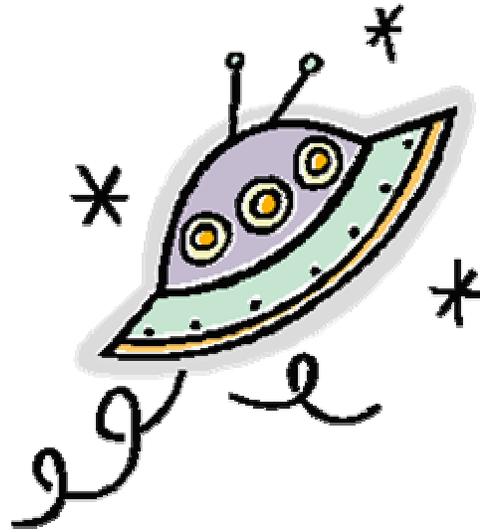


SMOFCon 23

Progress Report #2



Expecting the Unexpected
Expecting the Unexpected
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Expecting the Unexpected
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Welcome Ladies, Gentlemen, Fellow Fans,
Alien Life Forms, and Not-So-Secret but
clearly Masters of Fandom to

The Second SMOFCon 23 Progress Report.

First, a few words from the Chair:

Expecting the Unexpected!?!

We are ready for anything! (I hope)

SMOFCon 23 is very grateful to San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, Southern Calif. Institute for Fan Interests, and Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee for granting monies to help fund our guest speaker Tyra Hilliard.

Have fun and smof till you drop!

David Schaber

SMOFCon 23 Committee

David Schaber - Chair
John Lorentz - Treasurer
Ruth Sachter - Registration
Debra Stansbury - Hospitality
Sharon Sbarsky - Publications
Patty Wells - Program
David Levine - Web Page
Linda Pilcher – Progress Reports

Programming

Patty Wells

“‘Expecting the Unexpected’ is our theme and Patty Wells, convention programmer, is determined make this true. Through her tireless efforts, SMOFCon 23 will have the distinct pleasure of a Tyra Hilliard presentation. For those of you who are in the know in the meeting planning world, her name will be quickly and favorably recognized, for those of you who are not, well, be prepared for the unexpected!” – your editor

Why a guest speaker for a SMOFCon? Normally con runners with expertise come to train other con runners.

Good question. It was a new thought for me too. I have done the program for a few SMOFCons before and never felt the need for an outside speaker. However, my perspective is different this year.

Orycon and our gaming con, Game Storm, lost the hotel we'd been in for well over a decade. I ended up taking point on hotel search and negotiation. This meant I spoke to a dozen hotels in the spring and gathered as much information on contracts as I could. It had been a few years since I had done this, and it became glaringly obvious to me that the chains are moving towards having more non-negotiable legal language and the financial consequences of some of the language that was presented to me are becoming higher all the time. There are very few professional meeting planners within fandom. And even the most skilled among those are in Ms. Hilliard's unique position of helping to plan the standards for contracts for years to come.

Ms. Hilliard's professional background and experiences add to the theme of Expecting the Unexpected as she delivers an interactive presentation that explains some attrition, cancellation, and force majeure language, including how to recognize bad contract language.

Tyra Hilliard is first rate and very well respected in the industry. She's also quite interested in how much we do as volunteer meeting planners. Even if you never plan to negotiate a contract, if you work on cons you need to know how difficult it can be to navigate through contracts and what we as convention planners are looking at in the future.

You will be impressed, I guarantee you.

SMOFCon is very grateful to San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions (SFSFC), Southern Calif. Institute for Fan Interests (SCIFI) and Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC) for granting monies to help fund this speaker. In addition, we are grateful to Tyra Hilliard for waiving her normal speaker's fee.



TYRA W. HILLIARD, J.D., CMP is an associate professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, teaching courses in meeting and event management, including Meetings Law and Risk Management for Events. Tyra is a frequent contributor to meeting industry magazines, does customized training in the area of legal and risk management for meeting and event managers, and enjoys facilitating educational programs at industry group meetings. Tyra is currently the Chair of the Convention Industry Council's APEX Contracts Panel and Chair of the Professional Convention Management Association's Council on Education. She was named "One of the 25 Most Influential People in the Meetings Industry" by Meeting News magazine in 2004. Prior to embarking on a career in meetings education, Tyra worked in the meetings industry as an attorney, an association meeting planner, a catering manager, and a convention and visitors bureau sales manager. Her industry experience allows her to address the legal and business aspects of meeting planning from the very different perspectives of the hotel, the meeting planner, and the law.

Interested in finding out more about Ms. Hilliard or some of the organizations she works with? Check out the following websites:

<http://www.mpiweb.org/>

http://www.mpiweb.org/education/wec/speaker_win.asp?id=240482

<http://www.conventionindustry.org>

http://www.conventionindustry.org/aboutcic/pr/pr_030105.htm

<http://www.gwu.edu/~npm/faculty.cfm>

http://www.meetingnews.com/meetingnews/search/search_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000576630

<http://www.ises.com/newsletters/05Apr.cfm>

http://www.corbinball.com/articles_legal/index.cfm?fuseaction=cor_ArticleView&artid=507§ionCode=art_legal

<http://www.iccaworld.com/dbs/9congress/dyncat.cfm?catid=777>

OUR HOTEL

John Lorentz

Our hotel, the Red Lion Hotel Portland - Convention Center is located in the heart of Portland's Lloyd District in the core of the city. Along with being across the street from the Oregon Convention Center (and the Convention Center light rail station), the Red Lion is within walking distance of numerous restaurants and the (large) Lloyd Center shopping center. The facility is located within Portland's "Fareless Square", a free bus & light rail zone that also includes Portland's downtown shopping district (as well as Powell's City of Books*). The room rate is just \$69/night (plus tax).



Red Lion Portland Convention Center 1021 NE Grand

In the recently renovated facility, each room includes free wireless Internet service, a refrigerator and coffeemaker. Many of the rooms have flat panel televisions, and the Hospitality Suite looks great.

Getting to the Hotel

The hotel is easily accessible by all forms of transportation:

By Auto:

From I-5, take the Lloyd Center/Convention Center exit (#302A), go east on Weidler (4-6 blocks), turn right on MLK. The hotel will be on your left four blocks later.

From I-84 westbound: Take the I-5 North exit and follow the signs to "Convention Center" as I-84 ends at I-5. Turn right when the street ends at Holladay, and then right on MLK. The hotel is on your left in the next block. Alternatively, take the Lloyd Center exit (#1), continue straight on Lloyd and turn right on Grand. The hotel will be on your left in about six blocks.

Parking is available at the hotel for \$4 a night, on the street (parking meters) and at several other parking lots nearby, all of which are charging \$5 a day for evenings and weekends.

By bus or light rail:

The hotel is across the street from the Convention Center light rail ("MAX") station, and is about three blocks east of the Rose Quarter transit station. Additionally, several buses run from the transit center to Lloyd Center, passing within a block of the hotel, and the #6 "Martin Luther King Blvd" line runs directly by the hotel.

By air:

By far, the easiest way to travel from Portland International Airport to the hotel is via the "MAX Red Line" light rail line. The airport station is adjacent to the baggage claim area, on the south side of the terminal. Tickets may be purchased from machines at the station—the cost is \$1.80. You'll need an "AZ" (All Zone) ticket. **Keep your ticket—not only is it your proof of purchase, but the hotel will reimburse you the cost of the ticket when you check in and will give you a free return ticket to the airport!** The trip from the airport to the hotel takes approximately 26 minutes and you won't need to make any transfers.

Making a Reservation

It should now be possible to make a reservation at the convention rate via the hotel web site:

- Go to “<http://redlion.rdln.com/Reservations/MakeReservation.aspx>”.
- Scroll down to **Room block & group reservation**, at the bottom of the page.
- Select your check-in and check-out dates.
- Enter the group block number **SMOF1128**.
- Select the hotel **Red Lion Hotel Portland Convention Center**.
- Click **Find room block rates**.

If this doesn't work, you can phone or fax your reservations to the hotel (be sure to ask for the SMOFCon rate by using the “SMOF1128” code).

Phone: 800-343-1822 or 503-235-2100

Fax: 503-238-0132

Room block & group reservation

To book a room that is part of a pre-reserved room block, please enter your dates, group code and the hotel where your group is staying.

Check-in: Check-out:

Number of nights:

Group block number:

Hotel:

- Red Lion Hotel Portland Convention Center
- Red Lion Hotel Portland Convention Center
- Red Lion Hotel Redding
- Red Lion Hotel Richland Hanford House
- Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
- Red Lion Hotel Salem
- Red Lion Hotel Salt Lake Downtown
- Red Lion Hotel Seattle Airport
- Red Lion Hotel Seattle South at Boeing Field
- Red Lion Hotel Silverdale
- Red Lion Hotel Tacoma
- Red Lion Hotel Wenatchee

Annotations:

- Red box around check-in and check-out date fields with arrow pointing to "Select your dates here".
- Red box around group block number field with arrow pointing to "Group Block number goes here".
- Red box around the selected hotel in the dropdown menu with arrow pointing to "Hotel choice right here".

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SMOFCon 23 Registration

Ruth Sachter

RATES

Our current rates are \$55.00 through October 31, 2005, and \$70.00 for the rest of pre-registration and at-the-door. Supporting membership is \$25.00 at all times. The OSFCI member \$5.00 discount applies pre-con only.

Mailed memberships should be received by November 21, 2005. After that please use the online membership (preferably before November 30, 2005) or buy your membership at con. If you're sure you're coming and will be paying for your membership at the door, feel free to email SMOFConpdx@gmail.com to let us know. It's so easy to print the nice big badges in advance.

Badges will have name and geographic information. If anyone wants a convention or organization name, or email or web address, please let me know by sending email with the subject line - Badge Info.

There's the traditional pay-by-mail option for sending checks or money orders which should be made payable to SMOFCON 23.

On the credit/debit card side, we have a link on the site for PayPal transactions - Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express. You do not need to have a PayPal account, or to create an account, in order to purchase SMOFCON 23 memberships.

We do not have off-line credit card processing so please do not send your credit card information by mail.

Make all checks/money orders payable to SMOFCON 23 and mail to

SMOFCON 23

PO Box 5703

Portland OR 97228-5703

SMOFConpdx@gmail.com

503-283-0802 - Info/reg

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Prov.

Zip/Postal:

Country:

Email:

Phone:

Are you interested in being on program? May we list your name in print & web lists?

Please note, if you plan on buying up your membership when you arrive, we will not be able to accept bank cards at registration at-con. (Although you can always make use of the free wireless Internet connection at the hotel make the payment via PayPal.) While 'expecting the unexpected' is the theme, accepted payment methods should not be included in the unexpected.

SMOFCON 23 MEMBERS as of OCTOBER 22, 2005

Kimm Antell	Dave McCarty
Bobbi Armbruster	Christian McGuire
Margaret Austin	Robert J. MacIntosh
Renee Babcock	Karen Meschke
Margene Bahm	Craig Miller
Stephanie L. Bannon (S)	Patrick Molloy
Kurt Baty	Mary Morman
Judy Bemis	Liz Mortensen
Gary S. Blog	Jim Murray
Kent Bloom	Michael Nelson
Stephen Boucher	Priscilla Olson
Seth Breidbart	Mark L. Olson
Elaine Brennan	Bill Parker
James M. Briggs	Tony Edwin Parker
Kimberlee Marks Brown	Elayne Pelz
Roberta L. Carlson	Linda Pilcher
Sandra Lynn Childress	Michael Pins
Linda Deneroff	Gary I Plumlee
Gay Ellen Dennett	Jan Price
Vincent J. Docherty	Susan Robinson
James Stanley Daugherty	Sue Renhard
Kathryn Daugherty	SWOC 1
Martin Easterbrook	SWOC 2
Darrel L. Exline/The ConFurence Group (S)	Ruth Sachter
Pam Fremon	John T. Sapienza
David Evans	Peggy Rae Sapienza
Naomi Fisher	Sharon Sbarsky
Crickett Fox	Dave Schaber
David Gallaher	Marah Searle-Kovacevic
Deb Geisler	Ariel Shattan
Janice Gelb	Kevin Standlee
Glenn Glazer	Guest of Kevin Standlee
Don Glover	Ian E. Stockdale
Marc Gordon	Geri Sullivan
Ed Green	Becky Thomson
Hal Haag	Suzanne Tompkins
Shouichi Hachiya	Alexander von Thorn
Jack Heneghan	Barbara VanTilburg
Mark Herrup	Tom Veal
Mike Higashi	Ren, Walling
Craige Howlett	William Warriner
Jerry Kaufman	Marc Wells
Elsbeth Kovar	Patty Wells
Grant Kruger	Roger Wells
Milton Le	Tom Whitmore
Ruth Leibig	Sally Woehrle
David Levine	Ben Yalow
Mark A. Linneman	Kate Yule
David Lohkamp	Scott Zrubek
John Lorentz	