

Annual Meeting

From 2018-12-02T18:00:38Z to 2018-12-02T23:09:19Z

Held via Slack, with 36 Members in attendance

Call to order and proxies

Agenda items

LCC8 Debrief (Joey, Jeffrey, Sai)

New Web Team (Jeffrey)

Parliamentarian Election

Membership Manager transition (Jamin, Zeke)

Preliminary planning for Annual Members' Meeting (Joey)

Grant Requests

Patrick Gaston

James Johnson

Adjournment

Call to order and proxies

Meeting called to order by Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets at 18:00 UTC.

Were present during the meeting:

- Alexander Hailman
- Carmine Ceraolo
- Tim Smith
- James Noel
- Bettina Beinhoff
- BenJamin Johnson
- Kaye Boesme
- Joey Windsor with Donna Lillian's proxy
- Grayson Richardson
- kechpaja
- Lisa Weiflbach
- Veronica Hamilton
- Jackson Bradley

- Brian Bourque
- Arnt Richard Johansen
- Tony Harris with Jim Hopkins' proxy
- Sascha Baer
- David Peterson with proxies for John Quijada and Sylvia Sotomayor.
- Jan van Steenberg
- Fendl
- Carla Weigel
- Rowan Stephenson
- Enrique Gamez
- Alexis Hugelmann
- David Sicé
- Jeffrey Brown
- Alex G Igbineweka
- Kaleissin
- Rasmus Praestholm
- Connie Dachshund
- Sai
- Tobias Fernandez

For a total of 36, with a quorum of 32.

Agenda items

Establishment of quorum

Quorum established by Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets at 18:04 UTC.

Call for Agenda Items

Agenda items called for at 18:07 by Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets presented at 18:07 by Joey Windsor.

Officers' Reports

Kicked off at 18:16 by Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets and starting with the President's Report.

● President's Report (Christophe)

Reflected on the past two years including the role of the LCS in the Axanar case and the growth in popularity of both conlanging in general and the LCS in particular.

Announced that he would not be seeking reelection as president.

Announced that a new president selected a few weeks prior by election of the board: Joey Windsor

Congratulated Joey.

● Vice-President's Report (Jan)

Explained why he had decided not to seek election as president of the LCS.

Explained the role he planned to play as Joey's Vice-President.

Handled six new Jobs Board listings. Reflected on a new price list for the Jobs Board listings and clarification over the terms "full conlang" and "conlang sketch" reached by the board prior to the meeting:

* Naming language (\$100)

* Conlang sketch (\$200)

* Basic conlang (\$400)

* Full conlang (\$800)

Announcement of the role he played as representative of the LCS and the conlanging community in Catalonia at the Linguapax/Faber residency & conference, dedicated to "linguistic diversity"

● Secretary (Tobias)

Reported that the task had not brought too much trouble, apart from an absence of an automated system to provide voting ID's to the LCS's 160+ members.

Said that there would be such an automated system for the 2019 Annual Meeting.

- **Treasurer (Jeffrey)**

Announced that the Annual Reports could be found on the LCS website at these addresses:

<https://conlang.org/lcs-documents/>

<http://conlang.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Financial-Report-2017-1.pdf>

Fielded various questions on the Annual Reports.

Staff reports

- **Membership (Jamin)**

Presented the current membership report in form of PDF:

https://conlang-org.slack.com/files/U6VJCR5J6/FEJP57YA2/membership_report_2018.pdf

Total of 154 current members, excluding members who only renewed in the 20 hours leading up to the Annual Meeting.

Pointed out an accidental over-reporting of previous year's membership numbers that was corrected for the current report.

- **Library (Tony)**

Introduced himself as the new librarian, explaining that Sylvia Sotomayor had resigned on September 13th from the position. He accepted the role on September 27th and subsequently received the entirety of the LCS's library on October 9th and October 10th with no issues to speak of.

Explained that this process had led to a temporary hiatus in the operations of the library but that following a migration of

the website to another domain, the library would indeed reopen by the end of January 2019.

● Sys Admin (Tim (proxy = Jeffrey))

Sai was away from their keyboard and so the Jeffrey, proxying from Tim Stoffel, presented the report from the IT dept.

-Year started with Tony stepping down from IT management and Veronica Hamilton and Tim Stoffel taking on the role.

-LCS website was moved from Dreamhost to a VPS in order to increase website performance.

-Veronica dropped off the IT team, replaced by Sea Chapman.

-Website was migrated to the new Divi-based theme. This went well.

-No major changes anticipated for 2019.

-Report on the state of the LCS's master website:

-8 domains

-157 subdomains

-128 registered users

-56 mailboxes

-21 maillists

-115 databases

-uses about 45.5 GB of data across 3 servers.

Sea discussed her experience during the process of redesigning the site.

● Webmaster (Sea)

Sai temporarily unavailable and so Sea segued into her report.

Spoke on her experience redesigning the website: General goal was to streamline and render it user-friendly. Generally positive and grateful to have been able to have received help from Jeffrey Brown, Tony Harris, Tim Stoffel, and Tobias Fernandez throughout the process.

Called on LCS members to provide photos of their conlangs to complement/replace existing stock photos on the website.

Announcement of Board elections (Tobias)

Tobias Fernandez {2018-12-02T19:08:26Z} :

Tobias presented the results of the board elections held prior to the meeting by online voting. There were 46 votes (above the quorum of 32)

Joseph Windsor: 45 approved, 1 Rejected, 0 Abstained.

Gray Richardson: 43 Approved, 0 Rejected, 3 Abstained

Billy Jaime Beltran: 39 Approved, 3 Rejected, 4 Abstained

Zeke Fordsmender: 45 Approved, 1 Rejected, 0 Abstained

Introduced the three write-ins:

Jan Havliö

Padraic Brown

Jackson Bradley

Call to second any of the write-in candidates. No seconds.

LCC8 (Joey &or Bettina)

While trying to resolve the write-in names for Director positions and as Sai caught up, Joey Windsor quickly pivoted the focus of the meeting to LCC8, reiterating that Bettina Beinhoff was the local organizer of the conference to be held at Anglia Ruskin University. He invited Bettina to tell members more about the forthcoming LCC8 from a local host perspective. Bettina confirmed that LCC8, scheduled for the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of June 2019, would be held with the theme of 'Conlangs in Science Fiction and Fantasy' (in the widest sense). Expressed hope to organize a panel to discuss this theme. Talks, posters, presentations on this theme and anything conlang-related were very welcomed. Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is located in the city centre of Cambridge (UK) and within easy reach of national and international transport links. It's also within walking distance to all major sights in Cambridge.

Joey and Bettina fielded questions regarding presentation formats and the planned video recordings/livestreams of the conference.

Jeffrey Brown requested anyone with professional video experience to get into contact with him.

● Parliamentarian (Sai)

Discussed work they had done with help from Dentons on creating a contract template for professional conlang gigs. Fielded questions on this matter. Unable to enter into too much detail due to legal privilege.

Zazzle store (Jeffrey)

Reported that two managers took over the unused Zazzle Store with intentions to revamp. One dropped out and Ty Nakama agreed to stay for 6 months in order to train new volunteers. There was no response to a call for new volunteers made by email.

Jeffrey asked if any of those present would be interested in volunteering. Ezekiel H. Fordsmender volunteered.

Members' benefits (Joey)

Joey began a conversation about creating a resource page to expand what the LCS can do for its members (within reason). Leading up to this meeting, he was asked by Prof. Alex to include two items for discussion:

1. A resources page (beyond how to conlang), looking for financial resources for people wishing

to present, publish, or engage in conlanging.

2. *Conlang University*

- a. Prof. Alex proposed that the LCS reach out to people teaching university courses and offer some materials, and perhaps an LCS-certified endorsement of these syllabi.

Throwing the ball into the member's court, Joey also encouraged general discussion and debate about members' benefits in general. Tony Harris brought up the possibility of Open Educational Resources. Some members expressed a desire to get "local chapters" up and running. Some believed the LCS couldn't do much to help local groups, while others, such as Bethany Toma felt that the LCS could help by way of advertising.

Discussion on whether the Jobs Board should be open only to members (Joey & Jan)

At 19:58, Joey Windsor opened a discussion on whether or not to make applying for jobs posted on the jobs board to members only or leave it open to everyone regardless of membership. David Peterson gave some historical context of the jobs board's inception (namely, to provide minimums and prevent conlangers from outbidding one another, offering to do more for less.) The jobs board was also originally made accessible to everyone, not just conlangers or LCS members. Some felt that it was only fair that the jobs board be available only a benefit to members. Others felt that walling off the board to members only was unfair and unnecessary gatekeeping. There was also some discussion started by Kaleissin about compiling a list of past jobs so as to showcase members' exploits. Sai pointed out the difficulties of such a list due to on-going NDA's.

While on the topic of the Jobs Board, Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets announced that a new job had just been posted and encouraged members to go take a look when they had chance.

Jim Henry proposed a compromise. Jobs could be initially posted to Slack then, after an appropriate delay, be made public to the general public on the LCS Website's Jobs Board page. The period of 10 days seemed appropriate to some members.

Jeffrey Brown, among others, thought that this was an adequate solution, however Jan van Steenbergem objected to the use of Slack, since it was not an application he or many others used on a regular basis. Carmine Ceraolo argued that the Mailing List was much more appropriate as a venue. However, this too proved problematic, since not all Mailing List participants are current members. kechpaja asked if the Board could tag everyone when a new job is posted since, again, not everyone leaves Slack open all the time.

POLL CREATED {2018-12-02T20:14:52Z} : *Slack Jobs channel for members only before listing goes public*

Choice 1 --> Yes

Choice 1: Sascha Baer, Arnt Richard Johansen, Bettina Beinhoff, Brian Bourque, Carmine Ceraolo, Rasmus Praestholm, David Peterson, Ezekiel H. Fordsmender, Fehnl, Tony Harris, Joey Windsor, BenJamin Johnson, Jim Henry, kechpaja, Lisa Weiflbach, Enrique Gamez, Rowan Stephenson, Scott Scharlach, Tobias Fernandez, Bethany E. Toma, Tim Smith, Veronica Hamilton

Choice 2 --> No

Jan van Steenberg, Alexis Hugelmann, Sai,

Choice 3 --> Abstain

Billy J.B, Grayson Richardson, BenJamin Johnson, Jeffrey Brown, Kaleissin, Tobias Fernandez

Motion passed. Publication on Slack with a 10-day waiting period before being published onto the main site approved.

Other suggestions

David Peterson made a proposal regarding the selection process for LCC9 onward, suggesting that the LCC should move the decision process from the board to the LCS membership itself. He drew a comparison with the model of World Science-Fiction Society, which allows its members to choose the location. This proposal was met with concern from Sascha Baer, whose concern was that members might choose whichever venue was closest to them, which might mean a North American monopoly on LCC. BenJamin Johnson pointed out that membership was currently split in a way that might make such a situation likely: North America: 107, Europe: 44, Australia/NZ: 3, South America: 2, Africa: 1, Asia: 1. No vote on the matter brought forward.

Members' forum

Brief exchange between kechpaja and Kaleissin, hoping to get a conlanger group to meet up at WorldCon.

Adjournment

Meeting closed by Joseph Windsor on 2019-12-02 at 23:09