

# PSFS News

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society

February 1999

*Our February Guest:*

## Robert Sawyer

### Membership Status

*Note: All Status Changes become effective after the meeting has adjourned.*

**First Timers:** Michael L. Fisher

**New Members:** Michael L. Fisher

**Members at the January Meeting:** 35  
(35 active, 0 general, 0 inactive, 13 proxies)

**Non-members at the January Meeting:** 1

### Announcements

*Copies of any official PSFS correspondence should be sent to the Secretary for filing in the Society's official records.*

**Newsletter Submissions and Announcements** can be e-mailed to [secretary@psfs.org](mailto:secretary@psfs.org), mailed to the Society's P.O. Box or the Kabakjian's home address, or given to the Secretary or Rich K. in writing at the meetings.

**Art Group** - has been erased.

**The Millennium Philcon®** will be held Aug. 30 - Sept. 2, 2001, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. You can register as an attending or supporting member now. Rates are guaranteed till the end of this year. If you voted and were a pre-supporter it's \$50; if you voted, but didn't pre-support it's \$60; if you didn't vote or pre-support it's \$125; there are other prices listed on the registration form. You can register at P.S.F.S. meetings or request one through the mail. The Millennium Philcon is run by the Philadelphia Corporation. "Philcon" is a registered trademark of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and is used with permission.

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Tina Blanco..... (215) 744-6045
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Binder..... (215) 634-8730
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Kabakjian..... (610) 623-4388
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Feldbaum..... (215) 673-4044
<b>2 Year Director</b>	Tony Finan..... (215) 744-6045
<b>2 Year Director</b>	Shelley Handen..... (610) 642-6061
<b>1 Year Director</b>	Oz Fontecchio..... (215) 563-7538

*Questions? Comments? Contact any Board Member at the above numbers.*

*To send e-mail to the board, write to [bored@cyber.com](mailto:bored@cyber.com)*

**Call the PSFS Hotline**  
**(215) 957-4004**

**PSFS & Philcon Meeting Info**  
**Leave Messages**

**Last Minute Meeting Cancellation Info**

### PSFS News

**PSFS News** is the Newsletter and Corporate Minutes of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, published monthly as a benefit of membership. It is available free to Active and General Members of the Society, and to any SF club or organization wishing to trade newsletters. Non-members or Inactive Members may subscribe at an annual cost of \$10/year.

**PSFS News** welcomes submissions, and is seeking to expand. Anyone wishing to contribute articles (book or movie reviews, discussion group or convention reports, announcements, etc.) is encouraged to do so. We prefer that articles be e-mailed (send to [secretary@psfs.org](mailto:secretary@psfs.org)), but they may be mailed if necessary to the P.O. Box. Deadline is two weeks before the next general meeting.

**PSFS News** is produced on a Macintosh using ClarisWorks 5.0, and is printed on a DeskWriter 320. Emailed articles may be either submitted as plain text, or as attached ClarisWorks files (use macbinary or binhex if available). Other file formats may be possible. Artwork or photos are also welcome in any graphics format, or we can scan originals if mailed to us.

**PSFS News Editor & Publisher:** Rich Kabakjian. **Secretary:** Carol Kabakjian. **Regular contributors:** Henry Lazarus, Lee Weinstein. All contents © 1999 by The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the individual contributors.

## Annual Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the Annual meeting held on January 15th, 1999, at International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:17pm.

**Proxies:** Lynn E. Cohen Koehler to Joni Dashoff; Kirsten Houseknecht to Wayne Houseknecht; Hal Haag to Joni Dashoff (*see Special Board Meeting about this proxy*); Mark and Margaret Trebing to Todd Dashoff; Terry S. S. Graybill to Gary Feldbaum; Diane Weinstein to Lee Weinstein; Sandra Tansky to Ronald Tansky; Winona Whyte Schwier and Robert Allen Schwier to Oz Fontecchio; Tasha Kelly to Tony Finan; Mattie Brahen to Darrell Schweitzer; Ric Ivey to Kristina Blanco. Total of 13.

**Corrections to the Minutes:** none.

**Motion:** John Syms moved, Lew Wolkoff second, to abandon the regular order of business and go to elections interspersed with annual reports. Tina called for discussion - it was brief. Gary said we need to determine if we have a quorum first. The motion was postponed until the count could be taken and verified. After several minutes it was determined that there were 34 active members at the meeting and we had 13 proxies for a total of 47. As of October 31, 1998 there were 70 active members in the Society and we only needed 40% we had a quorum. The motion passed. (*The minutes have been reorganized for the newsletter so as not to drive the editor crazy. CK*) (*Too late - RK*)

### Officers' Reports:

**President:** Tina said, "Hi, guys." She said that although most of the year she had no report she had a fun time. It's been a nice year. It's been an interesting year.

**Vice President:** Tim said what I've done is to be involved in getting the Society a little more active electronically on-line. He mentioned a web page, mailing lists, and that he's done work for the Philly worldcon as well as for the Society.

**Secretary:** Carol said, "It was an interesting year as usual. There was lots of good things; some bad things; some personal bad things, but we lived through them." The bad weather we're having this week is because of the Farm Show in Harrisburg. Tina asked how I could claim that. I said that every year since I can remember there's been bad weather during the Farm Show week. Lew Wolkoff concurred.

**Reminders to the members:** 1) Please sign in the book or it doesn't count toward your membership determination. The book is on the Treasurer's table from before the meeting starts until it's declared closed after the guest speaker is done. 2) If you've got an announcement, meeting, or special event you want listed in the newsletter please give me the information *in writing*. If I don't receive the information in written form I won't guarantee that your notice will be

listed (*accurately if at all*) in the Newsletter. You can e-mail me at [secretary@psfs.org](mailto:secretary@psfs.org), come to the meeting and give the information to me or to Rich (at the Treasurer's table), or snail mail it to the P.O. Box or my home address (in the Society's Directory).

**Treasurer:** Gary said that the Treasury ran a little bit smoother this year. Unfortunately, although we still receiving income so I can't give you final numbers, Philcon expenses were up and the number of [paid] attending was down, so as Treasurer he is recommending to the Society that we are going to have to look at ways of reducing what we're spending. Our income is going down. Our rental's going up. Some of our spending this year are either "extraordinary expenditures" such as the grant to Millennium Philcon or prepayments for future years such as money in a special account at the Post Office and forms we've bought.

**2 Year Director (Tony):** wanted to thank everyone (Society members and non-Society) who worked on Philcon. He was glad to see that other groups in Philly are getting organized and doing things that we should be doing. He plans to pursue them. It's been a fun year and hopefully next year will be interesting. (*Be careful what you wish for. CK*) Tony wanted it known that Tasha Kelly will be moving to the West coast in a month. He said, "I'd like to thank her for all the work she's put into the Society over the brief time she was with us and she will be missed." (*Rich and Carol (as Philcon Registration) heartily agree.*)

**2 Year Director (Shelley):** Last year was interesting. She was glad she had a chance to do something for the Society. She definitely sees the need to increase our membership and attendance at Philcon. Shelley moved that we put out the donuts. Tina said we'll finish the directors reports then put them out.

**1 Year Director (Oz):** during the course of the year he continued "to make outreach" to the local pro community and established a good rapport with Camille Bacon-Smith and her group of local writers. He is continuing to do what he can to make interconnections with other fannish groups too. He thinks that [the Society] needs to make sure that Philcon is well known, well publicized, and continues to be the primary source of money we have.

**Special Order of Business:** The members of the Oversight Committee were called upon to be the Judges of Election. Todd asked, "Since when?" Gary said last year the Society voted on that for the special election. He said the Oversight Committee recommended it and he thought the Society agreed to it. (*I have read through all the Newsletters of the past year and haven't found any mention of the vote. CK*) Tim said that the President was appointing [Todd Dashoff, Ira Kaplowitz, and Laura Paskman Syms] as the Judges of Election. Carol read the list of Active members from those who signed in and the list of proxies and the

ballots were handed out. After the list was called Tina explained to the members that Hal Haag's proxy was by e-mail and therefore didn't have a signature. She said the Board recommended unanimously that we accept his proxy for this meeting anyway and that the Board would work on a policy for future circumstances. Tim asked if Active and General members could vote. Gary said Active only. (It turned out to be a moot point since there weren't any General members at the meeting. CK) Someone asked if it was verified and how. Joni said Hal called her just before sending her the e-mail. Passed unanimously. John Syms asked what the maximum number of ballots could be. It was determined that there were 35 attending + 13 proxies = 48 max.

#### **P.S.F.S. '99 Board Nominations:**

**President:** *Current Nominees:* Tina Blanco, Tim Binder

*New Nominees:* Hank Smith (Lynn P., Ira K.)

**Winner:** Tim Binder (after one runoff)

**Vice President:** *Current Nominees:* Tim Binder (withdrawn), Oz Fontecchio

*New Nominees:* Tina Blanco (Ron T., several), Hank Smith (Ira K., Lynn P.)

**Winner:** Tina Blanco

**Secretary:** *Current Nominees:* Rich Kabakjian

*New Nominees:* none

**Winner:** Rich Kabakjian (Gary moved, several 2nd, by acclamation)

**Treasurer:** *Current Nominees:* Ronald Tansky

*New Nominees:* none

**Winner:** Ronald Tansky (Gary moved, several 2nd, by acclamation)

**2 Year Director:** *Current Nominees:* Hank Smith, Tony Finan, Frank Richards

*New Nominees:* Oz Fontecchio (Darrell S., Shelley H.)

**Winner:** Tony Finan

**1 Year Director:** *Current Nominees:* Oz Fontecchio, Tony Finan (withdrawn)

*New Nominees:* Gary Feldbaum (Rich K., Ira K.), Rich Ferree (Ira D., Laura P.S.), Hank Smith (Eric., Lynn C.K. (by proxy))

**Winner:** Gary Feldbaum (after one runoff)

#### **Here is the List of the PSFS Board of Directors for 1999:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Tim Binder</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Tina Blanco</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Rich Kabakjian</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ronald Tansky</b>
<b>2 Year Director</b>	<b>Shelley Handen</b>
<b>2 Year Director</b>	<b>Tony Finan</b>
<b>1 Year Director</b>	<b>Gary Feldbaum</b>

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Book Discussion:** Oz reported that out of the 8 meetings they held six of the authors attended the discussions in-

cluding Swanwick, Morrow, Asaro, and Bisson. ~~Febru-~~ ~~ary's~~ book will be *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury on February 28th, at Darrell Schweitzer's home. ~~March's~~ book will be *Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. LeGuin. Call Oz at (215) 563-7538 for more info. (Book and author names that are not given to me in writing may not be correct. CK)

**Programming:** Oz reported that we've been able to bring world class guests to our meetings and hopes to continue the trend. (See Meeting Notices for list of Speakers.)

**Philip K. Dick Award:** Gary reported that the list of nominees for this year has just gone out. (see LoC for details. CK)

**Archive Note:** Gary received a meeting notice of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society for the August 20th, 1950 meeting. It was Lex Phillips notice. Apparently he left it in a book, forgot about it, and sold the book. Someone asked what book, but Gary didn't know. Gary will ask Lex's family if they want it first and if they don't he will give it to Archives.

**Education Committee:** Lew reported that this has been the busiest year the committee has had. They took on three projects two of which came off successfully. The Short Story Contest is "sputtering along" but it continues. This year we added the non-public schools of Philly to it. We had 4 good entries and the kids were interested. The books went off to Russia without a hitch. Lew hopes to hear from the professor when he gets them. Unfortunately, we didn't get the historical marker for Milt Rothman yet, but we'll try again some day.

**The Art Group:** Bridget reported that the group must fold due to lack of attendance of Society members. We had two new members who came frequently, she hasn't seen them since October.

**Philcon '98:** Tony said the debriefing will be on Saturday, January 30, 1999 at the Dashoff home, at 2pm.

**Philcon '99:** Tony said that with the help of Tim Binder, and barring the one reoccurring problem we had with Bridget, we have established a Philcon talk list-serve. This is for discussion of Philcon matters and is mostly for committee members. If you want to be on the list-serve please e-mail Tony at: the\_nemesis@csi.com.

**Space Sciences:** Hank Smith has a list of events to be held in the near future. Please see him for details.

**Publicity:** Shelley has flyers.

**No Fund:** Tim B. represented the committee. He said we have lots of stuff.

**P.S.F.S. Cook Book "To Serve Fan":** Carol said we're still collecting recipes. We got a recipe from a previous guest speaker. If we get enough recipes we will publish and make some money for the Society. The recipes can be in any category. If it's a joke recipe, please let me know so I can list it that way. Recipes can not be copywritten so if your favorite recipe comes from a cookbook you can still submit it.

**Old Business:** none.**New Business:**

*Future Philcons:* 1) The Board Unanimously recommended that the Society authorize Pete Radatti to solicit bids for the years 2002 and 2003. Tina called for discussion. Laura asked if we have 2000. Gary and Tina said yes. Tina said that 2001 was a separate issue that we will be bringing up. Tony said we have been approached by several hotels. (See the January 11, 1999 Board meeting minutes for more detail. CK) Tina asked if anyone else wanted to speak and seeing none called for the vote. Passed unanimously with proxies. 2) Gary said, "As everyone undoubtedly knows we're going to have this not so little convention called the Millennium Philcon here in 2001. This leaves open, however, the question as to whether or not [P.S.F.S.] should be holding a regional convention, Philcon, following that and prior to the one at the end of 2002 and the nature of it. This is something that is not going to be something to be decided without substantial discussion of the alternatives." Alternatives include the size of the convention (relaxacon, small, medium, large, regional), the site (same or different), and the date. Gary said he was going to specifically move that there be an authorization to negotiate for a Philcon following the Millennium Philcon and that the authorization specifically include the authority to explore the possibility of accepting the offer that's been made by Arisia to swap months so that Philcon would become 01.01 and be held in January. The purpose of that would be to allow those involved with worldcon, which is everyone in this room, to have more time to put on the regional. Gary felt that we'll need lots of time to debate the issue and suggested that we use a list-serve first and then schedule a special, well advertised meeting. Carol seconded Gary's motion. Lew pointed out that there is a precedent; 1976's Philcon was held in January 1977. Carol and Tina said 1982's Philcon was held in January 1983. Lew said Philcons were originally held in October. Bridget said, having worked at BucConeer and Philcon, she found that it was a very big stretch to work both with only a two month separation. Rich F. moved, no second, to assign this motion to a committee to be chaired by Gary Feldbaum with other members to be appointed by the President and report at the March meeting. Gary said his motion would allow Pete to go out and solicit hotels. Rich's motions would not. Laura pointed out that if anyone was going to negotiate with hotels they would need target dates more specific than just a year. The negotiator could be told to check more than one date, such as November and January. She said if we're looking to have one in November [two months after worldcon] anyone who votes on this better be prepared to work it. She also recommended that we have a scaled-down Philcon even in January. Gary said, "the purpose of the motion is to 1) obtain the information necessary to make a choice and then 2) provide a forum for us to make that choice as to whether to hold one and if so when, which would mean

having to assemble information about when and where we could and the options." He said if gets unanimous consent for the motion he will incorporate the suggestions he's heard here. He said the motion would be "to open a committee to explore the possibility for holding a Philcon following the Millennium Philcon and to explore the possibilities including the possibility of holding it in the months following November, and then for that committee to come back to the Society." He said this is clearly a matter that the Society has to decide on. Carol, as second, agreed to the modification. Todd said we should open the committee and narrow down the options before we send Pete out to negotiate. Gary felt that this was within the parameters of his restated motion. Todd asked if there was any time limit for reporting back to the Society. Gary said he hadn't included one. Joni requested the added time frame of the committee reporting back to the Society by July 1999. Gary said that since someone did object to unanimous consent he was moving to amend his original motion by substitution to the restated motion. Carol agreed to the substitution. Oz moved, Bridget second, to table this to next month. Table motion failed: 6+3 proxies for to 21 against. Carol moved, David B. second, to call the question. Tina asked how many wanted to speak on the subject. One person wanted to speak. Bridget objected that this whole thing was being done in absentia. She didn't know when the motion had been brought up and she wished the Society had been communicated to in the minutes that this was coming up. Carol and Tina said it just came up at this meeting. Carol said it hasn't been up before or it *would* have been in the minutes. Bridget thought we were appointing Gary as chair of a committee and he gets to pick who's on the committee. Several people said that was not correct and Bridget asked for a clarification. Carol said Gary was just asking for a committee to be made, it didn't mean he'd automatically be on it. Someone said that Tina would be appointing the committee. Bridget then requested that people who actually attend the meetings of the Society be appointed to the committee. Gary once again restated the motion. He said, "the motion is to amend the original motion to be as follows: that the Society establish a committee to explore the possibility of holding a Philcon following the Millennium Philcon and to specifically include the possibility of holding it in the months following November." Tina called for a vote on the amendment. Passed unanimously including proxies. Then she called for the vote on the motion as amended. Passed unanimously including proxies.

*Motion:* Tony moved, Carol second, to waive the three meeting requisite and vote Mike L. Fisher into membership as a General member. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15pm.



## Special Board Meeting

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on January 15th, 1999, at the International House. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm.

**Board members present:** Tina, Tim, Carol, Gary, Oz, Shelley, and Tony.

### Special Business:

**Member Status:** The Board discussed the member status of Neil Davis. He remembered being at the June 1998 meeting and described it to the satisfaction of the Board. He was made Active by unanimous vote (6-0).

**Proxies:** The Board recommended, with a vote of 7-0, to the Society to accept an e-mail proxy for [the January 1999] meeting only. They will discuss a possible policy for future cases.

Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

## Board Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on January 11th, 1999, at Carol's home. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm.

**Board members present:** Tina, Tim, Carol, Gary, Oz, Shelley, and Tony.

**Others present:** Bruce B. and Rich K.

**Corrections to the minutes:** none.

### Officers' Reports

**President:** Tina reported that Pete Radatti contacted her about the Hotel contracts for the years after 2001. He's been speaking with the management of several area hotels (Valley Forge and Marriott were two names mentioned) who want to bid for our convention. Pete would like permission to start looking into stuff after 2001; to get the ball rolling. After a surprisingly brief discussion Oz moved, Tim second, to recommend to the Society that we authorize Pete Radatti to solicit bids for the years 2002 and 2003. Passed unanimously.

**Vice President:** Tim was concerned about our status of payment of our www. Gary assured him that it has been paid.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Gary said we've mostly paid all the bills. We're still receiving revenue.

**Two Year Director (Tony):** said, "Hi." No report. At the end of the meeting Tony said he'd like to send his condolences to the Exton theater which is now a pancake.

**Two Year Director (Shelley):** no report.

**One Year Director (Oz):** was contacted by Jan Howard finder "Wombat" would like to have Albacon's flyer incorporated into our Newsletter (on a one time basis). He wanted to know how much it would cost. (Note: As printed in the April 1997 Newsletter the advertisement rates are: "\$10 full page (\$50 for 6 months), \$6.50 half page, \$4 quarter page. There are

no yearly rates." CK) They should send us just a master.

Bruce Jensen would like to be reimbursed for the van he rented to get to Philcon. Gary said he'd take care of it. Also we got thank-you letters from Bruce Jensen, Stephen Youll, and Tom Savini.

**Committee Reports:** none.

**Old & New Business:** none.

Adjourned at 9:00pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next Board meeting.

## More Board Minutes

These are the minutes of the PSFS Board meeting held on February 8th, 1999, at Shelley's home. The meeting was called to order at 8:14 pm.

**Board members present:** Tina, Tim, Carol, Gary, Oz, Shelley, and Tony.

**Others present:** Bruce B. and Becky J.

**Corrections to the minutes:** none.

### Officers' Reports

**President:** Tina said, "Hi, ya'll. This is my last [Board] meeting. I won't be here next month." No report.

**Vice President:** Tim doesn't have the V-P's Corporate seal. He never received it from the previous holder. It needs to be found and given to Tina as the next Vice-President. Carol does have the Secretary's seal.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Gary arrived late.

**Two Year Director (Tony):** said, "Hi." No report.

**Two Year Director (Shelley):** no report.

**One Year Director (Oz):** made direct contact with Laurel K. Hamilton, which was fortunate. She had fired her agent and had no information about her proposed appearance at our meeting. She will be appearing as scheduled. Oz also contacted Neil Gaiman about his signing at Barnes & Noble he was there till almost midnight although he was only scheduled to be there till 9pm. Oz is negotiating with him to speak at one of our meetings. Oz has not received an ad from Wombat yet. Carol verified that it is \$10.

**Committee Reports:** none.

### Old Business:

**Proxy Policy:** After some lively discussion Gary moved, Tony second, and the Board decided by unanimous vote to recommend that the Society adopt the following policy: e-mail proxies will be accepted with voice confirmation on the P.S.F.S. Hotline. If the Secretary is unable to retrieve the voice confirmation (s)he is to contact the proxy maker.

**Alex Latzko's Membership:** Carol said she didn't have any record anywhere that Alex had attended any meetings. She did remember seeing him at the January meeting, but he didn't sign in. Various Board members verified that Alex

was at P.S.F.S. meetings. Tony confirmed that he was made a member at the September 1998 meeting. Gary said he hasn't paid any dues. Tony said that makes him a suspended member.

**Dues:** Carol moved, no second, that we raise the dues to \$20 per person and \$34 per couple to go into effect as of April 1, 1999. We haven't raised dues since April 1984 and we're well overdue. Gary moved, Shelley second, to recommend to the Society that we raise dues to \$18 per person, \$30 per couple to go into effect as of April 1, 1999. Passed 4 for to 3 against.

**Oversight Membership:** As per the Bylaws Article X, Section 4, (b) "Only active members may serve on the Oversight Committee." One of the members of the Oversight Committee became a General member as of October 31, 1998. Oz wanted it to be part of the official record that he was abstaining from all discussion and votes in relation to this matter and then left the room. The rest of the Board discussed the matter at length. It was determined that the President would contact the Oversight member.

**P.S.F.S. Budget:** Tim moved, Oz second, and the Board decided by unanimous vote to recommend that the Society adopt, as discussed, the following Budget for the 1999 fiscal year:

Meeting Space	3000	
Secretary	1000	
Publicity	750	
Programming	5000	
Internet Domain Reg.	105	(new, but necessary)
Treasurer	200	
Special Events	350	(reduced)
Non-Profit Reg. fee	15	(new, but necessary)
Refreshments	600	
Oversight	100	
P.O. Box	125	(increased)
Archives	25	(reduced)
Book Discussion	25	
No Fund	0	(doubled)
Hotline	300	
BoD Emergency *	300	
President Emerg. *	300	
Bulk Mail Permit	95	(increased)
Annual Banquet	450	(reduced)
Movie Discussion	300	
Philip K. Dick Award	850	
<u>Insurance</u>	<u>2200</u>	(increased)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16090</b>	

\* These items are required by the Bylaws and may not be changed.

Adjourned at 9:00pm.

See **Meeting Notices** for details on the next Board meeting.

## Philcon '98 Debriefing

These are the minutes of the Philcon '98 Debriefing meeting held on January 13th, 1999, at the Dashoff's home in Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order at 2:37pm.

**Committee members present:** Cher, Winnie, Lew, Vicki, John D., Tim B., Becky J., Oz, Shelley, Rich & Carol, Ron & Sandra T., Mike F., Alex L., Bridget, David B., Tony, Sara P., Rosemarie, Joni & Todd, John & Laura S., Bob S., Hank, Joe N., Gary, Crystal

### Officers' Reports:

**Chairman:** Tony thanked everyone for going through the "week of hell" that we called Philcon '98. "Our numbers were down, but all it all it was a good con." Tony thanked Keith Frye for being an extra set of eyes and arms for the weekend. Jenkintown Hobbies is closing. Laura asked if there would be dealers' tables at Tony's wedding.

**Vice-Chairs:** Todd said Operations ran. We had a great deal of help and it was greatly appreciated. We had the usual problems with the hotel. Todd appreciated that there wasn't a dance this year since he got to go to bed earlier than usual. There were very few security problems. Laura said she didn't do anything vice-chairy, just sat around and watched Bridget learn how to be Hotel Liaison.

**Secretary:** Carol would like to have a copy of all major mailings (forms, letters, etc.) of all departments for her records. *Basically, if you send out a mass mailing put her on your list.* She doesn't need copies of one on one letters to individuals. Lynn complained that the minutes of the last Philcon meeting before the con weren't in the Newsletter. It was pointed out that if we could've published them before the con we would have, but it didn't make much sense to do it afterward. However, the tapes of the meeting are available and anyone who feels they *must* have the minutes may borrow them.

**Treasurer:** we have money, but not as much as we'd like to have. Our income was lower due to fewer room nights and lower attendance.

### Department Reports:

**Hotel Liaison:** Bridget said while we had a new guy, Andy Freedman, who did an excellent job as far as facilitating our needs were concerned, somewhere along the lines the lines of communication broke down, because we had the dance floor being picked up at midnight and it was put down at 11pm. Applebys personnel did an excellent job this year. There was a problem with function space that was not accurately reported. We picked up rooms and somehow didn't program for them which we will correct this year. Bridget asked if anyone had trouble with delayed set ups. Lynn said she did, but once she called they came quickly and did what was needed and more. Shelley reported that there had been a wall left open and the setup was delayed. John D. said they could've used more water setups in the Game Room. Oz reported a delay in setup for one of our

main Guests, but they managed to improvise till the room was ready. Rosemarie said she had good service this year. The only problem was, twice, they insisted we didn't order hot water. Laura said it was because of a change in the hotel's policy that we weren't informed of. Rich said we managed to get Registration open on time, barely, but only because we had to put lots of people on getting the hotel to get the tables set up. Rich requested an earlier set up time so we can avoid the problem and open Reg earlier. Hank said he closed a wall between two of the rooms. Bridget said, "we never do that. We never close walls. That's someone in the hotel's responsibility. It's like union laws in PA. If it takes a union to do it, you touch it, you break it, it's our cost. If the union breaks it while they're doing it, it's not our problem. *Never, ever move a wall.* Call Operations." Joni said the "brown shirts" did a wonderful first set up and ignored us the rest of the weekend. She had to call anytime she needed something. Lynn said she had a door open and shut schedule and no one ever showed up to handle it. Bridget said at our hotel meeting (in September) don't come to me and say "same as last year". If you do you won't get anything. Laura knew everybody; she knew exactly what she needed. She was able to say when X gave the wrong thing that this is wrong. Bridget will be giving out forms and maps in March and April. You *will* use her maps and write down exactly what you want. This way we'll have a record of it and if you say "I didn't get this" I'm going to pull it out and look at it and if you say "yeah, but" I'll say "talk to the Con Chair about it". If it's not on the form you won't get it. She doesn't want anyone to get the wrong things and this is the best way to handle it. Give the forms back to her at the September meeting.

**Masquerade:** Vicki said we had a Masquerade and it seemed to go fairly well. We had three noticeable problems. One of which is McManus who will probably never get another rental from us again. Many kudos, much chocolate and Scotch to Art Coleman who spent Friday and Saturday shuttling back and forth to get anything out of them. The opening of the doors for seating was a little premature. There was a delay in the set up of the big screens which is a problem we need to fix for next year. Joni said the Green Room was ready; the tech staff was ready. Laura said we've had difficulty getting people to enter the Masquerade and she would like to actively promote it at events like Costumecon, Arisia, and any other con where lots of costumers show up. She asked if there's anything we can do to make it more attractive; give out a more attractive special prize, a free membership to next year's Philcon, or whatever. Vicki said to improve the general programming. There are two Masters who live in NJ who've stopped coming to Philcon because "the program is boring". Laura said, "Put your suggestions on the listserve." Alex said the crowd was about the same size as last year. He said we need a better management structure and better communication. Kudos to Masquerade for starting on time in spite of

the problems.

**Techno Fandom:** Alex said the video theater was a good shot. He thanked Bill Koehler for the sub-woofers. He thinks we can improve things next year.

**Information:** Sara said Information was fine. Everyone seemed to be happy. We weren't cold, the phone worked, we had chairs, and they actually took the trash once in a while. Mike said a couple of Press came on Sunday which he escorted around. Hank thanked them for picking up Press Relations at con.

**Art Show:** Joni said hi. There was an art show. It wasn't as big as last year probably because of BucConneer. Laura and Bridget did a good job with the Reception budget.

**Green Room:** Rosemarie had no complaints from the pros. The hotel staff was good. The person who ran Green Room Reg was good. She thanked everyone for their contributions which allowed her to come in \$1 under budget.

**Green Room Registration:** Joe said it went rather smoothly. He thanked the regular reg folks, they were a big help. We got no complaints and several compliments from the pros about how smoothly it went. Lynn said he handled all the last minute things she threw at him without a fuss. Joe thanked Hank for helping him.

**Science Programming:** Hank thanked for the increase of time slots. It went well.

**Publicity/Press Relations:** Hank said it was a rather stormy year for this department. Hank knows of someone (he didn't say who) who he thinks would be excellent for the job. Hank said he'd be glad to help again. Carol thanked him and everyone else, especially Margaret Trebing, for taking up the slack. Oz thought our lack of local publicity was a cause of our lower attendance. Joni said the web site was working and thanked whoever worked on it. At the February Board meeting Tony said he will be contacting Terry Graybill and ask her to create a publicity *program* for us that anyone (a single person or a team) can follow. We need to have more presence at more cons, maybe throw more parties. Tony called for a vote to authorize \$50 for Gary to throw a party at Boskone. Passed unanimously.

**Programming:** several people said we need more exciting program items and it was suggested that we have some items we'd be more likely to see as Phrolicon. Lynn said it was nice to have the extra space. Laura said it was good to have the extra space upstairs, but we have to pay for A, B, & C and it might be a good idea if we have to give up some space to negotiate giving back some of the upstairs rooms and see if we can get A, B, & C for free. Oz said we'd need to know what space we'll have a lot more than two months before the con. Lynn and several others felt we were over programmed at times (too many major items at the same time). Oz said if we have to give up space he'd rather give up time on Friday or Sunday. Tony, Laura, Bridget, and Gary will look into it. Sara said Tom Savini was very happy with us. Shelley suggested having self standing program tracks upstairs or we'll have to post a gofer there full time.

Joni suggested a modification to the programming invitation letter to include all the program tracks and to send the letter to more than just usual writers, editors, and publishers. Rich said Darrell told him that they had to get some of their program panelists from the fan pool because there weren't enough pros. Because we're using people who already bought memberships we have to give their money back and give them an extra membership free which is losing us money. Rich said we should try to avoid taking money out of our pockets. Laura said we shouldn't exclude having fans on programming she thought it would be better to change our membership policy. John S. suggested having computer game writers. Lew got a very long list of topic suggestions through the survey and will give it to Oz.

**Babysitting:** happened.

**Program Book Ads:** Lew sold \$1600 worth of ad space. The survey cost \$160 to do.

**Game Room:** John D. said we had one.

**Program Ops:** Shelley thanked Margaret Trebing for all the work she did.

**Web Page:** we should include the year in our information. We need to keep it updated.

**Registration:** numbers were down. Problems were down. We need the staff/gofer rollovers and the Philcon '99 at Philcon '98 pre-reg's. Tim said the sales table personnel didn't know when the con would be or what the hotel rates would be. Rich plans to implement some of the suggestions that were in the survey. Rich said he can send out the confirmations out immediately, but he'd been combining it with the PR which has to go out at the last moment so members will know about last minute changes, etc. It also saves postage. If we're going to have credit card registration we'll need a better web-server along with a secure system otherwise he will not accept e-mail reg's this year and he prefers not to have to deal with it. He will put a .pdf reg form for down-loading. John S. asked if we could afford to give rollovers this year. Rich said to ask Art Show. Lew was concerned that we would lose gofers if we don't give them rollovers. Carol said they aren't guaranteed rollovers. The volunteer form says that if they work at least 8 to 10 hours and if we make a surplus they will get rollovers. We don't give refunds to gofers. Gary said we can't withhold rollovers when we're giving ourselves free memberships. Laura said if we don't give rollovers we should give them a special gift (like a T-shirt) or at least give them a discount on their membership next year. Rich said about 1/3 of our attendance did not pay. Tony called for a show of hands of those who believed we should give the rollovers for 1998. Passed unanimously. We had about 10 coupons turned in.

**Childrens' Programming:** is not babysitting. We didn't find out about until about 2 months before the con. However, it was well attended, in spite of only being advertised on the web. The age group should be 4 to 8. We should also have programming for the 9 to 14 year olds. Her budget was only \$50. Fortunately, she had leftover supplies from BucConneer which is being past on to Costumecon. She will be asking for a budget increase. She recommends a minimum of \$200. Carol said there was an announcement in the PR.

**Filk Czar:** Friday night filk panel was canceled due to lack of panelists. They were stuck in a traffic jam. The rest went smoothly. Lots of good feedback and a "kick ass" concert Sunday afternoon. Regency Ball went off very well, was well attended, and is worth keeping. She recommended moving it to Saturday afternoon at 3 or 4. Crystal thanked Bridget for her help in clearing and setting up the room. There was an announcement in the PR about it. Crystal's real life job has changed and her "army.mil" e-mail address is no longer correct. The Friday night coffee setup was lavish, Saturday night's was chintzy, she called them and complained and they brought the lavish one. She was assured by the manager that there would be no extra charge.

**Publications:** all special program events should be included in the main programming grid in the pocket program. Laura said all the new events like the Regency and Childrens' Programming should be included in all advance publicity. Tim wants a complete copy of the Program Book. Whoever is in charge of Publications needs to have more focus. We need to watch expenses. Carol said we

can reduce the number of copies of the Reg packet publications. If we reduce the size of the Pocket Program to fit into a pocket we may want to have some larger ones available to the vision impaired fans. Tim did a lot of work in areas outside his own and should be thanked for it.

**Dance Party:** There was none. Bad set up. Bad logistics. Lynn thanked Tim for handling the situation calmly and professionally. It will be done differently if Tim is part of it.

**Con Suite:** we had one. We had a shopping cart load of chocolate some of which went to the Green Room. The Con Suite's problems aren't mine anymore since I'm not running it anymore.

**Den:** the three insulated pitchers belong to the Den. Crystal blessed the Den staff. Gary said we will have to find a better way to control who gets into the Den. There've been too many people using it that don't have memberships.

**P.S.F.S. Sales Table:** Rich said he got positive feed-back about the free-standing sign he created for them. Apparently it helped sales.

**Film/Video/Anime:** had a very nice set up, although it was set up late. Savini was really cool. Tony thanked Digital Stream for bringing the Star Trek thing, the people who did "Troops", the people who allowed us to show "Babylon Park", and Between Books because they lent us over \$600 of unopened anime.

**Dealers' Room:** "It was busier than Art Show." "I liked it." "There was one?" We had more tables than ever.

**Logistics:** Todd said as they were backing the truck into the driveway the next door neighbor pulled in around the truck so it had to be parked on the street. Todd said there is no light in the truck. Gary said he thought we could get a couple of drop lights.

**Personnel/Gofer Recruitment:** Joni said he did a nice form. She had a plethora of help on Thursday and a dearth on Sunday. Carol made an announcement in the Con Suite late Sunday afternoon about the extra hours credited if they helped the Art Show pack up.

**Old & New Business:** none.

**Suggestions:** 1) Raise dues to the pre-reg rate of Philcon and give Society members (who pay their dues) free membership to the con for Active members only. This might scare away the few we have now. 2) We should devote half a page or so of Philcon '99's program book to listing the names of all those who volunteered to help us put on Philcon and ask why isn't your name here with an asterisk (\*) denoting P.S.F.S. members. 3) make T-shirts with names of committee and workers which would go to all whose names are on it.

The following items, not necessarily in this order, will be discussed at the February (and possibly March) Philcon '99 meeting:

- 1) Committee membership rate (Should committee members pay and how much?)
- 2) Program Participant membership policy (Should we offer free membership to participants only if they're on multiple panels? Or maybe a discount per panel, ex. 1 panel = 1/3 off)
- 3) Free membership policy (What are they and who gets them?)
- 4) Gofer enticement policy (Should we raise the number of hours needed to get the rollover?)
- 5) Publicity (What kind and how much? Is it really doing any good?)

Adjourned after 6:00pm.

See Meeting Notices for details on the next meeting. Parking is free.



## Books for February

by Henry Leon Lazarus

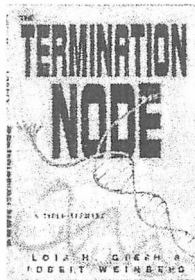
If beach books are what you buy in the summer, what do you buy when you're locked in the house in the cold of winter and television has gone into reruns. Breach books? (To breach the quiet) I prefer books with lots of excitement to keep my heart pounding.

Catherine Asaro's *Radiant Seas* (hard from TOR) has a problem for me. It's so good that I had to go back and buy the books I had missed in the series. Luckily this war drama stands on its own. The two lovers, heirs to warring stellar empires, from *Primary Inversion* (paper) have fifteen years to themselves (to produce four children and generally enjoy themselves) before he is captured to be a front for those who want to rule the traders evil Empire. His wife has to wage a war that comes close to destroying both empires to get him back. Diane Duane has a nice tale about framed and expelled space marine. His first adventure in trying to prove his innocence gives him an odd alien partner and puts him up against an evil interstellar corporation in *Sumrise at Corrivale* (paper from Star Drive).



David Weber destroys two star fleet battalions to get one enemy troll and a heroine from three hundred years in the future to our near future in *Apocalypse Troll* (hard from Baen). It is a rollicking fun tale that's impossible to put down. William's Shatner's *Step into Chaos* (hard from Harper Prism) will probably blow the teenager's minds who haven't encountered ideas like moving people into computers and civilizations growing to god like powers. This is the final of the tale of Jim Endicot, the boy with the secret in his DNA.

If *The Net* had been written by computer professionals like Lois H. Gresh and Robert Weinberg, than you might have a thriller like *Termination Node* (hard from Del Rey) about a woman hacker framed for murder by the people who are using another hacker to steal billions.

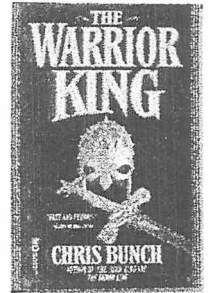


If you learn nothing else from this book, you should learn never to send important passwords over the internet.

Jerry Jay Carroll has a new tale of the stock broker who became a dog in another universe, In *Dog Eat Dog* (trade from ACE), the evil magician follows him to this universe and he has to use all his wits, and his millions to stop him

from getting someone evil elected President. I really loved the dirty campaign tricks his PR people use.

Chris Bunch finishes his lusty trilogy about *The Warrior King* (Trade from Aspect) in which the Emperor wizard escapes. Damaste has to use all of his military wits, his magicians, and the help of the Gods, to stop both him and the neighboring king. As usual the sex is hot and the battle scenes bloody.



Jamil Nasir has a very odd new science - image digging (used for advertising) in a very crowded near east of the future. Cairo is the hot point, and at the center is a girl who shows up in everybody's dreams. It made me uneasy, but it also made me think. Robert Sheckley's odd humor has a very odd taste and *Godshome* (hard from TOR) starts with the concept of a place where Gods retire, to some of them coming to Earth and ruining all about them, to... well, to extremes. Not for everybody.

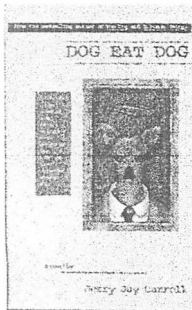
Finally there's the fourth book of Sharon Green's Challenges series, *Betrays* (paper from Avon Eos) in which the five people who were betrayed in the last book have to get together. Then they find hidden secrets about their empire and the secret war it was waging.

There's some huge collections this month. Stephen R. Donaldson (*Reave the Just and Other Tales* from Bantam Spectra), John Barnes (*Apostrophes and Apocalypses* from TOR) and Charles de Lint (*Moonlight and Vines* from TOR) all have long-awaited hard covers of their shorter work. In addition Whitley Strieber has edited a collection of stories about *Aliens* (paper from Pocket) and there's the latest from Asimov's SF Mag, *Valentines* (paper from ACE)

Want to know more about the year 2000 than the Y2K problem? Matthew Bunson will make you hide under a bed for a full year with his compilation of all the *Prophecies:2000* (trade from Pocket). One of my patients wanted to take it home.

My receptionist grabbed the *Star Trek Cook Book* (trade from Pocket and written by Ethan Phillips and William J. Birnes) because there are real recipes in it. Other Star Trek material from Pocket includes: a novel written by Quark (Armin Shimerman), helped by David George III, *The 34th Rule* (paper) which looked interesting, but I didn't read, postcards celebrating the women of Star Trek Voyager (Seven of Nine pic's guys! drool!) and two Script Books (both trade); *The Q Chronicles* and *Becoming Human* (about Seven of Nine - with more pics).

Paperback reprints include Elizabeth Ann Scarborough's modernization of American Indian fables, *The God Mother's Web* (ACE); Jack McDevitt's disaster novel, *Moonfall* (Harper Prism); Gregory Benford's odd tale of a bowling ball sized pocket universe, *Cosm* (Avon Eos); and Greg Bear's tale of returning the dinosaurs that Professor Challenger collected, *Dinosaur Summer* (Aspect).





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## Meeting Notices

### General Meetings

*Unless otherwise specified, General Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month in the South America Room at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Business meeting starts at 8 pm. Program starts at 9 pm.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Guest/Agenda</u>
February 19, 1999 3rd Fri.	Robert Sawyer
March 12, 1999	Laurel K. Hamilton
April 9, 1999	Jack McDevitt
May 8, 1999	George R. R. Martin

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host/Location</u>
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### Board of Directors

Mon., March 8, 1999, 8:00pm	Oz Fontecchio, Sterling Building, 1815 JFK Blvd. #1708, Philadelphia; (215) 563-7538
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### Philcon '99 Meeting

Sat., Feb. 20, 1999, 2:00pm	Rich & Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Ave., E. Lansdowne, PA; (610) 623-4388
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## About the Society

The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society (PSFS) is a non-profit organization that meets monthly to discuss and promote science fiction and fantasy in literature, the arts, and popular culture. Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. Meetings consist of business proceedings from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., followed by a guest speaker involved in some area of Science Fiction or Fantasy, such as writers, editors, artists, publishers, etc.

In addition, PSFS sponsors an annual science fiction conference, Philcon, and has many special interest subgroups; such as the Book Discussion Group, which meets monthly to discuss a work of science fiction or fantasy; and the Special Events Group, which attends science fiction and fantasy movies and other events.

Membership in the society is open to everyone. Becoming a member is easy. Attend your first meeting; we'll say "Hello." At your second meeting, you can nominate yourself for membership or ask someone else to nominate you. At the next meeting you attend following your nomination, you're eligible to be voted in as a General Member. Our current dues are \$15 for a full year (\$24 for couples), and attendance at 4 meetings each year maintains the status of Active Member.