

## Sakura-Con General Meeting Notes 01-23-05

1:27pm Meeting called to order. Chair addresses the staff with agenda. Department reports will follow the election of the new Director of Publicity. Bylaws require only registered staff and paid members are allowed to vote. The nominee is:

- Jeff Allen

Jeff speaks: 3 years prior work at Sakura-Con, awarded hardest working by Sakura-Con staff 2004. Dependable, available, etc.

Floor opens to questions: specific plans for advertising. Jeff responds with plans to fill out the dept, sending out press packets, contacting previous merchandising peoples.

Word of mouth will play a key role. No further questions.

Floor opens to comments: Renee: spoke on behalf of Jeff as a coworker from the previous convention. Communication was excellent, and Jeff has a professional attitude. "I couldn't speak more highly of him". Hotel: Jeff is an excellent promoter, spending as much time promoting ANCEA as Sakura-Con. "He is perfect for the job" Julie: "Our computer has never crashed!"

1:35pm

Vote: Yea: 47

Nay: 00

Abstain: 2

Jeff returns to congratulations. As director, his first announcement is that Wally Lindsay Garrett has accepted the position of asst. director of Publicity.

1:43pm TREASURER: Currently sitting at 114,000, Sakura-Con will be making payments to the Hilton and the Marriott. We will begin accepting dinner seat reservations for the Guest Receptions (April 8<sup>th</sup>). The cost is 30 dollars. Methods of payment will include Paypal. There is a 50 person limit for the dinner. Purchases will be covered by their respective departments.

Questions: regarding Artists Alley. All paperwork should be held until after the convention.

1:45pm HOTEL: Hilton double rooms are no longer available, but the Marriott and the Doubletree still have rooms available. We are also attempting to fill the room block in the Marriott, so there should be no problem. Individuals who have reserved a room and want to be in the staff area may contact the Hotel coordinator to make arrangements.

1:50pm OPERATIONS: not counting today's registrations at the meeting, we are at approx. 1200 pre-registrations. 52 security members including managers. Team member and 3 coordinator positions are still available. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> is the first official walkthrough of the Hotels. CPR and first aid training for security and other dept managers is still being scheduled. Radio rental rates are pending. For individuals who are already trained with CPR/First Aid, please present your certification for Security records. Ron Lindnow and

Iris are the line coordinators for this year. They are looking for volunteers. Staff badge image deadlines are coming soon. Information can be found in the staff section of the forum and the website. Registration: We are right at 1185, up 12% from last year. We have 82 registered staff, Last year we had 182. Staff and volunteers need to register. Registration is also looking for 5 more volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 or over. Regarding staff registration: request by chair to have a notice sent out via the mailing list for volunteers to register. The cutoff for reimbursing volunteers who have already paid for a badge is the February meeting. Tech: Tech is still looking for volunteers, including Tech Manager. Tech has also purchased a large percentage of the equipment used by the Con. Equipment includes 6 SN450s (speakers for video rooms), 2 SA 1521s (main event speakers), and a 24 channel mixing board for main events. This year we are trying to avoid requesting volunteer donations for equipment, but it may still happen. Volunteer Coordinator: Currently we have 98 people on the Yahoo Groups! Mailing list. Activity is picking up on the mailing list, so any staff who can help out with answering questions or who are looking for more volunteers, using the Yahoo Group SCVolunteers is a valuable resource.

2:10pm SECRETARY: Local Businesses have been notified of Sakura-Con's presence.

2:12pm PUBLICITY: Staff needs to contact Jeff for info. After the meeting all Publicity staff are asked to stay for a short meeting. Web: The mailing list has about 780 people. Publications: The con book is moving forward. Advertising is continuing on schedule, and rates have been finalized. Forum: The message board has 1,558 existing members. The message board is being modified with additional features including a spell checker, new skins, and avatars. Forum database information is being backed up regularly as a response to a Denial of Service attack against the board. Publicity positions including merchandising coordinator and staff, videographer, and copy editor, as well as a public relations manager. Team Sakura will be at Emerald City ComiCon on February 5-6, and invites anyone to recommend events that we should attend.

2:20pm Adjourn for a 10 minute break.

2:40pm ANCEA: ANCEA will have a booth this year, as well as a video event on June 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be Asian films and likely a potluck. Next meeting will be on February 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10-noon at the Sumner library. As a reminder, ANCEA members (fee: \$10) get a 5 dollar discount on their Sakura-Con registration fee.

2:47pm PROGRAMMING: AMVs have 33 videos entered, 9 of which are for the exhibition category (a non-competitive category). Video submission deadline is extended to February 28<sup>th</sup>. Main Events: The masquerade ball may not happen, an answer is expected by the end of the month. All other events are proceeding smoothly, however ushers are needed. Charity Auction is moving along smoothly as well. James is the new cosplay coordinator. Basic rules for Cosplay contests are posted online, with specific Judging rules to be posted later on. Youth Events including origami and other family friendly events will be running until 8pm on Fri/Sat, and until 3 on Sunday, and are looking for volunteers. Manga and Fanfic contest rules are online, and the deadline has

been extended to mid March. Gaming: Console gaming is going well, moving into the wired, and Arcade is being given its own area. Games include Mario Kart, Burnout 3, Soul Calibur II, Halo 2, Guilty Gear X, and classic games. Tournament coordinator has made himself available to assist any staff who are planning a contest. Volunteers are needed for console gaming. Miniatures gaming is also close to finalized, with 4 on Friday, 5 on Saturday, and 2 on Sunday. Live Programming: Panel Coordinator is interested in hearing on ideas for panels. Karaoke contest: Jeff is returning to coordinate the Karaoke. Topic suggestions should be sent to [panel@sakuracon.org](mailto:panel@sakuracon.org). Programming is also recruiting volunteers for setup and working theatre rooms and other positions; interested parties can email [programming@sakuracon.org](mailto:programming@sakuracon.org).

3:03pm RELATIONS: 2 guests to be announced. Hiroshi Nagahama(animation director for the intro to Fruits Basket, and animation for Samurai Deeper Kyo, worked on Battle Angel Alita and set design for Utena, and both series of Jubei Chan, and is currently working on Legends) and Ikue Otani (known as Mereru in Vision of Escaflowne, and Pikachu). Performing artists cannot be announced just yet, nor may the American guests be. Exhibitor Hall: has been filled for some time. Art show coordinator position has been filled so people may begin registering. Also a reminder to sign up for Guest reception.

3:11pm Chair: February meeting will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> in the Marriott, and in March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton. Bag Stuffing Party will be on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Request for new business or questions. No new business. Shmaltz.

3:16pm Motion to end the meeting. Motion seconded. Meeting closed.

Notes:

Mala Khammixay Artist Alley Coordinator and Mascot Designer  
Leanna Odara is the person responsible for printing badges