



# THE F.A.C.T. SHEET

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## NEW FACT BOARD & OFFICERS

FACT held its annual meeting on March 11. We had a good turnout. Thank you also to everyone who could not attend but who mailed in a ballot or arranged for a proxy. If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting, but would like to get more involved, please attend the ArmadilloCon planning meeting on March 31 or one of the regular monthly Board meetings.

The 2007-2008 FACT Board includes: Aaron Allston, Elizabeth Burton (Secretary), Jennifer Juday (Publications), Brian Price (Chairman), Charles Siros (Quartermaster), J.P. Sugarbroad (Treasurer), and C. Dan Tolliver (Historian). Officers include: Sara Cooper (Registrar), Mona Lisa Martinez (Convention Event Coordinator), Willie Siros (President) and Lynn Ward (Social Director for San Antonio). The new Board also confirmed a Public Relations Liaison and a Social Director for Austin. We still await these individuals' confirmation of acceptance, so they are not listed.

## ARMADILLOCON 29 PLANNING MEETING

ArmadilloCon 29 is fast approaching! The dates are August 10-12. Chair Renee Babcock will be holding a planning meeting on Saturday, March 31,

12 noon, at her place. **Please come!** For directions or more information, please send a message to [rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net).

Also, be sure to **register now** for the low, low advance rate -- **just \$25 until March 25**. You can register online by going to the spiffy new web page at [www.fact.org/dillo](http://www.fact.org/dillo). As usual, ArmadilloCon will offer a fabulous set of guests: Guest of Honor Louise Marley, Artist Guest of Honor Gary Lippincott, Editor Guest of Honor Sharyn November, Fan Guest of Honor Patty Wells, and Toastmaster Howard Waldrop.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

**All FACT members are invited to all of these events!**

Mar. 31, 12 noon: **ArmadilloCon 29 Planning Meeting** at Renee Babcock's place: [rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net)

Apr. 2, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Learning the World* by Ken MacLeod. Details: A.T. Campbell, III Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

Apr. 8, 2-4 PM: **FACT Board Meeting**, at the home of chairman Brian Price (802 Chiselpoint Cove, Round Rock, TX 78681).

**All members invited!**

Apr. 17, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *A Princess of Roumania* by Paul Park. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

## INSTACON SCHOLARSHIPS

The FACT board has approved \$450 to be awarded in grants to FACT members wishing to attend InstaCon 6. InstaCon is a convention designed to help people hold successful cons. InstaCon runs April 13-15 and is located in Fort Worth. Convention information is expected to be posted at [www.alamo-sf.org](http://www.alamo-sf.org). Grant applications should include:

1. The name(s) and e-mail address(es) of the applicant(s).
2. An explanation of why you believe FACT should award you a grant to attend InstaCon.
3. The amount you are requesting, including a justification of costs.

Applications must be received on or before March 18th at the e-mail address below. You will receive a confirmation by email when your application is received. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact J.P. Sugarbroad at taralx@gmail.com.

## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN**

*By Outgoing Chair Renee Babcock*

Dear FACT, as I leave the Board, I wanted to update all of you on the year that we have had.

As you know, it has been both a challenging and a successful year for FACT. We lost three members this year: Judith Ward (FACT President and Director), Robert Reedy (*FACT Sheet* editor) and most recently, Tom Morin. I would like to thank Brian Price for agreeing to step in to complete Judith's term as President, A. T. Campbell, III, for completing Judith's term on the Board of Directors, and Jennifer Juday for stepping in as *FACT Sheet* editor. Despite these losses, we have gained a few new members.

The Reading Group continues to be one of our most important outreach efforts. As such, I'd like to see the Reading Group find a single public location for its meetings. I think it's difficult at best to get new members to come when we are meeting in a private home, and at two different locations each month. Recently the Reading Group met at a library, which was quite successful. I'd like to see the Reading Group explore the possibility further of having all their future meetings in either that library, or another public location.

Gaming is also an important and fun outreach effort, and we have gotten several new, active members into FACT as a result. I think it would be a good idea for FACT to perhaps advertise the monthly gaming in some of the local gaming shops.

We were able to get several active new members from the San Antonio area. It would be nice, in the future, to have more opportunities in the San Antonio area, which can be facilitated by having active FACT members in that region.

Kudos to the Registrar and Treasurer this past year for their effort to send out postcards reminding FACT members of the expiration of their membership. This has been a simple, yet highly effective method of retaining our current membership, and I expect this will continue in the future.

As many of you know, we ran two very successful conventions this past year: ArmadilloCon 28 in

August, and the 2006 World Fantasy Convention in November, and I would like to thank all of you who worked on either (or both in many cases!) of these conventions. The feedback from WFC was very positive, and one WFC board member told me that he thought many people would remember our WFC fondly. I suspect that if, in the future, FACT were to consider another WFC, the reception from the WFC board would generally be positive.

I would like to close with some cautions for the future.

We need for more of you to please take an active role in FACT. It is easy to let those who are actively participating continue to do so, but this can create a lot of problems, including member burn out (which can lead to members not wishing to be active any longer). There are many different ways to get involved, and the time commitment does not need to be great. Actively participating can be as simple as volunteering for a few hours at ArmadilloCon and runs the gamut up to becoming an officer or director on the board.

Finally, although FACT has had a fiscally successful year this year, we should look at new ways of bringing in revenue for the future. The more money we are able to bring in, the more programming we will be able to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you on the Board for these past two years. Together, we can make FACT an even stronger organization than it is. I look forward to the upcoming year with our new Board that has just been elected.

## **FACT PARTY AT CONDFW**

*By Mona Lisa Martinez*

ConDFW was held the weekend of February twenty-third to the twenty-fifth and ArmadilloCon was there with a room party! There were about half a dozen other room parties going on the same night and even a scavenger hunt. SoonerCon was there along with favorites ApolloCon and FenCon. Still, FACT's party did well and had a very nice turn out.

I had help with the party. Back at ArmadilloCon, I had met UT student Daniel Krawisz, who, like me, is a gamer. We stayed in touch by instant messenger. When ConDFW came up, I had an extra membership and offered it to him as long as he'd help me with the party.

The ArmadilloCon room party felt like old home week, with many of our attendees being from Austin and San Antonio! Several writers stopped by, too, including Lee Killough, who was in from Kansas City. A few of the guests that came to the party already

had memberships to ArmadilloCon. Everybody left with a pop and a flyer for ArmadilloCon. The party wound down at about twelve thirty. The next morning I donated our leftovers to ConDFW's con suite. They were very grateful to receive them, especially the soda.

I hope next year's ConDFW is as good as this one. I found it an intelligent and very entertaining con. And I know ArmadilloCon will be there again too!

## TEXANS IN YEAR'S BEST ANTHOLOGIES

By A.T. Campbell, III

Kathryn Kramer just posted the lists of stories that will appear in the upcoming *Year's Best Fantasy* and *Year's Best SF* anthologies, which she co-edits with David Hartwell. Stories by Texans in *Year's Best Fantasy 7* include:

- "The Roaming Forest" by Michael Moorcock
- "Thin, On the Ground" by Howard Waldrop
- "The Potter's Daughter" by Martha Wells
- "Build-a-Bear" by Gene Wolfe
- "Bea and her Bird Brother" by Gene Wolfe

The only story in *Year's Best Science Fiction 12* by a Texan is "Applied Mathematical Theology" by Gregory Benford.

You can review the complete lists online at [tinyurl.com/3aeuzd](http://tinyurl.com/3aeuzd) and [tinyurl.com/2uh6ej](http://tinyurl.com/2uh6ej).

## VOTE FOR SFF AWARDS

The **2007 Locus Poll and Survey** is up. Be sure to log on and vote for your favorites from 2006. Note that although *Cross Plains Universe* was not nominated for Best Anthology, you can write it in. You can also write in pieces from the collection in other categories as appropriate. To vote, go to [tinyurl.com/2t6e4y](http://tinyurl.com/2t6e4y). The deadline for ballots is April 15, 2007. Current *Locus* subscribers who cast a ballot will be given a free issue when ballots are counted.

The ballot for the **2007 World Fantasy Awards** has been posted. Go to [www.lastsfa.org/wfc2007](http://www.lastsfa.org/wfc2007) to download a ballot.

## NEBULA AWARDS FINAL BALLOT

The final ballot for Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America's Nebula Awards® for 2006 was announced on February 26, 2007. The award winners will be announced at the Nebula Awards® Banquet to be held at the New York Marriott Financial Center May 11-13, 2007.

### Novels

*The Privilege of the Sword* - Ellen Kushner (Bantam Spectra, Jul06)  
*Seeker* - Jack McDevitt (Ace, Nov05)  
*The Girl in the Glass* - Jeffrey Ford (Dark Alley, Aug05)  
*Farthing* - Jo Walton (Tor Books, Jul06)  
*From the Files of the Time Rangers* - Richard Bowes (Golden Gryphon Press, Sep05)  
*To Crush the Moon* - Wil McCarthy (Bantam Spectra, May05)

### Novellas

"Burn" - James Patrick Kelly (Tachyon Publications, Dec05)  
"Sanctuary" - Michael A. Burstein (*Analogue*, Sep05)  
"The Walls of the Universe" - Paul Melko (*Asimov's*, Apr/May06)  
"Inclination" - William Shunn (*Asimov's*, Apr/May06)

### Novelettes

"The Language of Moths" - Chris Barzak (*Realms of Fantasy*, Apr05)  
"Walpurgis Afternoon" - Delia Sherman (*F&SF*, Dec05)  
"Journey into the Kingdom" - M. Rickert (*F&SF*, May06)  
"Two Hearts" - Peter S. Beagle (*F&SF*, Oct/Nov05)  
"Little Faces" - Vonda N. McIntyre (*SCI FICTION*, 23 Feb05)

### Short Stories

"Echo" - Elizabeth Hand (*F&SF*, Oct/Nov05)  
"Helen Remembers the Stork Club" - Esther M. Friesner (*F&SF*, Nov05)  
"The Woman in Schrodinger's Wave Equations" - Eugene Mirabelli (*F&SF*, Aug05)  
"Henry James, This One's For You" - Jack McDevitt (*Subterranean #2*, Nov05)  
"An End To All Things" - Karina Sumner-Smith (*Children of Magic*, Daw Books, Jun06)  
"Pip and the Fairies" - Theodora Goss (*Strange Horizons*, 3 Oct05)

### Scripts

*Batman Begins* - Christopher Nolan and David S. Goyer (Warner Bros., released 17 Jun05)  
*Howl's Moving Castle* - Hayao Miyazaki, Cindy Davis Hewitt, and Donald H. Hewitt (Studio Ghibli and Walt Disney Pictures, U.S. Premier 10 Jun05. Based on the novel by Diana Wynne Jones.)  
*Unfinished Business* - Michael Taylor (*Battlestar Galactica*, Dec06)  
*The Girl in the Fireplace* - Steven Moffat (*Doctor Who*, BBC/The Sci-Fi Channel, Oct06 (broadcast 10 Oct06))

Also awarded by SFWA: **Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy:**  
*Magic or Madness* - Justine Larbalestier (Penguin Razorbill, May05)  
*Devilish* - Maureen Johnson, Razorbill (Penguin Young Readers Group, Sep06)

*The King of Attlia* - Megan Whalen Turner, Greenwillow Books (HarperCollins, 2006)

*Midnighters #2: Touching Darkness* - Scott Westerfeld (Eos, Mar05)

*Peeps* - Scott Westerfeld (Penguin Razorbill, Sep05)

*Life As We Knew It* - Susan Beth Pfeffer (Harcourt, Oct06)

## FREE STUFF

**Fictionwise eBooks** is offering some of the Nebula-nominated works for free. Offerings so far are: "Helen Remembers the Stork Club" by **Esther M. Friesner**, "Echo" by **Elizabeth Hand**, "Do Neanderthals Know?" by **Robert J. Howe**, "Journey into the Kingdom" by **M. Rickert**, and "Walpurgis Afternoon" by **Delia Sherman**. A new item from the 2006 ballot is being added each week.

Go to **ManyBooks.net** to download free post-1950 science fiction classics, including works by Murray Leinster, John W. Campbell, Jr., Andre Norton, Donald A. Wollheim, Philip José Farmer, E.E. "Doc" Smith, Marion Zimmer Bradley, James H. Schmitz, Robert Sheckley and more. There are also works by recent authors, too, including James Patrick Kelly, Tobias Buckell, Charles Stross, Cory Doctorow and Peter Watts.

## FACTOIDS & FRIENDS

*This column is for news about FACT members, their friends, Texas writers, and important events in the SF&F community. If you have any such news, please contact the F.A.C.T. Sheet Editor at [jjuday@yahoo.com](mailto:jjuday@yahoo.com).*

## FACT MEMBER NEWS

FACT members with recent or upcoming birthdays include: **Debbie Hodgkinson** (Mar. 1), **Shane Cook** (Mar. 12), **Scott A. Cupp** (Mar. 17), and **A.T. Campbell, III** (March 25).

## AUTHOR NEWS

Author and FACT member **Aaron Allston** has a new book out: *Star Wars: Legacy of the Force: Exile*. Del Rey interviewed him and featured the interview in the *Del Rey Internet Newsletter*. You can read it at [tinyurl.com/2hwj8a](http://tinyurl.com/2hwj8a). *Star Wars: Legacy of the Force: Exile* has been selected as a Science Fiction Book Club Alternate Selection for April. It is the fourth volume in this series and appeared on the Locus Online best-seller list for February 27. *Star Wars: Legacy of the Force: Fury* is due out in October.

**Terry Brooks** is offering the first chapter of *The Elves of Cintra* as a freebie in advance of the book's publication. This is evidently a kindness, as the end of *Armageddon's Children*, the previous volume in the series, was a cliffhanger. You can read chapter 1 of *The Elves of Cintra* at [tinyurl.com/2eofna](http://tinyurl.com/2eofna).

Austin-area author **Bradley Denton** has a new edition of his novel *Blackburn* coming out from Picador on April 17, 2007. To celebrate, he has released five short Blackburn pieces not contained in the novel at [www.bradleydenton.net](http://www.bradleydenton.net), including "Blackburn's Lady," which appeared in the 2000 World Fantasy Convention program book, *El Dia de los Muertos*.

SF author **Leigh Eddings**, wife of **David Eddings** and co-author of many of his books, most recently *The Younger Gods* (Voyager, Warner) died on Wednesday, February 28, 2007, after a series of strokes. David Eddings, 75, was in the news in January for having lost his office due to an accidental fire.

**Kim Harrison** will appear at BookPeople on March 29 at 7 p.m. to promote *A Few Demons More*.

SF Site has reprinted **Rick Klaw's** essay "The Secret History of Weird Business," which originally appeared in *Geek Confidential*. "Part I: Hotter Than The Sun Itself" is currently available ([www.sfsite.com/columns/geeks243.htm](http://www.sfsite.com/columns/geeks243.htm)), with Part II running on March 15. Klaw also edited a feature called "Geek Movies NOT on DVD," which includes contributions from **Michael Moorcock** and **Mike Finn**. Read Part I at [tinyurl.com/2b33ra](http://tinyurl.com/2b33ra), and Part II at [tinyurl.com/yvuu7l](http://tinyurl.com/yvuu7l). Finally, Klaw has a number of reviews out. For RevolutionSF, he reviewed *Pan's Labyrinth* ([tinyurl.com/25lg39](http://tinyurl.com/25lg39)). His review of *Essential Man-Thing Vol. 1* and *Showcase Presents The Unknown Soldier* recently appeared in *The Austin Chronicle* ([tinyurl.com/26ovn2](http://tinyurl.com/26ovn2)), as did a review of *Fast Forward 1: Future Fiction from the Cutting Edge* ([tinyurl.com/2bkeho](http://tinyurl.com/2bkeho)).

The March issue of *New Ceres* (issue 2) will include the story "A Tower to the Sun" by **Jay Lake**. Check out this interesting new publication at [www.newceres.com](http://www.newceres.com).

Former Austin resident **Jonathon Lyon** has a long short story, "The Good Life," out now from *Phoebe*, the literary publication of George Mason University. *Phoebe* is available at independent bookstores and online at [www.gmu.edu/pubs/phoebe/](http://www.gmu.edu/pubs/phoebe/).

SF author **David I. Masson** died on February 25, 2007, in Leeds, UK, at the age of 91. Masson was known for a handful of stories published in *New Worlds* magazine in the 1960s, including "Traveler's Rest" and "A Two-Timer," which were collected in *The Caltraps of Time* (1968). Read a full-length obituary at [tinyurl.com/2cpe2y](http://tinyurl.com/2cpe2y).

**Elizabeth Moon** gave a reading and talk and will sign copies of her new novel, *Command Decision*, at BookPeople on Saturday, March 17, at 3 p.m. Also note that *Engaging the Enemy* is newly out in paperback. On [webnews.sff.net](http://webnews.sff.net), Moon stated on March 14 that the next book in the series would be released sometime next spring.

Issue #1 of *SteamPunk Magazine* features an interview with **Michael Moorcock**. (Issue #1 may have been out a while, but this was new to me, so I pass it on.) You can download the issue for free at [www.steampunkmagazine.com](http://www.steampunkmagazine.com).

**Lawrence Person** and **Howard Waldrop** reviewed *300* for Locus Online. Their reviews are always fun. Read this one at [tinyurl.com/3xp8lv](http://tinyurl.com/3xp8lv).

Broad Universe has posted the transcript of a telephone interview of **Joanna Russ** by **Samuel R. Delany**. Read the transcript at [tinyurl.com/ypmbr2](http://tinyurl.com/ypmbr2).

FACT member **Hunter Taylor** has had her first novel published. BeWrite Books released *Insatiate Archer* on March 15. Taylor describes the novel as "a story of high adventure and cruel truths, in the most harsh of times." *Insatiate Archer* will be available from [www.bewrite.net](http://www.bewrite.net) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). To read an excerpt or get more information, go to [tinyurl.com/2886ze](http://tinyurl.com/2886ze).

**Martha Wells** has posted an excerpt from her newest, *Stargate Atlantis: Entanglement*, on her website. Read chapter 1 at: [www.marthawells.com/entanglement.htm](http://www.marthawells.com/entanglement.htm). Trivia bit: Martha was chair of AggieCon 17.

## MEDIA NEWS

Mark your calendars! **Free Comic Book Day** will be celebrated on May 5, 2007. Free Comic Book Day is a single day when participating comic book shops across North America and around the world are giving away comic books absolutely free to anyone who comes into their stores. For more information, see [www.freecomicbookday.com](http://www.freecomicbookday.com).

KUHT, the Houston PBS station, is about to get new *Who* and is actively looking for **Doctor Who** fans in the area to get involved with their programming. If you know any *Who* organizations in the area, please contact: Ann Crider, Director, Community Education/Outreach, HoustonPBS, 4343 Elgin St., Houston, Texas 77004, or [acrider@houstonpbs.org](mailto:acrider@houstonpbs.org).

SciFi.com is running a contest for people to create their own **Battlestar Galactica** videos. The winning video will run on an upcoming episode of *Battlestar Galactica*. See [www.scifi.com/battlestar/videomaker](http://www.scifi.com/battlestar/videomaker) for details.

Actor and Texas resident **Tommy Lee Jones** has starred in a series of Japanese commercials in which he is apparently cast as a space alien agent. See if you find them as strangely amusing as I do by going to [tinyurl.com/2h7ws2](http://tinyurl.com/2h7ws2). This reference comes to you courtesy of SF author **Bradley Denton**, who mentioned the series of commercials in his blog.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FACT MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Mar. 31, 12 noon: **ArmadilloCon 29 Planning Meeting** at Renee Babcock's place: [rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net)

Apr. 2, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Learning the World* by Ken MacLeod. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

Apr. 17, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *A Princess of Roumania* by Paul Park. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

### OTHER READING GROUPS

Apr. 11, 7 PM: March 14, 7 PM, Flight Path: Dark Forces Reading Group will discuss *The Subtle Knife* by Philip Pullman

Apr. 23, 7 PM, Bookpeople: The Ludicrous Speed Book Group will discuss *Across the Nightingale Floor* by Lian Hearn

### MOVIES & TV

Alamo Draffhouse: *Terror Thursdays Series*, **FREE** shows at Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Downtown.

Mar. 22, 11:59 PM: *The Alien Factor*

Mar. 29, 11:59 PM: *The Rise and Fall of Idi Amin*

Mar. 19, 9:45 PM, Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Downtown: *8-BIT: A Film About Art and Video Games*

Mar. 20, 7 PM, Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Downtown: *Transformers: The Movie* (the original)

Mar. 25, 9 PM: SCI FI *Battlestar Galactica* season finale. Baltar's trial leads to vicious betrayals and new alliances ... but who are the final five cylons? Mar. 28, 9:45 PM, Alamo Draffhouse Cinema Downtown: *Transformers: The Movie* (the original)

Apr. 1, 7 - 10 PM: *Austin Browncoats Get Together*: SpiderHouse Café (2908 Fruth). Episode viewing, food gobbling and beverage quaffing. Possible filk and fanvids. Projector starts running at 8 PM.

### CONVENTIONS & THE LIKE

*Here are details on conventions that FACT members, associates, and Favorite Authors will attend.*

Mar. 10-Apr. 8 (weekends): **Excalibur Fantasy Faire**, held near Lockhart. [www.worldofavalon.com](http://www.worldofavalon.com)

Mar. 16-18: **AllCon 2007**, Crown Plaza Hotel North Dallas, Dallas, TX. Arts and fan con. Registration currently \$25 for a 3-day pass. [www.all-con.org](http://www.all-con.org)

Mar. 22-25: **AggieCon 38**, Texas A&M Memorial Student Center. Comic Artist GoH James O'Barr; Artist GoH TBD (Ruth Thompson cancelled); Major Guest Jana Oliver; Voice Actors Tiffany

Grant & George Manley; Writer GoH Allan Cole; Media GoH Richard Hatch; \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

[aggiecon.tamu.edu](http://aggiecon.tamu.edu)

Mar. 23-25: **MidSouthCon 24**, Holiday Inn Select, Memphis TN. GoH: Terry Pratchett; Artist GoH Don Maitz; Comics GoH Mark Waid; Media GoH Bill Blair: Special Guest: Janny Wurts. Memberships \$45.

[www.midsouthcon.org](http://www.midsouthcon.org)

Apr. 27-29: **Anime Matsuri**, George R. Brown Convention Center and the Hilton Americas Hotel, Houston, TX. Anime con.

[www.animematsuri.com](http://www.animematsuri.com)

Jun. 1-3: **A-Kon**, Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, TX. Guests include: Vic Mignogna, Spike Spencer, Steve Bennet, Billy Tucci, Jake Tarbox, Scott Ramsoomair, Howard Tayler, Wendy Powell, Kyle Herbert, Brian Glass. Memberships currently \$35 (+ \$2 if purchased online).

[www.a-kon.com](http://www.a-kon.com)

Jun. 8-10: **SoonerCon**, Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK. GoH Stephen R. Donaldson, Artist GoH Keith Birdsong, Toastmaster Selena Rosen. FACT member Katharine Eliska Kimbriel will be a guest as well. Memberships \$25 until May 31.

[www.soonercon.com](http://www.soonercon.com)

Jun. 22-24: **ApolloCon 2007**, DoubleTree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport, Houston, TX. GoH: C.S. Friedman, Editor GoH David G. Hartwell, Fan GoH A.T. Campbell, III.

Membership \$30 until May 1.

[www.apollocon.org](http://www.apollocon.org)

Jul. 28-30: **Conestoga**, Radisson Tulsa, Tulsa, OK. Literary SFF con. GoH Laurell K. Hamilton; Artist GoH John Picacio; Toastmaster Elizabeth Moon; Fan GoHs Richard and Michelle Zellich; Special 1632 GoH Eric Flint. Memberships \$25 through June 1.

[www.sftulsa.org/conestoga](http://www.sftulsa.org/conestoga)

Aug. 10-12: **ArmadilloCon 29**. Literary SFF con. GoH Louise Marley; Artists GoH Gary Lippincott; Editor GoH Sharyn November; Fan GoH Patty Wells; Toastmaster Howard Waldrop. Memberships \$25 through March 25.

[www.armadillocon.org](http://www.armadillocon.org)

Aug. 24-26: **Bubonicon 39**, Wyndham Airport Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Literary SFF con. GoH Vernor Vinge; Toastmistress Jane Lindskold; Artist GoH William Stout; Auctioneer Robert E. Vardeman. Memberships \$30 through May 4.

[www.bubonicon.com](http://www.bubonicon.com)

Sept. 21-23: **FenCon IV**, Crowne Plaza North Dallas, Addison, TX. SFF & Filk Con. Music GoH Tom Smith; Fen GoH Kathleen Sloan; Artist GoH David Mattingly; Special Guest: Toni Weiskopf.

[www.fencon.org](http://www.fencon.org)

## READING GROUP REPORT

By A. T. Campbell, III (Feb. 6) & Elze Hamilton (Feb. 20)

### FEB. 6: *BLOOD AND IRON* BY ELIZABETH BEAR

Our discussion of *Blood and Iron* by Elizabeth Bear, held at Charles and Willie's home, had two attendees, the smallest attendance ever. (At one meeting in the mid-90s, every single attendee apologized for skipping the previous discussion of *Bears Discover Fire and Other Stories* by Terry Bisson. So it is possible that we had a meeting with zero attendees, but there is no way to prove it.)

Only one of us at the meeting had read the book, with the other having been too busy with a crunch situation at work. Two others in the group had read the book, including the person who recommended it, but were prevented from attending due to illness. One of these absentees emailed in comments. *Blood and Iron* is a contemporary urban fantasy, and the author is a recent winner of the Campbell Award for Best New Writer.

The following impressions of the book are distilled from emailed comments and the spoken words of the one person present at the meeting who had read the book ...

"I like that it is set in the present. I like the grittiness. Best of all, NO FUZZY BUNNIES! I like that Bear starts without declaring 'this side is good!' and 'that side is bad!' She simply starts telling the tale as it is happening at that moment. I like that the characters are strong and able and wounded and apprehensive, sometimes all at the same moment. I like the way Bear peels the onion slowly. We start grounded in the details of specific lives of specific people. Slowly Bear connects the specifics to a larger and larger canvas of history and myth. Even though Bear uses the large-size fae, I like that she keeps the essential fact that fae are not very effective in the world of mankind. Then she tweaks the old, old fears that it was not always so. Near the middle, I got the sense that the plot would spiral rather than arch to the conclusion."

"I finished the book and love it. I think this is a great direction for fantasy to explore, with possibilities to achieve the profound. I really like it when authors look for a third way to do things—a way that resolves the conflicts. And in this case the third way is not easy and not fast."

"It's pretty dark and gritty. She throws in fables, folklore, and folkloric songs to give hints of what's going on. The names of characters are important to what's going on. You can enjoy the book if you have not read much folklore, but if you're highly read in folklore, you'll get a lot more out of it. This book is

not close to current popular fantasy. It is more like Crowley, de Lint, and Clark Ashton Smith. It deals with questions like 'what is a soul?' and 'do fae have souls?' This book is really enjoyable and has an interesting use of language."

After an abbreviated meeting, we had a nice dinner at Threadgill's.

## **FEB. 20: WE THE UNDERPEOPLE BY CORDWAINER SMITH**

There were nine people present at the discussion of *We The Underpeople* by Cordwainer Smith. Everybody had read some portion of the book. A lot of people had read some of the stories that make up *We The Underpeople*, and other Cordwainer Smith's stories before, sometimes decades ago. So the discussion revolved not so much around *We The Underpeople*, as around Cordwainer Smith's writing in general.

Most people in the group loved it. What they liked about Smith's stories was their political subtext and his manner of storytelling. The latter, everybody agreed, is unusual. It seems as if Smith wasn't so much writing novels and stories in the traditional Western sense, as creating a set of myths. People familiar with the biography of Paul Linebarger (Cordwainer Smith's real name) inferred that his storytelling style was inspired by Chinese culture, with which he became very familiar during his stay in China. Several readers remarked that Smith's stories were structured as Chinese parables. They are set in mythical time. Everything in them has happened a long, long time ago, and the heroic feats of the characters have been exaggerated to mythical proportions. And the ostensible purpose of Smith's stories is to enlighten the readers about what *really* happened. "I'm sure you know the story of C'mell. Everybody knows the story of C'mell. Well, you *think* you know it, but this is what *really* happened." (That's not a real quote from the book - that's how one reader paraphrased Cordwainer Smith's approach.)

Some people compared Cordwainer Smith's storytelling style with that of Stanislav Lem's in *Cyberiad*. Like Lem, Smith creates fables, myths and legends rather than conventional stories. And like *Cyberiad*, this story collection does not feel dated despite having been written several decades ago, as it does not have specific technology in it that would date it. "The computers are disembodied voices," said a reader. "There's nothing wrong with that. There's no concept of how big it is. Contemporary authors would throw in tubes and knobs and dials, and it would date it."

Cordwainer Smith's storytelling style did not appeal to everybody in the group. As one person pointed out, "Norstrilia" didn't have much of a plot. A stupid boy wanders around and people and

animals tell him what to do. He is completely passive. He doesn't have an original thought in his head. He only does what others tells him to do." This led to a debate as to whether that was intentional and supposed to be enjoyed, or if it was a critical flaw in Cordwainer Smith's writing. (I find myself in the latter camp.)

Reader 1: "[The protagonist's passivity] was part of the point. What he was trying to portray is how easily people fall into doing what they are told, and not questioning."

Reader 2: "I can see that, but most people like to read about take-charge individuals."

Reader 3: "But he wanted something -- he wanted the stamp! And then the Cat guy tells him what to do, and the next thing he doesn't even want the stamp! The only time he had a definite desire, it got brainwashed out."

Reader 2: "The protagonists are really not active or interesting."

Reader 3: "Even in one of my favorite stories, 'Mother Hitton's Littul Kittons,' the girl who activates the defense mechanism only sits and does what she's told. She might as well be replaced with a machine."

Reader 4 pointed out that Chinese mythos and Native American mythos are structured the same way. The characters wander here and there until the event happens. That way the characters, and the listener learn about the world they live in. And the world where Cordwainer Smith's stories take place is, by everyone's admission, quite rich and interesting to learn about.

Passivity of the characters notwithstanding, at least half of the people who were present at the discussion count Cordwainer Smith among their favorite writers. It is my impression that those were the people who were well educated in political science, and who were familiar with Paul Linebarger's biography and his work in China. Perhaps a good understanding of and interest in political science can really enhance one's enjoyment of Smith's writing, although I personally thought the politics in Smith's novels and stories were quite transparent and did not require a great sophistication to understand. Political figures in all those stories were more like symbols than real people with complex agendas.

It was also acknowledged that he influenced several generations of science fiction writers, such as Ballard and Delaney, all the New Wave people, as well as Charles Stross. One person in the group, clearly felt Cordwainer Smith's influence on "the deep stuff about psychological warfare" in Stross's *Glasshouse*.

Some people got a chuckle out of the humor in "Norstrilia." The whole setup with stroon (an immortality drug) being produced by sick sheep was a bit farcical. Especially the part where if you steal a sheep and smuggle it out of Norstrilia, it gets better and stops making stroon.

This led to speculation on whether Frank Herbert's spice in *Dune* is re-cast stroon. "Norstrilia" was written a lot earlier than *Dune*, so some readers thought it was conceivable that Herbert borrowed the idea of how the spice is made, from Cordwainer's stroon.

## **FACT BOARD MINUTES**

*By Elizabeth Burton*

### **JANUARY 2007**

The monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Fandom Association of Central Texas was called to order Sunday, 14 January 2007, by Board Chair Renee Babcock at 1317 Bunratty Circle, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, United States of America, at 2:29 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were FACT President Brian Price, Directors Elizabeth Burton, JP Sugarbroad, Sonia Santana, A. T. Campbell III and William Siros, Treasurer Kimm Antell Carrillo, MIS Officer Charles Siros and Publications Officer Jennifer Juday.

The secretary presented the minutes of the December 2006 meeting. Ms. Santana advised that she had not stated the Paypal account had been fixed to ensure the appropriate people were notified of payments and a typographical error was pointed out. There being no further additions, clarifications or corrections, the minutes were declared approved by acclamation.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **CHAIR**

Ms. Babcock reported she had not engaged in much FACT business since the last meeting. There was an issue with some of the World Fantasy awards not having been mailed to their recipients. However, that should be finalized shortly, although the committee still needs the address of one winner. She advised she will compose a call for members to serve on the board to go into the January *FACT Sheet*, as neither she nor Ms. Santana will be running.

### **PRESIDENT**

Mr. Price said he worked on the eligibility list for the board elections at the annual meeting in March and sent same to Mr. W. Siros for confirmation. He advised he has added a column to membership database to allow for easy determination of a member's eligibility. Mr. Campbell said he would be able to assist with checking the list, and Mr. Price

stated he would also send to him for additional input.

## **TREASURER**

- Ms. Antell Carrillo reported that as of 12/29/2006 the account balances were: ArmadilloCon: \$3,306.86; FACT: \$17,066.38; World Fantasy: \$19,919.40.
- ArmadilloCon credits outstanding: \$344.97, debits: \$103.05, fees paid: \$20.20. FACT credits outstanding: \$141.00, debits: \$208, fees paid: \$5.20; World Fantasy credits outstanding: \$20,492.09, debits: \$58,956.85, fees paid: \$37.00.
- The treasurer noted two World Fantasy membership checks have been returned for insufficient funds.
- Ms. Antell Carrillo noted she finds the bank statements increasingly confusing, as there seems to be something new every month. She also needs to determine why the monthly fees differ so widely on the three accounts.
- She noted that she still needs to move the credit card receipts for World Fantasy to that account from the FACT account. She will contact the state comptroller's office regarding the sales tax owed on World Fantasy art sales, and advised that refunds on memberships need to be sent to the World Fantasy volunteers who completed their 8-hour requirement. Finally, she pointed out that the Paypal account is adding shipping to membership payments, apparently the result of setting up the shopping cart for sales of *Cross Plains Universe*, which will need to be fixed.

## **SECRETARY**

In reference to a discussion on the board mailing list, the secretary noted she has the facility to attend meetings electronically via VOIP should foul weather prevent her from attending in person.

## **SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

- Mr. Sugarbroad advised he is ready to begin scheduling activities for the new year. Mr. W. Siros reminded him the brothers Siros will be hosting their annual Super Bowl/Commercial Critiquing event on 4 February beginning c. 4:30 p.m. Mr. Sugarbroad requested he be advised regarding what foodstuffs the house will be providing, which he will then list on the FACT list requesting those planning to attend RSVP with information on what additional items they will bring.
- He noted there had been interest expressed regarding a movie outing to see Pan's Labyrinth on the weekend of January 20-21; however, the first ArmadilloCon committee meeting is set for the 20th, which might preclude it.

## **REGISTRAR**

Ms. Santana reported the membership is at 103, and that she will continue to send renewal reminder cards to those whose memberships have lapsed or are about to.

## **HISTORIAN**

No report.

## **MIS**

Mr. C. Siros advised he would work on the problem with the shopping cart charging tax and shipping for memberships in the coming week. He reported he has done updates to the web page but was unable to complete the necessary work for book sales. He was reminded that the information on the annual meeting needs to be posted as soon as possible.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Ms. Juday, having sent a PDF attachment of the upcoming *FACT Sheet* to the board, requested feedback. Ms. Babcock complimented her on the quality of the presentation.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ARMADILLOCON 28**

Ms. Antell Carrillo reported she is still awaiting a final budget report. Ms. Babcock asked if publishers with outstanding program book ad payments due had been invoiced, and was advised they have been but Ms. Antell Carrillo was unsure which were still unpaid.

### **ARMADILLOCON 29**

Ms. Babcock advised the first committee meeting will 20 January at the home of Ms. Antell Carrillo. She has not been able to set up a regular meeting schedule, nor has she approached people regarding committee jobs. However, she advised she will, until that is in place, advertise meeting times and places sufficiently well in advance.

## **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**

- Ms. Babcock advised the final wrap-up is almost completed. Some outstanding accounts receivable remain, and as reported earlier, the credit card receipts need to be transferred to the World Fantasy account.
- The final disposition of remaining copies of *Cross Plains Universe* needs to be decided. Ms. Antell Carrillo stated Kurt Baty suggested donating books and tote bags to members of InstaCon, but the board voiced reservations, since other fans had been required to purchase those items. However, the consensus was that Mr. Baty could, if so inclined, submit a formal proposal to that effect for consideration. Ms. Babcock noted she is more comfortable donating copies to libraries and charity auctions rather than individuals. Mr. W. Siros reported that the editors and co-publisher have done

most of the mailing to reviewers. A listing of regional libraries is needed to select the county and high school libraries that will receive copies, and the question was raised whether to donate copies to Project Pride to sell for fundraising. Ms. Babcock requested Mr. Siros spearhead that process.

## **READING GROUP**

Mr. Campbell reported the most recent book read was *Cross Plains Universe*, although attendance at that session was small. The reaction, however, was positive. The next book on the agenda is *Accelerando* by Charles Stross. He noted he has received emails from individuals interested in joining the group.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Corflu:** It was noted that the progress reports are going to some members but apparently not all. The convention currently has about 50 members.

**2. Stepp Donation:** Mr. Price reported he has contacted Aaron Allston for assistance in assessing the value of the items. Meantime, he will start researching on the Web. He suggested we may want to donate some items to ConDFW's charity auction.

**3. Signature Cards:** Still pending. Mr. Sugarbroad suggested Mr. W. Siros, who was to have handled the matter, ask for blank signature cards and have them available at the annual meeting so they can be completed as soon as new officers are selected. The board consensus was that the proximity to the annual meeting rendered the issue moot.

**4. FanAntonio:** tabled

**5. SMOFCon:** The board requested Ms. Antell Carrillo do a report for the *FACT Sheet*.

**6. Hotel Committee:** Ms. Babcock pointed out the need to proceed with ensuring we have a contract with either the Doubletree or some other hotel for upcoming conventions. Mr. C. Siros, who accepted leadership of the committee from Mr. Price, advised he will get the committee together and discuss what to do—canvass again or just renew the Doubletree contract. However, Ms. Babcock reminded him we need to verify a weekend is available for this year's ArmadilloCon.

**7. Book Sales:** As this had been covered during the World Fantasy report, no additional discussion was needed. A postal scale has been purchased to assist with online sales.

**8. Storage Locker:** No report. Mr. C. Siros was asked to investigate the feasibility of switching storage of the art show supplies to the outside locker rented on a short term contract for World

Fantasy and to report at the February meeting. Ms. Babcock noted that the term on that locker ends 31 January, so this needs to be attended to soon.

**9. NASFic:** The board determined we were not interested in participating in a joint project with other regional convention committees to host a party.

**10. Family Membership:** tabled.

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

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## DECEMBER 2006

The monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Fandom Association of Central Texas was called to order on Sunday, 10 December 2006, by Board Chair Renee Babcock at the Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library, 1161 Angelina St., Austin, Texas, United States of America, at 2:07 p.m. Present in addition to the Chair were FACT President Brian Price, Directors JP Sugarbrood, Elizabeth Burton, Sonia Santana and A. T. Campbell III, Treasurer Kimm Antell Carrillo and FACT member Mona Lisa Martinez. Director William Siros, MIS Coordinator Charles Siros and Publications Editor Jennifer Juday arrived at 2:14 p.m.

The secretary presented the minutes of the November meeting. There being no additions, clarifications or corrections, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

## OFFICER REPORTS

### CHAIR

Ms. Babcock reported that most of her activity since the previous meeting was related to conventions. She attended the movie outing to see James Bond and attended the annual Christmas party, which was "mucho fun." She noted that a new FACT member attended the event, and that there were many hotly contested gift items. She added that through a twist of fate she ended up with an item almost identical to the one she had brought. She advised that 33 people attended the party, which may have brought it close to being the largest ever. She then stated that after the coming week she would be on vacation so anyone needing to reach her would have to do so by phone.

### PRESIDENT

Mr. Price reported he had also attended the Christmas party. He also wrote an article for the *FACT Sheet* trying to stimulate participation and interest in the upcoming board election in March. He has been actively trying to recruit members, and added he will be paying his dues shortly. He noted

he also spoke to board members regarding the minimum attendance requirement.

## TREASURER

- The account balances as of 30 November 2006 are as follows: **ArmadilloCon**, previous balance: \$2,330.29, current balance: \$3,085.14; **FACT**, previous balance: \$6,391.51, current balance: \$17,269.00; **WFC 2006**, previous balance: \$89,346.53, current balance: \$57,855.88.
- Other account activity includes:
  - ArmadilloCon** – Paypal transfer of \$774.85
  - FACT** – Credits from World Fantasy credit card payments, \$12,794.00, and sales of *Cross Plains Universe*, \$130.92, Total: \$12,924.92; Debits include \$560 for reimbursements to security workers at World Fantasy and \$38 to Brian Price for thank-you gift to Fred Duarte, \$1250 in SMofCon scholarship payments and two payments of \$50 and \$140 for whom she has been unable to determine the payee, Total: \$2,038.00.
  - World Fantasy 2006** – Credits of \$75 for membership payments, Total: \$75; Debits include \$1,120 for security services, \$263.93 for flowers for the award banquet, \$10,289.65 for liability insurance premium and convention-related expenses, \$2,596 for travel and shipping expenses for Gary Gianni as a guest of honor, \$230.08 for office supplies and photocopying, \$824.06 for the post-convention dinner, \$507.80 in travel expenses for Robin Hobb, \$1,395.10 for pocket programs, \$4,642.50 for book bags and art show ribbons, \$1,000.00 in Hospitality Suite expenses, \$1,000.00 for Lovecraft gift pins for award nominees, \$7,291.00 for program book printing and \$224.89 for miscellaneous expenses, Total: \$31,385.01;
- Ms. Carrillo reported that she had spoken to Frost Bank the previous day, as she was not aware until then they were no longer sending us our cancelled checks. So, she has been unable to determine the payee on three received. She noted she is also unable to access the account online because FACT doesn't have a debit card, which is apparently a requirement. She added she will contact the bank again to determine if there is a way to bypass this necessity.
- Ms. Babcock reported she and Ms. Carrillo had discussed the account after she made a deposit a week or so ago. Credit card amounts still remain to be transferred. She expressed concern that the World Fantasy account balance will be substantially lower than presented because of recent debits, including the hotel bill. Ms. Carrillo noted there are still deposits to be made, including payments for program book ads. She needs a full accounting to determine

which, if any, are still outstanding.

- Finally, Ms. Carrillo advised she was able to obtain a table at AggieCon and that she had discussed replacing the current merchant account with one at Frost Bank with a bank representative.

### **SECRETARY**

The secretary reported the annual meeting has been scheduled to be held at the Carver Library, as will all regular board meetings through July with the exception of January. After discussion, the board agreed to hold the January meeting at the home of Ms. Antell Carrillo in Pflugerville. The secretary will post an announcement to that effect to the membership mailing list.

### **SOCIAL DIRECTOR**

- Mr. Sugarbroad reported he was pleased to have scheduled a fantastically successful December movie outing and agreed the Christmas party was a rousing success. He noted he is looking into a possible movie outing for January, and that Ms. Antell Carrillo has helped him select some UT basketball games that may be of interest. He will be sending out feelers to the list for that at a later date. Ms. Carrillo noted a need to start looking into those for March/April.
- Ms. Babcock suggested that in future the Christmas party be a real potluck event, but recommended having people sign up ahead of time to ensure a variety of dishes. She also expressed appreciation to Ed and Sam for use of their home for this year's party.
- William Siros reminded everyone that the Super Bowl party will be held as usual on Super Bowl Sunday.

### **REGISTRAR**

Ms. Santana reported we have five new members and four renewals, and was advised that the Paypal system has been adjusted to ensure membership payments go to the appropriate individuals. She also advised with regret that she will not be running for the board again.

### **HISTORIAN**

The historian not being present, and having sent no report, it was noted by Ms. Babcock that he had, nevertheless, attended the Christmas party and had very actively taken photos at World Fantasy.

### **MIS**

Mr. Charles Siros reported that he assisted in setting up a Paypal shopping cart to handle sales of *Cross Plains Universe* and leftover book bags, which was up and running three days after the last board meeting. The board briefly discussed the book sales. Ms. Babcock noted the some sellers on sites such as eBay are listing MonkeyBrain instead of FACT as the

publisher.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- Ms. Juday reported the download link for the *FACT Sheet* had been sent out that morning and queried if she should send a copy to the artists whose illustrations are used. Her request was approved by consensus. She was advised the January *FACT Sheet* has to go out in the mail, and must include a list of all members eligible to run for the board. That edition must also include a copy of the bylaws, and be sent out 50 days prior to the annual meeting. It was requested she include a note asking those interested in running for the board send statements of nomination. She was then advised the February edition needs to include the minutes from the 2006 annual meeting.
- Ms. Juday advised she had a data management question re: verifying the most current membership list. She was advised the registrar should always have the most up-to-date version of the membership database.
- Ms. Juday asked if she could send an email to lapsed members encouraging them to renew, but was advised this was the purview of the registrar. The board noted that upcoming ArmadilloCon guests, however, should receive newsletter.
- Ms. Santana queried the board regarding the status of the project to place a member database on the FACT site with password protection. Several board members suggested using a Google Spreadsheet with limited access as a second option. The matter was referred to the MIS coordinator.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **ARMADILLOCON 28**

Ms. Carrillo advised she needs to check with Karen Meschke, as there may still be outstanding accounts payable for program ads. She noted she believes the convention hasn't lost money. Ms. Babcock reminded the board that the current balance doesn't reflect the charity payment, which was still pending. It was also noted there is a need to know who still owes money so the convention committee doesn't accept new purchase orders until outstanding invoices have been paid. A final breakdown was requested for presentation at the January meeting.

#### **ARMADILLOCON 29**

Ms. Babcock reported she has finalized her guest line-up and would like to start planning meetings in January. She will begin approaching people to take on various committees.

#### **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION**

- Ms. Babcock reported the committee is still

taking care of administrative details, including receipts and additional bills. It is not clear at this point how much will be available to send to Project Pride. She noted the committee does need to send membership fee rebates to volunteers who paid full amount, but added they may not be able to rebate entire amount, depending on final financial determination. Ms. Carrillo suggested having a breakdown meeting, as she feels it would be valuable for ArmadilloCon.

- Ms. Babcock advised Ms. Carrillo she would receive communication from the Comptroller for uncollected sales tax at WFC.

## READING GROUP

Mr. Campbell reported the group generally has 10-12 people attending. New books were selected at the last meeting, with more SF than fantasy this time. The group will continue to alternate between his house and the Siros residence. He noted the group will deviate from the normal schedule in January, as the regular first meeting falls the day after New Years.

## OLD BUSINESS

**1. Corflu:** The board noted there was a progress report in the FACT Sheet but none was sent to the board. Mr. W. Siros suggested Ms. Babcock contact Ms. Virzi to send a copy of any reports to the board.

**2. Stepp Donation:** tabled

**3. Signature cards:** Mr. W. Siros reported the resolution had arrived, and he will try to get to the bank in the coming week to complete the process.

**4. FanAntonio:** Ms. Martinez reported she has gathered a number of people interested in having a convention of some kind in San Antonio. Ms. Carrillo requested the URL of her new group's website to point the FanAntonio domain to.

**5. SMofCon:** Ms. Babcock requested Ms. Carillo and Ms. Martinez, both or either, do a report for the FACT Sheet. Ms. Martinez reported she learned a lot, although she misplaced her notes on the flight home, so she will ask Jane Swatzell, who also attended, to send the report. Ms. Carrillo felt this year's convention was very poorly organized, which didn't reflect well on their bid for the '09 WorldCon. She noted she had spoken to several people there regarding fundraising efforts and methods.

**6. Hotel Committee:** Mr. Price reported he has requested Mr. C. Siros assume chairmanship of the committee, as he feels he lacks sufficient skills for the task. Ms. Babcock advised we would like to move on that project as soon as possible after the first of the year.

## NEW BUSINESS

**1. Book Sales:** Ms. Babcock requested the board establish an informal committee to handle sales and disposition of the remaining copies of *Cross Plains Universe*, and recommended she, Ms. Carillo and the Siroses as members. She noted it hasn't yet been determined who will receive review copies, and that we still need to register copyright. A box will go to Cross Plains for the library, and Mr. W. Siros reported there are about 20 each of 4 to 5 other titles that can be donated to Texas libraries. Mr. C. Siros requested the board approve the purchase of a postal scale to use in shipping. He noted they have been using Paypal when possible but that isn't available for all orders, including international sales.

**2. Storage Locker:** Ms. Babcock said she would like to recommend we switch our current locker to the one on the ground floor currently on short-term rental. Mr. C. Siros advised we really need to consider moving to an outside locker, as the current indoor one is logistically limited for our needs—the dimensions of doors cause problems with the art show flats, as they are essentially the same size. He believes it preferable to switch to an outside rather than the inside locker, and perhaps keep the indoor one for records and other delicate materials. Mr. Price suggested setting up a committee, but Ms. Babcock stated she feels it sufficient to leave the matter in the hands of those with knowledge of the situation and our needs.

**3. NASfic:** A number of Texas convention groups are considering coordinating to host parties there, each group being responsible for one night. Ms. Carrillo asked for the board's position on paying to host a party, which would be a week before ArmadilloCon. Mr. W. Siros noted the cost would be \$400-\$500 for a suite. Ms. Carrillo explained the groups would pool some items to avoid duplication. However, the proximity to ArmadilloCon seemed a negative to the idea.

However, Ms. Babcock asked whether we intended to host another party at ConDFW in February. Ms. Martinez stated she was willing. Mr. Sugarbroad then moved that Ms. Martinez be appointed FACT Convention Event Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Price. There being no objection, the motion was approved by acclamation.

**4. Family Membership:** Mr. Price suggested the board consider adding a family membership level to the existing options. Ms. Burton noted she had been considering the same idea. The issue was tabled for later discussion.

There being no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

## THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS, INC.

The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc. (FACT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit literary/ educational corporation.

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## HOW TO JOIN FACT

Join us! FACT membership benefits include regular issues of *The F.A.C.T. Sheet* and the opportunity to participate in many social events. To become a member, please send membership dues to the FACT mailing address or go to [www.fact.org](http://www.fact.org) and select "Join FACT."

The basic F.A.C.T. membership is \$21.00 per year. F.A.C.T. also has "special" classes of memberships. These memberships also run for the calendar year (12 months) from the date dues are received and come with some bonuses, in addition to the dividends of a regular membership.

- **Basic** (\$21.00) receives *The F.A.C.T. Sheet*
- **Sponsor** (\$50.00), in addition to the above, receives a F.A.C.T. shirt and button.
- **Patron** (\$150.00), in addition to the above, is entitled to a Convention Pass
- **Benefactor** (\$300.00) receives all of the above plus a F.A.C.T. mug.

## ABOUT THE FACT SHEET

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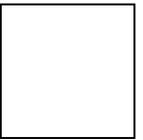
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The F.A.C.T. Sheet  
The Fandom Association of Central Texas, Inc.  
PO Box 26442  
Austin, TX 78755



## First Class Mail

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### YOU'RE INVITED!

***All FACT members are invited  
to all of these events!***

Mar. 20, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Recursion* by Tony Ballantyne; also, selection of new books. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

Mar. 31, 12 noon: **ArmadilloCon 29 Planning Meeting** at Renee Babcock's place: [rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:rbabcock@alumni.utexas.net)

Apr. 2, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *Learning the World* by Ken MacLeod. Details: A.T. Campbell, III Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

April 8, 2-4 PM: **FACT Board Meeting**, at the home of chairman Brian Price (802 Chiselpoint Cove, Round Rock, TX 78681). ***All members invited!***

Apr. 17, 7 PM: **FACT Reading Group**, *A Princess of Roumania* by Paul Park. Details: [reading@fact.org](mailto:reading@fact.org)

An Introduction to Yelp Metrics as of March 31, 2019. Yelp connects people with great local businesses. Our users have contributed over 100 million reviews of almost every type of local business, from restaurants, boutiques and salons to dentists, mechanics, plumbers and more. Our business revolves around the connections made between the consumers who read and write reviews and the local businesses that they describe. Yelp was founded in San Francisco in July 2004. Calculated as the number of unique devices accessing the Fact sheets basically allow users to jot down the key points of a document, presentation etc. in a concise manner. With a fact sheet in hand, youâ€™d be able to remember better and articulate more precisely! Fact sheets must be simple and easy to read and follow. This sheet template ticks all the requirements. Just download this sample and get started on jotting down the facts already! The layout and design are uncomplicated and thatâ€™s why this deserves a download! Fact Sheet Templates in PDF. A fact sheet, which can also be referred to as a factsheet, one-sheet, white paper, or information sheet, is a short, concise presentation of relevant information. You can easily make a fact sheet template in Microsoft Word as long as you make use of a format which highlights the most important points of the presentation briefly.