

LEFT COAST CRIME BYLAWS

Revised March 19, 2017

The “Left Coast Crime Convention,” the “Western Regional Mystery Conference” hereto referred to as “LCC,” is an event sponsored by fans of Mystery Literature, for fans of Mystery Literature. LCC is an annual convention. The intent is to provide an event where fans of the Mystery genre can gather in convivial surroundings to pursue their interests in the genre.

LCC is a non-profit enterprise. Sponsorship by existing non-profit organizations is encouraged as long as they adhere to LCC bylaws.

LCC will held in the first quarter of the calendar year, usually February, March, into early April.

LCC will do its best to extend hospitality to its entire membership.

Past, present and future LCC are not responsible for the debts incurred by any previous or subsequent LCC events.

Left Coast Crime Geographic Region

LCC is the “Western North American Regional Mystery Conference” as defined by the Mountain Time Zone and all time zones westward to Hawaii. The Left Coast Crime geographic region includes the parts of the US and Canada in the Mountain, Pacific, Alaska, and Hawaii Time Zones. The LCC region includes the entire states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Also included are parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and El Paso, Texas. The LCC region includes the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon.

Standing Committee

A Standing Committee shall be established to:

- Register and maintain the name Left Coast Crime and the Western Regional Mystery Conference with continuing trademark protection.
- Maintain the LCC mailing list.
- Maintain the continuity of LCC.
- Review and oversee the site selection for future LCC.
- Select the site for upcoming LCC conferences, based on bids from viable bidding committees.
- Act as executive committee should an emergency arise.
- Remove accreditation from any site committee that imperils the viability of future LCC. This includes failure to secure a venue one year in advance, violation of LCC bylaws, or the appearance that the committee will be unable to properly stage the event.
- Review the financial report prepared by each LCC committee.

Standing Committee

1. Permanent Committee

- a. To maintain the continuity of LCC, the Standing Committee will contain at least four Permanent Members whose qualifications are:
 - Attendance at a minimum of five non-profit mystery conventions, of which at least three must be LCC
 - Worked in a committee position on at least two of those events.
- b. Permanent Membership on the standing committee is for the lifetime of LCC or until formal resignation.
- c. It is the responsibility of the Permanent Standing Committee to deal with site selection of future LCCs.
- d. The permanent members of the standing committee are the court of last resort in disputes arising from site selection.
- e. The permanent committee members are the living memory of LCC. They provide a resource and recourse for future LCC committee.

2. Annual Convention Chairs

- a. Membership on the Standing Committee shall also include the chairs of the previous two conventions, the current convention chair, and accredited future convention chairs.
- b. The annual convention chairs will be full voting members of the standing committee. Each convention may cast one vote.

3. Members-at-Large

- a. Any person with interest in LCC may submit their name for consideration for membership on the standing committee to the standing committee.
- b. If accepted by the standing committee, the term is for 3 years.
- c. The standing committee will approve new members by a majority vote.
- d. The member(s) of at large will be full voting members of the standing committee.

4. Emeritus Members

- a. Former Permanent Committee Members who no longer attend conventions become Emeritus Members by vote of the Standing Committee.
- b. Emeritus members continue to receive minutes and are encouraged to share their accumulated wisdom.

Guest(s) of Honor

- LCC will feature a Guest of Honor (GoH), who is to be treated as a literary treasure. All expenses within reason incurred by the GoH will be the responsibility of that year's LCC. In the event that LCC has more than one GoH, at least one GoH must reside or have novels set in the LCC Region.
- Fan Guest(s) of Honor are to be treated in the same manner as author GoHs.
- Any LCC may create any new guest designation other than Lifetime Achievement.
- Lifetime Achievement honorees must be approved by the Standing Committee.

Awards

The Left Coast Crime “Lefty” Awards are chosen by registered members of each Left Coast Crime convention. Nominations for awards to be presented at an annual convention are made by people registered for that convention and also the immediately prior convention. A ballot listing the official nominees is given to each registrant when they check in at the convention, and final voting takes place at the convention. The ballots are tabulated and that year’s Lefty Awards are presented at the Awards Celebration.

Each annual convention presents up to four awards

- Best Humorous Mystery Novel
- Best Historical Mystery Novel (The Bruce Alexander Memorial), covering events approximately 50 years earlier, adjusted each decade
- Best Debut Mystery Novel
- Best Mystery Novel

To be eligible, titles must have been published for the first time in the United States or Canada during the calendar year preceding the convention, in book or ebook format. (If published in other countries before the calendar year preceding the convention, a book is still eligible if it meets the US or Canadian publication requirement.)

Beginning on January 1 of the year in which the convention is held, nominations will be solicited from registered members of the convention and registered members of the prior convention. The short list shall consist of the five books receiving the most nominations. All registered members of the convention are eligible to vote. Final balloting and tabulation shall be conducted at Left Coast Crime with the winner announced during the convention, preferably at the banquet. The physical properties of the award are left to the discretion of each host Left Coast Crime committee.

Bids for Future Left Coast Crime Conventions

Anyone interested in hosting a Left Coast Crime Convention must submit a bid to the Bid Committee by January 15th to have the bid considered at the upcoming convention. Bids may be submitted for any year not yet listed as filled on the LCC website. Bids should be submitted by email to the Bid Committee, which will work with the bidders to complete a bid for presentation to the Standing Committee at the next LCC.

In general, bids must include:

1. Location: US or Canada in the Mountain, Pacific, Alaska, or Hawaii Time Zones
2. Dates (usually February, March, into early April)
3. Preliminary Local Committee members, including chair or co-chairs
4. A proposal for conference facilities for 400–750 attendees
5. A hotel proposal for sufficient room blocks

Bids approved by the Bid Committee shall be presented to the Standing Committee at the next Left Coast Crime Convention for final approval. The awarding of LCC locations to a bidding committee shall be made by majority vote of the permanent committee.

LCC Committee Support

The current LCC committee will provide the LCC in the immediate year following the minimum by way of support:

- One page of advertising in the current convention program book
- A space to sell memberships at the current event
- One free membership to the current convention

Name Badges

It is the intention of LCC to be an egalitarian gathering of mystery fans that does not create a distinction between fans of the mystery genre professional and otherwise. Therefore:

- Names printed on badges should be readable at five feet.
- The only designations allowed on badges are Book Dealer, Exhibitor, Staff/Committee if needed for security reasons.
- Ribbons or other items that differentiate participants are prohibited.

Dealers and Exhibitors

- A space (bookroom) must be made available for the sale and display of goods of interest (books) to the membership of LCC.
- Acceptance to the book room is based on seniority.
- Acceptance of other dealers is at the discretion of current committee after obligations to Legacy Dealers have been taken care of. (A Legacy Dealer is someone who has done 7 of the last 10 LCCs.)
- Hours: The dealers' room will open to the membership no earlier than 9 AM local time. The room will be open a minimum of twenty hours over the course of the event.
- A dealers' room contains more than one bookseller or exhibitor.
- Each exhibition space will include a membership to the event.
- LCC must receive a hold harmless agreement from exhibitor in order to participate in LCC.
- Tables for non-profit literary fan groups should be provided free of charge, if possible.