Instant Message

Issue 1005 • January 2024

% Business meeting only

Instant Message is the newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association. It is published every month with a meeting, usually 11 issues per year. The NESFA clubhouse is located at 504 Medford St, Somerville MA 02145. Our telephone number is 617-625-2311. Our website is https://www.nesfa.org. We can be reached via email at roster@nesfa.org for address changes and other updates to the roster, sales@nesfa.org for questions about NESFA Press, and info@nesfa.org for other questions about NESFA. NESFA* and Boskone* are registered trademarks of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc For access to the NESFA/Boskone Discord server: https://tinyurl.com/BoskoneDiscord.



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IM online: www.nesfa.org/IM, User name: January2024 Password: MuirHarrow (all case-sensitive).

To receive the *IM* by email, sign up at nesfa.org/lists.html for a PDF (im-pdf) or a message containing a link to a PDF and its password (im-announce). Other NESFA mailing lists are also available. To stop paper *IMs*, email roster@nesfa.org.

NESFA Meeting Attendance List (2024-1-7)@

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Gloria Albasi	Dave Cantor%	Chip Hitchcock	Robert Luoma	Andrea Senchy*
Dave Anderson	David D'Antonio*	Mike Kerpan	Mary Olszowka [1]	Stephanie Shields*
Bonnie Atwood	Joni Dashoff	Rick Kovalcik	Peter Olszowka [1]	Geri Sullivan*
Ted Atwood	Gay Ellen Dennett	Ellen Kranzer*	Kelly Persons%	Tim Szczesuil
Inanna Arthen	Don Doughty	Steven Lee*	Michael Rasnick%	Margo Williams*
Wes Brodsky	Jan Dumas*	Suford Lewis	Tim Roberge*	Walter Williams*
Ann Broomhead	Maria Eskinazi*	Tony Lewis	Joe Ross%	
Rodger Burns*	Dave Grubbs	Ken London	Sharon Sbarsky	

@ This month everyone attended via Zoom * *Boskone meeting only* ^[1] Zack and Samantha Olszowka were present with their parents

Proxies (for Business meeting only):

Proxy from Paula Lieberman to Dave Cantor

Boskone Meeting started at 12:01 pm EST

CHAIR (MIKE KERPAN):

Will the area heads please email me the staff lists so that I can get them onto the org chart; listing on the org chart helps with determining rollover membership. Also, please turn in timesheets to get volunteer swag, such as the Boskone coffee mug. I would like us to apply for the Massachusetts EBT card to culture program.

PROGRAMMING (RODGER BURNS):

Programming is on track. Many thanks to the staff who help out and keep things moving. We are taking ideas from participants, assembling a master schedule and then hope to get feedback on the schedule. We expect to be on track to deliver the final program schedule before the end of this month.

If other departments need to coordinate with programming, please contact me offline (email: program@boskone.org).

Events (David D'Antonio):

We have worked with program to get stuff into Zambia for scheduling. Some events are running till midnight on Saturday and past 11pm on Friday (e.g. Mrs. Hawking).

There was a discussion on dance and scheduling.

GAMING (BILL TODD):

About a month ago, I sent in an update and some questions to Kerpan. I haven't heard anything back and it's getting awfully late. So, here goes:

Hotel: When will Lewis be available with tables and chairs set up?

[Gay Ellen Dennett] The room will not be available until midnight of Thursday night.

Office: in addition to the crash space room key and the Lewis key, I'll need a key for Harbor storage to access the gaming bins during set-up.

For Kelly and Raz: due to the limit of bins gaming can use, when the games come back from Arisia, they may have to come out of the bins. On the 27th, I'll get to the clubhouse a couple of hours early and pick what's going, based on the schedule and what you two feel are the favorites at the game days.

Raz: if you wish to run some games, that's fine, however, let me know when so I can put them on the schedule.

Signs: I will have them in next weekend.

Zambia: This is the high priority sticking point. I haven't heard a peep from Kerpan or Peter on this. If I'm putting this into the system, I need the link asap. If somebody else is doing this, please tell me.

Internet: To be clear, I am not asking for gaming to have its own internet. I am asking, Rick, if gaming can use program's internet after they shut down for the evening. If the program table shuts down at 10pm, gaming is open until 3am. That lets people use their tablets, laptops, my Xbox one can go online and run Cyberpunk 2077, Fatal Frame: Maiden of Blackwater, or Persona5 Gold.

There was some discussion on internet usage (in particular the hybrid setup and registration). Various parties wished to engage in a more detailed discussion on internet usage with Bill Todd.

Air Filter: I assume tech is going to set this up in gaming.

I have put in for vacation days to be used for the convention. I only need three days as I have Friday and Saturday nights off.

I have asked the committee for permission to park in the NESFA parking lot for the duration of Boskone [permission has been granted by email for Bill to leave his car at the clubhouse during Boskone].

Art Show (Andrea Senchy):

As of Sunday morning, we have 33 artists, twelve of whom are mail-in. We have 50 panels and that includes the panels for our guest of honor, eight panels for the special display, one panel for the Gaughan Award winner and one panel for kid's art.

Print shop panels were discussed and additional panels (four?) may need to be added for these prints.

There was discussion on interactions with particular artists and special placement of certain works (such as those of the Gaughan Award winner).

Art Show also needs more tally sheets and better reg cards printed.

Dealers (Margo & Walter Williams):

We have 29 dealers. There was some discussion on the dealers area. We have 50 tables (48 of which had been paid for as of the meeting). Maximum number of tables is 55.

Suford wished to check that NESFA had its usual three tables.

FAN TABLES (GERI SULLIVAN):

There was a discussion on the fan tables in the Galleria starting at 4pm; logistical reasons may make awkward this early opening of the Galleria.

We have increased the number of fan tables to 13 and that's a good thing. We are still waiting on responses from a few expected fan groups. I am hoping a grid wall kiosk or two will be available.

Will there be an online equivalent to fan tables (particularly on discord)?

CONVENTION OFFICE (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

I will be providing office supplies; please give me a heads up on what might be needed so that I can check if it is still in our supply boxes. As hotel liaison, I will also be handling issues with the hotel.

There was a request for a computer be made available for miscellaneous uses (such as quick printing tasks).

HOTEL (GAY ELLEN DENNETT):

There were discussions on the hotel resume, the book launch, bars and bartenders, room parties and possible issues with these parties, crash space for volunteers, the availability and timing of hotel rooms and services.

There was a discussion on security.

SIGN SHOP (ROBERT LUOMA):

Remember to get sign requests in as early as possible. I have ordered new foamboard to replace the existing ones in poor condition. Also, I need to know the room number of Con Suite for certain signs. I request the (rather awkward) barrel of wooden easels and gridwall for three kiosks. I also request convention maps for a map sign.

VOLUNTEERS (WES BRODSKY):

Announcement by Mike Kerpan that Wes Brodsky is appointed B61 volunteer coordinator.

Ten people have offered to help as B61 volunteers. There was a discussion on signing up to volunteer; in particular, there should be a request to provide an emergency contact (just in case).

Тесн:

Tim Roberge asked if anyone had special/additional at-con needs for printers and network access. Once again, we expect to clone the NESFA telephone number so that it will ring at Boskone (Dave Anderson verified this).

LOGISTICS (RICK KOVALCIK):

Rick asked that crate labeling be done after Arisia to avoid confusion. The plan is for giveaway books and Con Suite stuff to come on the second truckload. This year Boskone is not on a holiday weekend; try hard to weed out unnecessary stuff because timing on logistics is expected to be tight.

Someone is needed to set up the flier racks since Erwin Strauss will probably not be available.

Staff Den (Joni Dashoff):

At Smofcon, I had a staff den kit with stuff like blue tape, scissors, and first-aid. I would like it located (or reconstructed) and sent to Boskone.

Con Suite (Maria Eskinazi):

Several parties need to know in advance what is the actual room number of the Con Suite. There was discussion about the prepping and presetting of the Con Suite as well as the uncertainty of the availability of the room.

There was a discussion about shopping for Con Suite.

Registration (Sharon Sbarsky):

Registration is going well mostly, though there have been a few glitches along the way.

We have 688 in-person memberships and one virtual membership (Harbor I will be streaming online). 291 are paid memberships.

I am working through the instructions for the new at-con reg system. From Albacon, Philcon, and Balticon, I am mostly familiar with the registration staff aspect, but the admin is a bit confusing. Syd Weinstein and Michael Rafferty have been very responsive with software support.

Because people will be entered directly into the system, we will not need the 3-part form; receipts can be printed at con.

This year, teenagers have been separated out from 12-and-under.

There was a discussion on these various categories under which the dealers are registered.

Michael Kerpan asked for NESFA members attending Arisia to help out with our Boskone fan table there.

There was a request for someone to handle the soliciting of paid advertisements in the souvenir book.

Dave Anderson wanted to know if any guests want our NESFA sales table to sell items on commission.

There was a discussion on the COVID mask policy.

The Boskone Meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM EDT

NESFA Business Meeting 2024-1-7

Meeting started at 2:15 pm EST

Ask the Clerk to enable the recording and transcription function.

Meeting called to order at 2:15 pm EST.

Quorum for a meeting is 30% of regular membership. Currently that is 8 regular members (30% of 24 regular members).

Ask if there are any votes-by-secret-ballot expected, so that the Rules Committee (Dave Anderson) can start to prepare them. Read the attendance sign-in list into the record.

CALL FOR PROXIES:

Proxy from Paula Lieberman to Dave Cantor.

No corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. If there are any, please email them to clerk@nesfa.org

President's Report (Rick Kovalcik): No report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY): No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (ANN BROOMHEAD):

NESFA's cash position as of December 2023 is:

Checking Account	=	\$44,514.77 (end of November = \$32,388.46)
Boskone 61 Bank Account	=	\$21,445.76 (end of November = \$17,218.33)
PayPal Account	=	500.00 (end of November = \$8,216.30)
Postage Due Account	=	\$17.40

The current cash balance is \$66,477.93.

The end of November balance was \$57,840.49. The difference is an increase of \$8,637.44.

It was Christmas last month, we made money.

CLERK'S REPORT (ROBERT LUOMA):

The Electronic IM was created on schedule, but the physical IM was not mailed until after the holidays in order to avoid the rush. Dues due notices were mailed out.

E-BOARD REPORTS (ROBERT LUOMA):

Move (DGG seconds) to enter Committee of the Whole (CotW) to discuss a sensitive issue.

Motion to come out of committee of the whole with a motion to ratify the Eboard's decision and clarify that it is for one year only. Passes.

Out of CotW

Motion passes unanimously.

The Eboard voted positively on a dues waiver.

The Eboard voted to refer a complaint under the Code Of Conduct to the Rules Committee.

MAIL ROOM REPORT (DAVE CANTOR): Just the usual.

Rules Committee Report (Dave Anderson):

The Rules Committee is working on a bunch of Standing Rules updates.

There are two that have already been approved:

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==== 2023-07-IM1000.2
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Move to repeal section 1.17(10)M of the standing rules:

"The bottom three shelves of the bookcase over the Treasurer's desk are reserved for Treasurer, Sales, and their staff." Passes 16 to 0

==>> Approved resolution:

Do that.

==== 2023-11-IM1003.8

Unneeded ARCs [Advance Reader Copies] of NESFA Press Books or other books should be put up for sale. Any net proceeds should go toward the purchase of more or missing library books. (Kovalcik, Rasnick)

Motion to split the question. Passes 16 to 2.

Discussion about selling our ARCs.

Unneeded ARCs [Advance Reader Copies] or Galleys of NESFA Press Books should be put up for sale. Any net proceeds should go toward the purchase of more or missing library books.

Passes 11 to 4

Unneeded ARCs [Advance Reader Copies] of other (non-NESFA) books may be put up for sale. Any net proceeds should go toward the purchase of more or missing library books.

Passes 12 to 2.

==>> Approved resolution:

add new rules to the Sales Committee (1.12) section:

1.12(12) Unneeded ARCs [Advance Reader Copies] or Galleys of NESFA Press Books should be put up for sale. Any net proceeds should go toward the purchase of more or missing library books.

1.12(13) Unneeded ARCs [Advance Reader Copies] of other (non-NESFA) books may be put up for sale. Any net proceeds should go toward the purchase of more or missing library books.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (WES BRODSKY)

New members since the previous report:

Subscribing:

Joseph Averett and Shava Nerad (sharing one membership) Melinda Parry Derek Kroessler Samuel Smith Alexander Sunde-Brown Erik Johnson

Family Dependency Daniel Bowles

Also Moved to transfer Joni Brill Dashoff to General Membership by acclamation. Hearing no objection, it is done.

Vote by secret ballot to transfer Gloria Lucia Albasi to Regular Membership. [LATER IN THE MEETING] Gloria was elected to Regular Membership.

There was discussion of possible changes to membership types.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

We're in compliance with all relevant government entities except that we need to backfill three Massachusetts Form PCs for 2019-2021. I plan to rectify these shortcomings this coming week.

CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT (RICK KOVALCIK): No report.

IT COMMITTEE REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

The Boskone website was down for a while this morning while we were moving the Boskone schedule from Dreamhost to NFP hosting.

The NESFA Sales site was hit by a cyber fraud attack which tried to authorize over 2,700 charge cards of which only 32 succeeded. We put the sales website into maintenance mode. We talked to our credit card processor who eventually said to talk to their fraud department on Monday. We then talked to Miva who suggested we add recaptcha v3 which we did. We then turned the sales website back on.

Computer Committee Report (Rick Kovalcik):

Tray 3 on the HP 8550 is acting up. At the moment the only way to print 11x17 is via Tray 1. I plan to look into this when I have time.

HOTEL COMMITTEE REPORT (GAY ELLEN):

The Boskone Room Block closes on 18 January. If you haven't made your reservation, please make it now. The Resume will be going to the hotel this week.

PROCUREMENT REPORT (DAVE ANDERSON): Nothing significant.

BOSKONE 61 REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

It's about a month away. Motion out of Committee for NESFA to approve Boskone applying for the Cards to Culture Grant. Passes unanimously 12 to 0.

BOSKONE 62 REPORT (JONI DASHOFF):

Motion to set the year-ahead rates for B62 at B61 to be the same as the B61 at B60 rates. Passes unanimously 11 to 0.

NESFA Press Report (Dave Grubbs):

News:

- The Tenn2 ebook (*Here Comes Civilization*) is undergoing its final review. It was posted immediately after the meeting.
- Jim Mann is working on converting Tenn3 (*Dancing Naked*) from Pagemaker to InDesign. Like Tenn1 and Tenn2, Tenn3 will be prepared for a potential future reprint. The resulting InDesign files will then be fed into our "InDesign to ebook" process.
- We are working on calculating royalties for the second half of 2023.
- This is the first half-year containing the six new Zelazny ebooks.

Printed Books: (no change from last month)

- No printed book projects are in progress or even on the queue. We continue to seek more hardcover projects.
- Unfulfilled requests received: [No one has stepped up to be a honcho for any of these.]:
 - * to create a collection of Robert Abernathy's writings.
 - * to bring Ursula Le Guin's *The Language of the Night* back into print. (Amazon sells only used copies. \$86/hardcover, \$54/trade-paper, \$90/mass-paper.)

eBooks:

- The ebook state of *Living in the Future* was posted immediately after the meeting.
- The ebook state of Tenn's Here Comes Civilization (Tenn2), along with Tenn1, are currently not posted to Amazon, which is awaiting a copy of a signed contract for both.
- Other ebook projects still pending or potential:
 - * John Myers Myers's Silverlock
 - * Tony Lewis's Concordance to Cordwainer Smith
 - * Chris Kovacs's Ides of Octember
 - * Several other potential projects await permissions and the energy to approach them.

NESFA SALES REPORT (TIM SZCZESUIL):

We need to post the ebooks of *Living in the Future* and *Here Comes Civilization* to our store, Amazon, and Smashwords. After that, I will post a Press Release for these titles. Lastly, we misplaced the Tenn ebook contract and had to get the contract resigned by Fruma Klass. This got done thanks to Jim Mann and Klass's daughter, Adina. Amazon refused to post *Immodest Proposals*. They demanded a copy of the contract. We now have it and can open a ticket to have them clear the way to allow us to sell this ebook. On the positive side, we've sold over 600 units of the Zelazny ebooks since we posted them in late October. We plan on a couple of tiny ads in targeted periodicals to boost sales even more.

E-COMMERCE SALES REPORT (SHARON SBARSKY):

We had a coupon through the end of the year for holiday sales. We should come up with stats on how often / much that was used. We have a coupon for \$1 off the Zelazny ebooks. We should come up with stats on how often / much that was used.

NESFA SALES TABLE AT BOSKONE 61 (SUFORD LEWIS):

We will be reviewing the cash register instructions. We should make sure to take copies of *If I Ran the Zoo/// Con*, the three songbooks, the last 2 copies of Boucher, and the last hardcover copy of Gaiman.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT (MIKE KERPAN):

The Library Cataloging project has been moving with astonishing speed. As of the end of the cataloging session yesterday we were into the M's and had over 9,800 items in the main fiction section cataloged and over 11,000 items total cataloged. The Jelly Bean contest closed on 31 December. We will try to get the number of entries received and report on it.

Clubhouse Activities (Wednesday Nights, Media, Reading, Writing, Other)

Wednesday night zooms are still happening.

Outreach Committee Report (Kristin Seibert):

Posts continue to Facebook, especially about the ongoing Cataloging Project. The window display was redone after Christmas. Outreach is working on a proposal to tweak the membership classes.

Media Events (Mike Kerpan):

They have been happening. Unfortunately, the January Media Night didn't happen last night due to faulty weather forecasting. There have been additional media events like Doctor Who run by Raz.

GAMING REPORT (MICHAEL RASNICK):

The last month of 2023 had two Game day events and our annual Holiday versions for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day (called Bah-humbug!), which are 12 hours long.

Normally, NESFA doesn't run any events for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. This year, I had a lot of requests to run Game days for them as well. I tried to do a last-minute planning of NYE as a gaming event and NYD as a Media event (Sci-Fi/Fantasy movie marathon). It kind of worked. Sadly, attendance for Media days has gone down.

Our regular gamers asked if they could use the Blue & Flynn rooms to game in for NYD, and I cleared this with Rick Kovalcik. We needed to remove the couch in the Blue room to make room for all the gamers, which would have been great if we had more attendees for the Marathon. Next NYE & NYD we'll plan them in September and advertise all the Holiday events then.

The last purchase of games for 2023 are: The White Castle, Cartographers, and The New York Zoo. Bringing the total of new games debuting at Arisia (2024) and Boskone 61 to ten!

Tomorrow (January 8, 2024), Arisia borrows our game collection to run events at their convention. I'll be there!

SHORT STORY CONTEST (STEVEN LEE):

The (five) finalists have been determined for the NESFA Short Story Contest. Their stories have been sent to our Judges.

MCFI LIAISON (RICK KOVALCIK): no report.

WORLDCON LIAISON (SHARON SBARSKY):

Seattle won for 2025. We're still waiting to hear from NASFiC if they want a fan table at Boskone.

Upcoming Worldcons & NASFiC and bids:

2024:

NASFiC: Buffalo NASFiC 2024, July 18-21, 2024, https://buffalonasfic2024.org/

Worldcon: Glasgow 2024, August 8-12, 2024, https://glasgow2024.org/

2025:

Worldcon: Seattle Worldcon 2025, August 13-17, 2025, https://seattlein2025.org/

https://www.worldcon.org/worldcon-bids/ for more details including questionnaires from Smofcon, if available.

2026 Worldcon Bid: LA in 2026, August 27-31, 2026, Anaheim, CA, USA, https://lain2026.org/

2027 Worldcon Bid: Tel Aviv 2027, Israel (location and dates TBD), https://worldcon.sf-f.org.il/

2028 Worldcon Bid: Kampala, Uganda

2029 Worldcon Bid: Dublin, Ireland

2031 Worldcon Bid: Texas, USA

SILENT AND SILLY COMMITTEES: All Silent.

OLD BUSINESS: None

New Business:

Moved that all references to "Regular Members" in our Standing Rules and Bylaws be changed to "Voting Members" (Cantor, Dennett).

Passed 13 to 4.

This is automatically referred to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will report back when possible with a motion that would require 2 weeks' notice and then a vote which would require two-thirds to pass.

Moved

Smoking, vaping, and the use of any tobacco, marijuana, or similar substance is banned in the NESFA Clubhouse. (Kovalcik, Sbarsky)

Motion to Amend by replacement to

All smoking and vaping of any substance as well as any use of tobacco products is banned in the NESFA Clubhouse. (Anderson, Kerpan)

Amendment Passed 14 to 1

Chair rules that mere possession is not use.

Main motion passes 16 to 0.

Shows of hands for NESFA Labor Day Picnic. 2 to 1 preference for Monday over Sunday. Joe Ross will attempt to make a reservation for Monday or Sunday or Saturday.

TIMES AND PLACES OF FUTURE EVENTS

(see In Times To Come)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joe Ross is moving this Friday, 12 January, within Brookline.

Networking Requests (who needs to talk to whom after the meeting in breakout rooms)

NESFA BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:02 PM EST

The Official NESFA Glossary

B99 • Boskone 99 CH • Clubhouse CotBH • Committee of the Black Hole (a humorous term for Committee of the Whole) CotW • Committee of the Whole EBoard • NESFA Executive board (President, VP, Treasurer, Clerk) FN • Fellow of NESFA GED • Gay Ellen Dennett IM • Instant Message (this publication) MCFI • Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc. MCP(U) • Motion from committee passed (unanimously) MF • Motion failed MP • Motion passed MPH • Motion passed and Hartered MPU • Motion passed unanimously MSP • Motion seconded and passed MSPH • Motion seconded, passed, and Hartered MSPU • Motion seconded and passed unanimously OM • Other Meeting PSSC • Publishers' Storage Raz • Michael Rasnick RKov • Rick Kovalcik UC • Unanimous Consent

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January 7, 2024

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In Times To Come

(See www.nesfa.org/events for the full schedule)

Jan 21	noon-10pm •	Game Day	mask required.	At clubhouse
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- Jan 27 noon-whenever Boskone gaming work session
- Jan 27 7pm-midnight Dr Who meet-up & social. At clubhouse
- Jan 28 noon-10pm Game Day mask optional. At clubhouse
- Feb 2 7-10pm NESFA Reading Group via Zoom Book: *The King of Elfland's Daughter* by Lord Dunsany
- Feb 3 1pm Boskone work session
- Feb 4 noon-whenever Boskone Meeting (Noon) and NESFA Business Meeting (no earlier than 2PM)
- Feb 7 6pm Truck loading at Clubhouse
- Feb 9-11 Boskone 61 at The Westin Boston Seaport District Hotel; 425 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210
- Feb 17 6-10pm Media Night. SF/Fantasy media, anime, and the like. At clubhouse
- Feb 18 noon-10pm Game Day mask required. At clubhouse
- Feb 24 7pm-midnight Dr Who meet-up & social. At clubhouse
- Feb 25 noon-10pm Game Day mask optional. At clubhouse

Pay your dues by PayPal. Use paypal@nesfa.org

Mar 1 7-10pm • NESFA Reading Group via Zoom Book: Elfelheim by Michael Flynn Mar 3 1pm-whenever • Boskone 61 Debriefing Mar 10 2pm-whenever • NESFA Business Meeting Mar 29-Apr 1, 2024 • Levitation 2024 at Telford, Shropshire, England and online Apr 8, 2024 • solar eclipse (totality in parts of New England) Apr 14 2pm-whenever • NESFA Business Meeting May 3-5 • HELIOsphere in Piscataway, NJ May 12 2pm-whenever • NESFA Annual Meeting May 24-27 • Balticon 58 in Baltimore, MD Jul 11-14 • Readercon 33 Quincy Marriott in Quincy, MA Jul 18-21 • NASFiC 2024 in Buffalo, NY Aug 8-12 • Glasgow 2024 in Glasgow, Scotland Sep 13-15 • Albacon in Clifton Park, NY Sep 27-29 • Capclave in Rockville, MD. Aug 13-17, 2025 • Seattle Worldcon 2025 in Seattle, WA