were adopted. The ruling of the chair was appealed, and the assembly overruled the chair, deciding that such a deletion was out of order at the ratification stage in this case.

CH-1983-2

A Constitutional amendment up for ratification was reworded with more neutral language but with no change in meaning. A point of order was raised that this would require it to be ratified again in changed form the following year. The chair ruled this point of order was not well taken

1982 Business Meeting, Chicago, Illinois 40th World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon IV

Donald Eastlake, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Rick Katze, Counsel
Leslie Turek, Timekeeper
Paula Lieberman, Sergeant-at-Arms

BM-1982-1

Whereas recent Worldcons have had, and future Worldcons can expect to have, significant excess funds following the close of the convention;

And whereas there has been considerable debate and discussion in the past about the appropriate uses for these funds;

And whereas there are many organizations that would be worthy recipients of such funds;

And whereas it is difficult to choose which of the many worthy organizations should receive said funds;

Be it resolved that the following organizations are considered by the World Science Fiction Society to be among those worthy to receive donations:

- a. recognized fan charities, such as TAFF, DUFF, GUFF, TOFF and the FAAn Awards;
- b. established national fan organizations, such as the NFFF and the Fantasy Artists Network;
- c. PBS, NPR, and their local affiliates, for the production and/or sponsorship of science fiction programming; and
- d. future Worldcon committees.

NOTE: The above motion as originally proposed also listed “Small, established regional conventions;”, “Established local fan organizations, especially IRS code 501(c)3-recognized not-for-profit organizations;”, and “Local public libraries, for improvements to their science fiction collections;”. These were specifically deleted from the list of acceptable recipients by vote of the Business Meeting.

CH-1982-1

[Incorporated in the Constitution, Section 6.3.]

CH-1982-2

The chair ruled that when the procedure of filling a blank is used to determine debate time limits at a Business Meeting, voting should start with the longest time period and proceed to shorter time periods until one obtains a majority.

CH-1982-3

The chair ruled that the opinions of the Business Meeting chair as to the meaning of Hugo category definitions are not binding on future Worldcons.

CH-1982-4

A motion was introduced that would direct future Worldcons supervising site selection to disqualify any bid that used hotels from a particular chain as the main convention hotel until certain conditions were met. The chair ruled the motion out of order on the grounds that requirements for bidding are specified in the WSFS Constitution and additional criteria cannot be imposed without amending the Constitution.

CH-1982-5

A motion to amend the Standing Rules to impose additional criteria for NASFIC bidders to appear on the ballot was ruled out of order by the chair on the grounds that bidding criteria are specified by the Constitution and any additional criteria can only be imposed by Constitutional amendment. (The ruling of the chair was appealed and the chair was sustained by vote of the assembly.)

CH-1982-6

The chair ruled that actual personal signatures are not required on motions submitted in writing as long as the makers of the motion are identified.

CH-1982-7

The chair ruled that “generally available” means you can get it if you want it, not that there have to be copies for everyone who *might* want it.

1981 Business Meeting, Denver, Colorado
39th World Science Fiction Convention, Denvention Two

Donald Eastlake, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Rick Katze, Sergeant-at-Arms
Bob Hillis, Timekeeper

CH-1981-1

The chair ruled that the term “publications” includes everything sent to all members, and also flyers, etc.

1980 Business Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts
38th World Science Fiction Convention, Noreascon Two

Donald Eastlake, Presiding Officer
George Flynn, Secretary
Mike Lalor, Sergeant-at-Arms
Bob Hillis, Timekeeper

CH-1980-1

[Incorporated in Standing Rule 1.1.]

CH-1980-2

The chair ruled that in the case of the adoption of an entire new Constitution for WSFS, general amendments would be in order at the time of ratification.

CH-1980-3

[Incorporated in the Constitution, Section 3.8.]

CH-1980-4

A motion was introduced to authorize a named individual to select and publish a series of “retrospective Hugos” for the years 1926 through 1951. A point of order was raised that, in light of the WSFS Constitution provisions prohibiting extending the *name* to any award other than that awarded by the mechanism provided in the Constitution, this would require a Constitutional amendment. The chair ruled that this point of order was well taken.

CH-1980-5

The chair ruled that allegations of misconduct involving a non-Hugo award administered by a Worldcon are not WSFS Business. (The ruling of the chair was appealed and the chair was sustained by a vote of 20-1.)

NOTE: 1980 was the first Business Meeting at which a special committee to register and protect the WSFS marks was created. This committee was continued from year to year until a constitutional amendment was adopted in 1982 and ratified in 1983 giving these duties to the Standing Committee. The composition of the Standing Committee was identical to that of the Board of Directors in a new Constitution being considered in those years (see note after BM-1978-01). A further constitutional amendment passed in 1985 and ratified in 1986 changed the name of the committee to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee. A further amendment passed in 1990 and ratified in 1991 simplified the name to the Mark Protection Committee.

1979 Business Meeting, Brighton, England
37th World Science Fiction Convention, Seacon '79

Donald Eastlake, Presiding Officer
Rick Katze, Secretary

NOTE: The written notes of the Secretary and a tape recording of the Business Meeting were both destroyed in an apartment fire before they could be transcribed or distributed. Thus no minutes exist for this Business Meeting. A note of actions has however been prepared based on Ben Yalow's surviving copy of the Agenda for the Main Meeting, together with his notes.

1978 Business Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona 36th World Science Fiction Convention, IguanaCon II

Bob Hillis, Presiding Officer
Donald Eastlake, Secretary
Jack Speer, Parliamentarian
Mike Lalor, Timekeeper

BM-1978-1

A permanent body, the World Science Fiction Society, Incorporated (WSFS, Inc.) should be established, independent of any Worldcon Committee, whose members will be the members of the current and upcoming Worldcons. The Board of Directors of WSFS, Inc. should be selected by the members of the Society and by current and recent Worldcon Committees.

WSFS, Inc. should be responsible for the administering of voting for selection of the Hugos and the sites of future Worldcons. No change should be made in either Hugos or site selection as a result of the establishment of WSFS, Inc. except as necessary to administer the voting.

In cases of a Worldcon Committee becoming unable to properly manage its designated Convention, either because of internal collapse or misconduct, then, after investigations and due process, the Board of Directors should have the right to remove the name "World Science Fiction Convention" and the awarding of the Hugos, site selection and the holding of the Society's Business Meeting from the control of the guilty Committee and to award them to another responsible group.

NOTE: As initially passed, this resolution also continued a WSFS Constitution Drafting Committee that had been set up even earlier. This committee existed for a number of years, being chaired by various fans at various times. Ultimately it came up with a full Draft Constitution, a large part of which were debated and perfected at a WSFS Business Meeting. Finally, at the 1983 (??1982) WSFS Business Meeting, a report of the committee was received and the committee dismissed with thanks but no further steps were taken to perfect or adopt the new Constitution. While no steps are being taken to put the above resolution into effect, nothing has ever been done to repeal or contradict it either.

NOTE: At the 1988 Business Meeting a motion to repeal resolution BM-1978-1 was introduced and defeated.

NOTE: The 1978 Business Meeting was the one at which the first set of permanent Standing Rules for the Governance of the WSFS Business Meeting, as provided in the Constitution, were adopted.

**1977 Business Meeting, Miami Beach, Florida
35th World Science Fiction Convention, SunCon**

Bob Hillis, Presiding Officer
Larry Smith, Secretary

CH-1977-1

The Convention Chairman asserted a right to co-preside at the Business Meeting without replacing the Presiding Officer.

CH-1977-2

The chair ruled that an Objection to Consideration could not be made unless good reasons for the objection were given. The ruling of the chair was appealed, and the chair was overruled.

NOTE: Minutes are not available for the 1977 Business Meeting. The above is based on notes made by Bob Hillis after consultation with Larry Smith

1976 Business Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri 34th World Science Fiction Convention, MidAmeriCon

Bob Hillis, Presiding Officer
Larry Smith, Secretary
George Scithers, Parliamentarian

CH-1976-1

Immediately after calling the meeting to order, the Presiding Officer asked for and received a unanimous vote to the effect that the Constitution printed in program book was invalid and that a document distributed to the Business Meeting was the valid current Constitution with a set of pending amendments as passed in 1975 at Aussiecon. (A minor correction was later made, after researching the original language passed in 1972 at LACon I, in the wording of the separate eligibility of the English language translation of a work originally published in a language other than English.)

NOTE: Previous practice was to incorporate all changes in the text with the understanding that the change was not binding on the next Worldcon unless it wished to observe this. Considerable confusion resulted. In addition, there had been attempts to adopt major changes at DisCon II in 1974 and Aussiecon in 1975 while bypassing the one-year delay. Bill Brown had ruled that changes made at DisCon II needed to be ratified but changes at Aussiecon went into effect immediately.

CH-1976-2

The chair ruled that amendments could be offered to constitutional amendments pending ratification provided that the proposed change would constitute a lesser change from the existing Constitution than the original language passed the previous year.

NOTE: This Business Meeting adopted a set of Standing Rules, asserting its authority over its own procedures, but these were not yet provided for in the Constitution.

NOTE: Minutes are not available for the 1976 Business Meeting. The above is based on notes made by Bob Hillis after consultation with Larry Smith.