

Annual Meeting

From 2019-10-19T18:56:45Z to

Held via Slack, with 39 Members in attendance

Call to order and proxies

Meeting called to order by Joey Windsor at 18:56 UTC.

Were present during the meeting:

- • Tony Harris proxying for Jim Hopkins
- • Jackson Bradley
- • Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets
- • Sylvia Sotomayor
- • Patrick Niedzielski
- • Alison Long
- • Tim Smith
- • Tobias Fernandez
- • Sea Chapman
- • Enrique Gamez
- • Bethany E. Toma
- • Brian Bourque
- • kechpaja
- • Rob Cabe
- • Lisa Weiflbach
- • Ezekial H. Fordsmender

- • Bryan Casas
- • BenJamin Johnson proxying for Margaret Ransdell-Green, Padraic Brown, and Britton Watkins
- • Rasmus Praestholm
- • Alexander Hailman
- • Rowan Stephenson
- • Jacob Menschel
- • Alexis Hugelman
- • David Peterson proxying for Jeff Jones and Doug Ball
- • Sai
- • David Sicé
- • Scott Scharlach
- • Jan van Steenbergen
- • Joey Windsor proxying for Donna Lillian and Murdoch Macleod
- • Jeffrey Brown proxying for Tim Stoffel
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For a total of 39, with a quorum of 39.

Establishment of quorum

Quorum established by Joey Windsor at 19:06 UTC.

Call for Agenda Items

Agenda items called for at 19:07 by Joey Windsor.

Tony Harris called for discussion on what to do about overdue library books.

Officers' Reports

Kicked off at 19:10 by Joey Windsor starting with the President's Report.

● President's Report (Joey Windsor)

Reflection on a successful LCC in Cambridge, UK, hosted by Bettina Beinhoff at Anglia Ruskin University, which was one of the most successful LCC to date. Thanked all volunteers who provided assistance to ensure that the conference was successful.

Demographic survey was conducted at the LCC8 and some of those results are posted:

"How did you hear about the LCC?"

- o LCS website
- o Word of mouth
- o Redit
- o Facebook
- o Conlangery
- o Youtube (specifically: DJP's channel)
- o Academic program announcement
- o Conlang-L email list
- o Twitter

Demographics (n=62): Rough counts based on volunteered show-of-hand information

First time attendees: 36

Newly members: 13

Existing members: 30

Age:

<18: 3 18-25: 19 26-30: 12 31-40: 10 >40: 16

Sex:

F: 15 M: 37 O: 7

Other questions asked:

- o Lithuanians: (was one, but was not present for survey)
- o Musically inclined: 22
- o Left-handed: 8
- o LGBTQ+: 32
- o Non-English L1: 27."

Discussed future locations for LCC and what criteria the Board considers, such as ensuring that the locale is a safe location for all members. More member input was sought by David Peterson.

Joey drafted a proposal for a scholarship to provide funding for conlang-related projects, which was approved by the Board.

Joey also listed some initiatives of his going forward: 1. Conlang survey, 2. Creating terms of reference for non-academic LCS financial support (grants), 3. Trouble-shooting the LCC streaming equipment we purchased to try to make LCC9 run smoother., 4. Thanks to another idea of David Peterson's, whatg would be required for LCS to have a publishing house specifically for conlang(-related) materials? On this last item, Sea offered her expertise.

● Vice President (Jan van Steenberg)

Jan gave a report on the Linguapax/Faber project of last November (2018) in Catalonia. He finished a long article (20k words), which was to be published in a special congress edition. It still has not yet been published, due to personnel changes in Linguapax. It should come out soon.

Staff reports

● Secretary (Tobias)

Tobias has been in better health and more able to perform secretarial duties. He has also started a lot of new conlang-related projects which he will soon share with the community.

● Treasurer (Jeffrey Brown)

Jeffrey's report included PDFs.

- (1) 2018 Financial Report
- (2) LCC Financial Report
- (3) Third Quarter 2019 Balances

These reports can be found on the LCS website.

Overall, the LCS financial situation in 2019 was healthy. Jeffrey is investing cash instead of letting it lie in the bank.

Questions were fielded from the members and directors and answered by the Treasurer.

● Fiat Lingua (David Peterson)

David reports that Fiat Lingua is going strong and is awash in material. Bradley Jackson asked if more issues would be published more frequently. David said we could do some kind of omnibus publication. People like the idea of having a physical book version of material from Fiat Lingua.

● Webmaster (Jeffrey Brown + Sea Chapman)

Jeffrey is meant to be working together with Sea Chapman on the website, but he had missed her reaching out to him. However, he is still willing to start working with her as needed.

Sea's report is as follows:

"The LCS websites were redesigned at the end of October 2018. I owe so much thanks to Jeffrey Brown, Tony Harris, Tim, and Tobias Fernandez for their assistance in making the site redesign happen.

- "Due to how the original (and very complex) Language Creation Society website was put together, the LCS currently has three websites: the main <<http://conlang.org>|conlang.org> website (<<https://conlang.org>>); the jobs board site (<<https://jobs.conlang.org>>); and the lending library site (<<https://lending-library.conlang.org>>). These sites are meant to mirror each other in appearance and general layout, but they are set up, run, and function independently of each other for the time being.

- "The overall design of each site and their respective pages is constantly a work in progress and improvement. Changes may take some time due to the nature of volunteer work and the sheer volume of content to be organized, and because the majority of changes must be approved by an LCS officer or director (or the whole LCS Board) in advance.

1. "This year had a rough start for the webmaster team. Most of the delays to updates on the site were due to my own unavailability as a result of school, work, and family commitments. I owe all of you a huge apology for that. I have deliberately made more time in my schedule over the last few months to dedicate to LCS website work. We are also very fortunate that Tim and

Maria volunteered to join the webmaster team to expand our capabilities, spread out the responsibilities, and improve response time.

2. “The updates to the LCS site leading up to the 8th Language Creation Conference were, all things considered, successful. We had several pages added for the conference, and a lot of information to share on each of those pages. We are especially thankful to Joey Windsor, Jeffrey Brown, Bettina Beinhoff, and Oliver Mayuex, as well as all of the amazing LCC8 speakers and presenters, for making the LCC8 site updates as detailed and helpful as they were. Those LCC8 pages have since been consolidated and archived under the Language Creation Conference section of the main <<http://conlang.org>> site. The LCC8 live stream videos have been added to the archived LCC8 page, too. (We are also working on adding the livestream and other videos from other Language Creation Conferences to their respective pages on the main LCS website.)

3. “The webmaster team is currently working on improving the buttons and layout of the membership pages on the main <<http://conlang.org>> site, thanks to input from Zeke Fordsmender, and several others. We will be looking at revamping some of the branding and aesthetics and improving user experience, usability, and information design on all the LCS websites, too, over the coming months.

4. “As Jeffrey Brown already mentioned, we moved the core of the main LCS website (<<https://conlang.org>>) to a faster server on Dreamhost. We are also updating some of the security features on the site to improve safety, stability, and performance.

5. We are still working on gathering together enough content to create a slideshow featuring members' conlangs on the main LCS website. While we've had a few people respond over the last year with photos, illustrations, audio, and video, and we are very, very grateful for those beautiful, fun, and interesting submissions, we still need more content to prevent the slideshow from feeling like only three or four conlangers are being showcased. Please submit your images and other conlang-y files to webmaster@conlang.org with the subject line "LCS slideshow." We will be in touch with those who submit content about cropping images or editing down audio/video as needed.

6. And finally, the webmaster team does need to update the jobs board site with a list of all jobs that have been filled this year for posterity's sake. We'll only be sharing the PDFs (email addresses will be removed).”

● Membership (Ezekiel Fordsmender)

Ezekiel has newly taken over this role. Membership is now at about 190, which is an all-time high, especially after the last LCC. We have more student members and younger members than ever before.

● Librarian (Tony Harris)

Tony has moved the library site to its own separate site at <https://lending-library.conlang.org>. Thanks to Sylvia for running it all before and to Sea for branding the new site.

“Borrowings this year: 5 members made use of the library, including one who has done three borrowings! All books from this year's borrowers have been returned.

Total postage cost: \$26.13

We purchased 5 new books this year, bringing our total collection (including overdue books) to 274. Total cost of new books: \$164.09

We have 7 extremely overdue books, one year to 5 years overdue. I will try one more time to reach out to those who borrowed the books but have not returned them, but it's likely I'll have to simply repurchase the books to have them back in our available collection. Replacement cost for all 7 would be \$306.11. Of that, two books are \$164.05 by themselves. We do not currently have any policy for censoring those who do not return books to the library."

Announcement of Board elections

- Announcement of results pending time for members to vote

Jackson Bradley was voted in as a director.

New Agenda Items

- Announcement of New LCS Scholarship

Joey Windsor announced the approval of a new LCS scholarship.

- Announcement of new position of Vice-Treasurer

Jeffrey and Joey note the existence of a new position of Vice-Treasurer that is now open for applicants.

- Jobs Board

Discussion of how conlang jobs are to be posted. Last year it was decided that conlang jobs would be posted a Jobs board (members-only forum) for 10 days

before being posted generally to the LCS website. This forum will be on Slack. Some members, however, are not fans of Slack as a platform. Some prefer the listserv. Christophe mentioned that the problem with the listserv is there is no way to ensure members of that are members of LCS in good standing. Sea mentioned she could make it so that members must log in to the site to see jobs before they go public. Tobias put forth that we could post jobs to reddit or otherwise outside of the LCS domains. Jeffrey mentioned we can send a message to the listserv every time a new job is posted on the Slack board, so those who don't regularly use Slack or get notifications from it can check it out if needed.

As a tangentially related topic, kechpaja mentioned how there is no current automated system in place to ensure members are still in good standing, but that someone could probably write a script to do this. Various other possibilities to fix this were also floated.

● Selection process for LCC sites

David Peterson brought up that the Board's power to select from an increasing number of LCC location proposals is a power that has the potential for abuse. He urges further input from membership be taken in the future decision processes for LCC site selection. He proposed some guidelines for location selection as well, taken from how the World Science-Fiction Society operates their conventions. Having a member vote, however, would end up placing the majority of LCCs in the US, since we have a US-majority membership.

There was a motion to table this issue to discuss later via email, but it was defeated. Thus the proposal was voted on. The proposal by David Peterson was worded as follows:

“PROPOSED: In deciding future LCC locations, the board shall solicit proposals and determine their eligibility, as well as determines the ticket cost of each eligible bid. The membership will vote on each eligible proposal, with the member vote determining the winner. Details for how this is to be carried out will be left to further discussion, so long as the roles as stipulated here are maintained.”

Including proxy votes, 7 were against, 17 for, and 14 abstained. It did not pass since it did not garner 50% +1 of the votes.

A decision was made to discuss this overall issue in more detail at an hour went people were less tired and more cogent.

Members' forum

Members' forum discussions were conducted outside of the main Members' Meeting Slack channel.

Adjournment

Meeting closed by Joey Windsor ay 21:20 UTC.