First Night Is Our Welcome to Spokane!

It’s also our ‘Welcome to Worldcon!’ party in Spokane’s beautiful Riverfront Park, just across the footbridge from the Convention Center. There’ll be games and activities from all the current Worldcon bids and MidAmericaCon 2, the 2016 Worldcon. Buy dinner from local food vendors in the park. Spokane’s own No-Li Brewery will have a beer garden set up. Guest of Honor Tom Smith will have his wits challenged in “Musician vs. Artist.” Guest of Honor Vonda McIntyre takes you to the end of the world as you Choose Your Own Apocalypse.

Guest of Honor Leslie Turek just might delight you with free ice cream. Mingle with your fellow fen and Spokane locals. We promise there’ll be music.

Activities will run from 4pm to 8pm Wednesday, so you’ll have plenty of time to get to the bid parties afterwards. All the activities will be accessible. Come out, enjoy the afternoon, and have fun.

(And if you sneak out to ride the historic carousel in the park or the skyway over the waterfalls, we promise not to tell anyone.)

Worldcon 2017 Site Selection Voting

Sasquan Supporting, Young Adult, Military, and Full Attending members may vote to determine the site of the 2017 Worldcon. We have a contested race this year, with sites bidding from four different countries. In alphabetical order: Helsinki, Finland; Montreal, Canada; Shizuoka, Japan; and Washington D.C., United States. Voting is by the same preferential ballot method as the Hugos, where you rank your choices from 1 to 4, with 1 being where you’d most want Worldcon to be. Note that Sasquan wasn't selected until the second round, so if you have any preference for a bid or bids after your first choice, be sure to list them as well.

Voting fee is $40, which also grants you a Supporting Membership.

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Girl Genius Radio Plays

All you Girl Genius fans and those about to become fans: Phil and Kaja Foglio will present Six of One and Half Dozen of the Other on Wednesday, August 19 in the Integra 100B Ballroom at 6PM.

Come join in the laughter, the fun and wackiness as Phil & Kaja Foglio – possibly with your help – introduce us to two more Girl Genius adventures!
Panel Rules

1) Set your cell phone to vibrate or turn it off. If you do have to answer it, tell the caller quietly “Just a minute” and exit the room as discreetly as possible.

2) Do not yell out comments from the audience unless you’re called upon. You are not on the panel.

3) Feel free to raise your hand at any time...but moderators are within their rights to ignore you or to say something like “We’ll be doing a Q&A later in the 45 minutes, but right now I’m going to let our panelists talk amongst themselves for a bit.”

4) During the Q&A, a good moderator will give preference to people who have spoken less than others.

5) If a moderator acknowledges your raised hand, then you can ask a question or give a relevant comment.

5a) Unfortunately, more and more people seem not to understand what a question is. To paraphrase from instructions given for a Q&A with Stephen Sondheim: “A question is one sentence that ends with your voice going up. This panel is not about you. We don’t need to hear what the first Sondheim show you saw and how it forever changed your life. Just ask a real question and sit down.”

5b) Similarly, comments should be about the topic, not about you, and they should be brief, about as much as you can fit into a tweet. Moderators are within their rights to ask that you get to the point. Before you raise your hand, honestly consider: “Does what I want to say add to the discussion, or am I just trying to impress people?”

And—don’t forget that the Worldcon Code of Conduct applies to your behavior as a member of any Sasquan audience: http://sasquan.org/code-of-conduct/

WSFS Business Meetings Begin Thursday Morning

The World Science Fiction Society Business Meetings will be in Room 300B of the convention center at 10 AM every day starting tomorrow, Thursday. Every attending, military, and young-adult member of Sasquan is a voting member of WSFS and can attend, participate, and vote at the Business Meeting. One-day members of Sasquan are not voting members of WSFS, so they cannot participate or vote.

The Business Meeting is where changes are made to the WSFS Constitution, which contains the Hugo Award and Site Selection Rules. This year has seen many proposals that are likely to be controversial, including significant changes to the Hugo Awards nominating process.

Thursday’s meeting can kill newly-proposed items with only limited debate. Items not killed will be scheduled for debate later in the convention.

There is a limited amount of reserved seating at the front for those with physical disabilities. The room opens at 9 AM.

The Business Meetings are video recorded and posted to YouTube as quickly as possible.

Much more information is available on Sasquan’s website: http://sasquan.org/business-meeting/